



Eleanor Lucille Douglas Rice

April 18, 1952 - February 8, 2026

Eleanor “Ellie” Lucille Douglas Rice, 73, a resident of the McMinnville Memory Care Center community, passed away on February 8, 2026, in McMinnville, Oregon.

Ellie was born on April 18, 1952, in Milford, Connecticut, the daughter of the late Jennie Isabelle (Orr) Douglas and James Lester Douglas. She grew up connected to Bridgewater and the New Milford area and later made Portland, Oregon, her home for most of her adult life.

She attended John Pettibone Elementary School in New Milford (Class of 1963), Burnham Elementary School (Class of 1966), and New Milford High School (Class of 1970). Ellie earned a degree in Music from the University of Hartford, Hartt School of Music (Class of 1974), where her lifelong love of music was formally nurtured.

Ellie met her husband, Kenneth “Ken” Marshal Rice, at a music summer camp retreat in 1991. They were married on May 1, 1993, in Portland, Oregon, and shared 29 years of marriage until Ken’s passing on January 29, 2023.

Following their marriage, Ellie and Ken lived in Portland, where Ellie worked for Freightliner. In 2018, they moved to Marquis Care at Forest Grove. After Ken’s death, Ellie later transitioned to McMinnville Memory Care, a community better able to support her as she aged.

Ellie and Ken shared a deep appreciation for music and the arts. Ellie wrote songs and poetry, sang, and played several instruments, including piano, tenor ukulele, and autoharp. Her favorite autoharp was lovingly hand-crafted for her by Ken in the early 2000s.

Their shared love of folk music inspired them to travel throughout the country attending folk festivals and music camp retreats, and they frequently hosted house concerts in their Portland home. Their gatherings were filled with laughter, music, and community. The most beloved tradition was their Annual Christmas Carol sing-around-the-piano, which regularly welcomed 50 or more friends. They also cherished annual New Year's retreats with friends from the Puget Sound Guitar Workshop community.

One especially meaningful memory shared by family was being part of one of Ellie and Ken's folk music gatherings—listening as Ellie gently played “Grandma's Hands” on her autoharp, a moment that perfectly reflected her spirit and a life filled with gentle music, warmth, and connection.

Among Ellie's favorite travels were a cruise to Antarctica, where she marveled at glaciers, penguins, and seals, and a visit to Oaks Park, where seeing historic holiday steam engines felt, as she once said, like “stepping back 50 years into memories that weren't hers.” She always viewed the world through a creative and reflective lens.

Ellie is survived by her sister, Dr. Mary Douglas Singer; her niece, Jessica Lynn Ecker; and her nephew, Douglas Jacob Singer. She is also lovingly remembered and supported by her dear cousin, Lydia Haid; and by many members of her late husband's family: her sisters-in-law, Mary Carr and Geri Collins; her nephews, Christopher Carr and Brian Rice; and her nieces Colleen Rice, Erica Collins and Nicole Prasher, all of whom held Ellie close in affection and care.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Marshal Rice (October 3, 1948 – January 29, 2023); her parents, Jennie Isabelle (Orr) Douglas (December 1, 1924 – January 14, 2019) and James Lester Douglas (March 14, 1917 – 1975); and her sister, Amy Jean Douglas (July 25, 1955 – July 18, 1981).

Final arrangements are entrusted to Attrell's Funeral Chapel.

Tribute Wall

AH

“ *Ellie was a beautiful person inside and out. I enjoyed the couple years I spent caring for her and enjoying her wonderful personality. She is very missed. Always will remember her shining smile that she always wore*

Alexa H - March 09 at 10:55 PM

JK

“ *I remember Ellie fondly from our time at Freightliner. Our appreciation for music was often a topic of discussion during breaks. I remember one such discussion vividly. She asked which composer's portfolio I would want to have available if stranded on a dessert island. At the time I was in a Beethoven phase. She smiled and suggested Mozart. I tried to advocate for my choice but she was relentless. Over time I have come to agree with her. Coincidentally I was relating this conversation to my son and his fiancé last Friday. Rest in peace Ellie.*

John Kelly - February 14 at 07:16 AM

DS

“ One of my favorite memories with Ellie and Ken was a road trip up to Seattle—the kind of trip that unfolds slowly, filled with side roads, small discoveries, and quiet joy.

We wandered through the Experience Music museum, soaking in the sounds and stories that felt so Ellie—creative, curious, and warm. We chased waterfalls and explored caves tucked into the surrounding landscape, letting the cool air and rushing water reset our sense of time. We even toured the lower levels of the city on the Seattle Underground Tour, and stood in awe during a visit to the Boeing Factory, marveling at the scale of human ingenuity.

Ellie drove much of the way—elbows resting on the steering wheel, head cradled in her hands—looking relaxed and thoughtful while i stressed out in the back, a small smile always finding its way back to her face. She was always glad to go along, happy just to be there, taking it all in.

It wasn't about the miles or the itinerary. It was about being together—music, motion, laughter, and that easy companionship that turns a road into a memory you carry forever.

Douglas J Singer - February 09 at 07:32 PM