



Maryanne Rita Gerbauckas

September 29, 1948 - February 3, 2022

Maryanne Rita Gerbauckas, of Philadelphia, PA, died February 3, 2022 at Sunrise Senior Living, Haverford, PA at the age of 73.

She was born September 29, 1948 in Brooklyn, NY, graduated from Christ the King High School, Queens, NY and St. John's University, Jamaica, NY.

Maryanne enjoyed Rotary, knitting, crocheting and horseback riding. She served 42 years with the National Park Service, and taught English as a second language in Ocean City, MD and Philadelphia, PA

Maryanne's career with the National Park Service began as a park ranger at the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island. She progressed through assignments in both the protection and resource management fields at Acadia National Park in Maine, Fire Island National Seashore on Long Island, Assateague National Seashore in Maryland and Virginia, Colonial National Historical Park in Virginia, the National Park Service Northeast Region office in Philadelphia, and William Howard Taft National Historic Site in Cincinnati. She returned to the Northeast in 1992 when she took over as superintendent of Edison National Historic Site. In 2007 she was named the associate regional director for resources, stewardship and science for the Northeast Region.

As resource management specialist at Fire Island National Seashore, she was responsible for dune restoration projects, earned the trust of communities adjacent to the parks, and became the community liaison for local cultural resource projects. She restored dunes using native plants that she had established in a nursery on the beach. Later, at Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryanne managed and enforced the public hunting program in the Maryland section of the park and monitored hunting activities at private retentions within park boundaries. She regulated the use of offroad vehicles at both Fire Island and Assateague Island National Seashores.

At William Howard Taft National Historic Site in Cincinnati, Ohio, she worked closely with the primarily African American Cincinnati community of Mt. Auburn, and was invited to serve on the boards of the Mt. Auburn Community Council and the local community center.

Under her leadership at Edison National Historic Site, the park worked with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to place the site on their annual “endangered” list. During her tenure, the site’s friends group raised \$1 million and secured a \$300,000 grant for West Orange Main Street beautification and \$400,000 from the sale of an Edison commemorative coin for preservation of the site’s vast museum collection.

In partnership with the Edison Innovation Foundation, she leveraged \$2.5 million of federal funds into a \$12 million multi-phase project that rehabilitated Edison’s historic structures, conserved and preserved the artifacts, improved accessibility, created open curatorial storage and new interpretive media. A total of \$5 million of this funding came from General Electric and was one of the original gifts in the first year of the Save America’s Treasures program. She and the staff at Edison also worked with the Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation to establish historic plant inventories, and establish and nurture specimen plants at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

Maryanne retired from the National Park Service on February 27, 2015.

A Memorial Service is being planned for a later date.

She is survived by her sister, Diana Gerbauckas

Memorial contributions – Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, www.happytrailfarm.org or McPaws no kill shelter located in McCall, ID

Tribute Wall

JP

“ *Maryanne was always a bright and incisive presence, lifting the energy in the room. She, with her buddy Gary Warshefski opened many doors for me to work with park superintendents in the New Jersey-New York area. The goal was to build community engagement with their parks.*

Later when some of the politics hammering parks or park people we were there for each other to deal with absurdities. Reliable and alert, she could turn difficult times into fun. That helped lift some of America’s most special places to still-higher levels.

I think of her and smile.

James Pepper - January 03, 2025 at 12:59 PM

SS

“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Sandy Schultz - November 07, 2022 at 01:41 PM

BS

“ *Maryanne was terrific. Always thought well of her. Boyd Sponaugle, retired Realty Officer, Northeast Region.*

Boyd Sponaugle - April 15, 2022 at 10:58 AM

DG

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Diana Gerbauckas - April 03, 2022 at 03:26 PM

DG

This is my sister, Maryanne Gerbauckas.

Diana Gerbauckas - June 05, 2024 at 09:35 PM

DG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Diana Gerbauckas - April 03, 2022 at 03:22 PM

DG

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Diana Gerbauckas - April 03, 2022 at 03:01 PM

DG

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Diana Gerbauckas - April 03, 2022 at 02:54 PM

DG

“ 1 file added to the *tribute wall*



Diana Gerbauckas - April 03, 2022 at 02:46 PM

DG

This is one of the cats on Monhegan Island.....Monhegan is about an hours ride on the ferry from Port Clyde , Maine.

Diana , Maryanne's sister had been visiting Port Clyde yearly since about 1985. Maryanne joined the yearly visit in 2013 and we visited together from 2013 until 2019.....

Diana Gerbauckas - April 03, 2022 at 02:52 PM

RD

These are beautiful pictures Diana. I remember her stories about Monhegan and what an expedition it was to get there, yet once you were there and settled in, it was divine. Indeed, Maryanne was a good cook.

Roberta D'Amico - April 04, 2022 at 11:17 PM

DG

Diana Gerbauckas

Diana Gerbauckas - August 17, 2024 at 01:58 PM

MT

“ Oh, my dear cousin, I will miss you. Thoughts go so far back. We were young teens, staying with my parents at Cape Cod, and trying to get into mischief; we were deemed old enough to return to the 1964 World's Fair in New York for another day of touring on our own, and were separated when you jumped off the subway seat and I remained on the train, not paying close attention as the doors closed and it flew me away from you, and we both waved astonished and feeble waves at each other, while you stood on the platform. Somehow you managed to find your 'country bumpkin' of a cousin at the next subway stop. I was never so glad to see you! I was in awe of you; you were my beautiful, slim, smart cousin and knew SO much. Our phone visits as we grew older will be missed, but perhaps we'll see each other again in our next adventure. Love, Marlene Garbauskas Troupes



Marlene Garbauskas Troupes - February 28, 2022 at 12:25 PM

RD

Marlene, I remember Maryanne talking about all the good trips she and Diana had going to Florida to see their cousins. Condolences to you and yours.

Roberta D'Amico - April 04, 2022 at 11:18 PM

DG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Diana Gerbauckas - February 28, 2022 at 08:30 AM

DG

This is the B & B Circus poster that has occupied a whole wall in Maryanne's home.....

She picked it years, decades ago.....and finally had a home for it....!

Diana Gerbauckas - February 28, 2022 at 02:33 PM

TC

She talked about that so much, I wondered what happened to it when she left her apartment.

Trish Turner Custard - February 28, 2022 at 11:46 PM

DG

Actually, the folks we hired to prepare the apartment for sale found a buyer.....I was going through some personal stuff and allowed them....to sell the poster.

Though there was discussion on bringing it to Sunrise.....we already were on over load in the apartment and we accepted the offer.

Diana Gerbauckas - March 16, 2022 at 07:39 AM

RD

That was an amazing poster, I'm glad it found another home.

Roberta D'Amico - April 04, 2022 at 11:19 PM

EF

“ To Maryanne,

With much love and appreciation from all of your friends at the Edison Foundation Family.

Our prayers and love.

*Charles Edison Fund
Edison Innovation Foundation*

Edison Foundations - February 25, 2022 at 07:15 PM

TC

“ *I met Maryanne in 1981 when she was my supervisor at Assateague Island. After an awkward start when she had to tell me I was too “flashy” in my NPS uniform (I had a ring on every finger, many bangles on my wrists, and huge hoop earrings) we became fast friends. She threw my bridal shower and visited often throughout the years as I moved from place to place with my Coast Guard husband. Maryanne was my “drop everything friend”, the one I knew would always be there for me and would literally fly cross country on a moments notice if I needed her. I will forever miss her and remember her with love.*

Trish Turner Custard - February 23, 2022 at 10:24 PM

BD

“ *I became friends with Maryanne back in 2003 when I became Superintendent at Saint-Gaudens NHP. She served as my mentor for awhile and was always extremely helpful and had great wisdom and advice. I always appreciated her ability to enjoy some humor in anything she was working on. She will be missed!*

BJ Dunn - February 23, 2022 at 09:41 AM

EA

“ I met Maryanne through my cousin Karen and we immediately got along great. Then we traveled together, sharing adventures on a boat tour of the Galapagos and a walking tour of Wales. We had some great times and made some wonderful memories. Maryanne was a delight to be with and her easy friendliness made her a wonderful travel companion. I was so sorry to learn she was sick and even sorrier to hear of her passing. She will be remembered every time I see a turtle, a flower along the path or hear a Welsh song. We made some great memories together. My sympathies to Diane and other family members.

Sincerely,
Elaine Auerbach



Elaine Auerbach - February 21, 2022 at 04:13 PM

RD

“ I met Maryanne when we were both working at Colonial National Historical Park in Virginia in the late 1980's. We remained friends as we both progressed in our careers in the NPS and after we both retired. Smart, funny, savvy, and more, she was a dear friend and I am saddened by her passing. My condolences to her friends and family, especially to her dear sister Diana.



Roberta D'Amico - February 20, 2022 at 10:55 PM

GP

“ A happy memory for me was having Maryanne join Diana, her sister, Trish, Diana R. and me for lunch at Pe Se Restaurant for lunch during Restaurant Week in New York City. We enjoyed a great lunch, great company and a pleasant and memorable day.

Gina Perrotta - February 19, 2022 at 08:43 PM

TC

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Trish Turner Custard - February 18, 2022 at 11:18 PM

TC

These photos were taken during Maryanne's trip to visit me in Alaska right after she retired.

Trish Turner Custard - February 18, 2022 at 11:19 PM



Love these photos!

Anne DeGraaf - February 19, 2022 at 08:48 AM

DG

Diana Gerbauckas is doing her best on transferring photos.....and I KEEP LOOSING THEM.....!.....I have to visit the Geek Squad tommorrow!

Diana Gerbauckas - February 21, 2022 at 03:34 PM

LS

“Gerbie and staff hard at work. Assateague 1986-87



Lori Speaks - February 18, 2022 at 09:25 PM

LS

“Gerbie” celebrating retirement with former Assateague friends in West Virginia June 2015



Lori Speaks - February 18, 2022 at 09:10 PM

AD

“ 1 file added to the album MAG at Edison NHS (Thomas Edison NHP), ca. early 2000s



Anne DeGraaf - February 17, 2022 at 05:01 PM

AD

“ 1 file added to the album MAG at Edison NHS (Thomas Edison NHP), ca. early 2000s



Anne DeGraaf - February 17, 2022 at 05:01 PM

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Anne DeGraaf - February 17, 2022 at 05:00 PM

JP

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John Piltzecker - February 17, 2022 at 09:02 AM

JP

Maryanne at Lady Liberty's torch. Condolences from the staff of Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island.

John Piltzecker - February 17, 2022 at 09:03 AM

RT

Maryanne and I were friends before becoming fellow superintendents - she at Edison NHS and me at Morristown NHP. I followed her as acting superintendent at EDIS for 1 year, in 2007. We had such fun together. However, anytime I was the driver on one of our many road trips, I couldn't drive and talk at the same time. I would make wrong turns and get us lost! Rest in peace dear friend. Randy Turner retired

Randy Turner - February 18, 2022 at 11:22 PM

RH

Just stunned by this news. I had the pleasure of working with Maryanne while serving in the NER. Her sharp sense of humor and get things done attitude were always appreciated. Sympathy to her family.

Rebecca Harriett - February 23, 2022 at 12:33 PM

KM

Maryanne was my friend and I loved her. We shared a love of the ocean. After she moved to Philadelphia and before I moved to California, we met at Spring Lake once each summer. We spent the day walking the beach, talking and eating. The day flew by and it was over. I will miss her.

Karen Meislik - February 28, 2022 at 07:58 PM

CS

I met Maryanne at Lord Sterling riding stables in 2002 when we immediately became good friends. Everyone loved Maryanne. Rightly so, who wouldn't love Maryanne. I was honored to be invited to Maryanne's retirement party and witnessed the love all her co-workers had for this spectacular person who dedicated her life to the NPS. I was shocked and saddened to see this obituary today. The last time I saw Maryanne was sometime late 2019 when she was still living in Philly. she mentioned she may move in with her sister Diana in NYC and thought maybe she had. I tried calling Maryanne several times after our get together and was unable to get a hold of her, thus loosing touch.

*My Deepest Sympathy,
Claire Sussek*

Csussek@mac.com

Claire Sussek - February 07, 2023 at 10:20 AM