



Janet Lee Howell

May 13, 2026

Janet Lee (Zabik) Howell of Lorton, VA, passed away on May 13, 2026, at the age of 74. She was born on November 18, 1951, to Bruno and Laura Zabik in Cleveland, OH.

Janet met the love of her life, David Dean Howell, while attending Dayton University in Ohio. The couple was married in 1971 and moved to Arlington, VA. They shared 45 years of marriage and were blessed with 3 children. Family was most important to Janet, both immediate and extended. If there was an opportunity to be with family, Janet made it a priority to be there. She was typically the life of the party and would always make sure everyone felt included.

Playing cards, scrabble, and any word game was a daily activity for Janet. Some of her favorite pastimes were reading, traveling, sitting on the beach, and enjoying the lovely view of the Potomac River from her bedroom each morning. But the most precious thing to Janet was the time she spent with her six grandchildren.

Janet's career was primarily focused in new home sales throughout Northern, VA. She began her 25-year journey in 1983 when she accepted a part-time role as a Sales Assistant for Pulte Homes. She continued in the industry until 2008 when she retired as Vice President of Sales & Marketing for Brookfield

Homes. Much of Janet's retirement time was fulfilled by her dedication to the Girl Scouts. She was a troop organizer, as well as a troop leader from 2008 to 2024.

Janet is preceded in death by her husband, David Howell; parents, Bruno and Laura Zabik and brother Richard Zabik.

Janet is survived by her children: Jennifer (Brian) Dillard, Daniel (Renata Duarte) Howell, Erin (Mike) Smith; grandchildren: Jayden, Kaylee and Justin Dillard, Reagan, Sean and Madeline Smith; sisters: Bernadette Syrone and Dorothy (Phil) Dubensky; sister-in-law: Wendy Howell; godchildren: Patricia Cline, Christopher Schulz, Lauren Wood, and Christine Harris, as well as many beloved nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Visitation will be Thursday, June 11 from 4-7:00 p.m. at Miller Funeral Home, 3200 Golansky Blvd., Woodbridge, VA 22192. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, June 12, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 12805 Valleywood Dr., Woodbridge, VA 22192. Interment to follow at Fairfax Memorial Park. Celebration of Life to follow interment at The River View in Lorton, VA; please RSVP using <https://forms.gle/v9wUgKyvCgjSfFZbA> or QR Code posted in photos.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to causes important to Janet:

American Heart Association at <https://www.heart.org/>
American Diabetes Association at <https://diabetes.org/> or
Girl Scouts of America at <https://www.girlscouts.org/>

Hotel Information and room block links are available via this link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ldF53k0ritjqz3rotgak86Ue-w6AulmvcyXAmgkvSfQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Upcoming Events

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
12805 Valleywood Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Interment

JUN 12. 1:00 PM (ET)

Fairfax Memorial Park
9900 Braddock Rd
Fairfax, VA 22036

Celebration of Life

JUN 12. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

The River View
9751 Ox Rd
Lorton, VA 22079

Link to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/v9wUgKyvCgjSfZbA>

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 11. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.
3200 Golansky Blvd.
Woodbridge, VA 22192
703-878-CARE (2273)
<https://millerfuneralhome.net/>

Tribute Wall

JF

“ *Joan Syroney and family. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Janet Lee Howell.*



Joan Syroney and family. - 1 hour ago

CV

“ *Cecilia V. purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Janet Lee Howell.*



Cecilia V. - Yesterday at 07:56 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Janet Lee Howell.*



Yesterday at 05:56 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Janet Lee Howell.*

Yesterday at 05:56 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Janet Lee Howell.



Yesterday at 12:01 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Janet Lee Howell.

Yesterday at 12:01 PM



“ Love David and Barbara Dubensky purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Janet Lee Howell.



Love David and Barbara Dubensky - June 09 at 08:17 PM



“ Love David and Barbara Dubensky planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janet Lee Howell.

Love David and Barbara Dubensky - June 09 at 08:17 PM

WG

“ WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY CARD GROUP purchased the *Strength & Solace Spray* for the family of Janet Lee Howell.



WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY CARD GROUP - June 08 at 06:09 PM

WG

“ WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY CARD GROUP planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janet Lee Howell.

WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY CARD GROUP - June 08 at 06:09 PM

GJ

“ Gary, Josh, and Adam Juresko purchased the *Gracious Lavender Basket* for the family of Janet Lee Howell.



Gary, Josh, and Adam Juresko - June 06 at 10:34 AM

RE

“ My Nannie was always my best friend and I am so blessed to have spent her final years with her. I will always remember the overwhelming love she had for me as well as all of you and her bright smile. I am so so grateful for the relationship that we had and will always cherish the memories we had. Rest in peace my sweet Nannie I will miss you forever 💕💕

Reagan - June 05 at 11:40 PM

HK

“ Janet and I met at the Hecht Company in 1973 - my husband Peter hired her to work in the bargain basement and we went to lunch frequently when our schedules allowed. On May 12th for some strange reason, I recalled going with Janet to pick out my wedding dress. The next day the phone rang and it was Jennie, letting me know that my dear friend had died the previous day. I wonder if she was sending me a message about the shopping trip together the day before. Janet was very accommodating - she had Jennifer on my birthday (St. Patrick's Day), Daniel was born on our anniversary (June 16th) and Janet's only screw up was when she had Erin, a few days before Stephanie's birthday on September 1st. Too bad - I guess Erin didn't want to wait to join the Howell family. I will miss Janet forever and know she's working with the angels in Heaven, watching over her family and friends.

Helen Knowles - June 04 at 02:24 PM

DA

Dearest Mrs. Knowles,
LOL, Hellen, thank you for being my mom's friend. The two of you, from my vantage point, shared a bond which I have rarely witnessed elsewhere. The love between you and your friend has fostered an exceptional bond between our families. Love Daniel

Daniel - June 08 at 03:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Miller Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. - June 02 at 01:02 PM

KD

“ *Some of my favorite memories are at my Nannie’s house. When I was younger I loved something more than spending the weekend with my Grandma. She would spoil all her grandkids way more than we deserved. We would go in the jacuzzi, play in the river, and jump in the pool. Nothing will ever compare to the time I spent at Nannie’s with all my cousins.*

Kaylee Dillard - May 25 at 01:13 PM

DH

Kaylee-I also have a favorite memory of you at your Nannie's house. I can clearly picture your pretty smile down at that old swimming pool, chilling in the water, on that hot afternoon. The humid air was still, and smelled like seaweed. Late summer algae blooms. Maddie did a poor excuse for a cannonball in between you and Reagan, and a three-way noodle fight broke out. Reagan had blue. You had a green noodle, and Maddie of course has pink. This was way back when we still had Pop-pop with us. I don't know where my nephews were that day. They are not in this favorite memory of mine. Just my Nieces. Those nieces that I love to pieces! And our Nannie, who we all loved. She was there too.

I was sweaty hot when walked onto the pool deck that day. You turned your attention away from the noodle battle with the Smith sisters. And you turned your beautiful brown eyes towards your uncle, me. You yelled, "Uncle Danny! Maddie just can't even like do a good cannonball." And you extended your blue floaty weapon, out to Maddie, pointing it at her. And slapping the water's surface again and again. Fast. Again and again. With your green noodle. Loudly you slapped the water again, faster. Remember the sound of the noodle slapping the water. It is a sharp, cracking sound. I remember you just playing around. Just playing around in Nannie's pool on that summer day.

Reagan added, "Yeah, Maddie, you like literally suck at everything. OMG, you can't even do a cannonball, like, what's up with that Maddie, OMG."

Maddie, getting no respect, snatched your weapon. She was now armed with both the green and pink. She bopped Reagan and you, both on your heads, at the same time. And said "What ever-rrr!" She then threw down her weapons, and dove towards deeper water. She wanted to make a clean get-a-way after winning the noodle war. I think. I smile.

This is when you turned your attention back to me. Our eyes locked. And in your totally adorable sweet little girl voice, you asked me, "Are you gonna come play with us Uncle Danny?"

Reagan needs to always add. She claimed, "Like OMG Kaylee, he does not even have a like bathing suit. OMG Kaylee, litterally. OMG!"

We get another "What ever-rrrrr!" from Maddie, as she dives again. This time going for even deeper water.

Our beloved Nannie now chimes in. "He doesn't need a swim suit. Just take off your shoes, Daniel. And teach these girls how to do real cannonball." Nannie was sitting in her corner, under her umbrella. She then smiled and took a sip of her Diet Coke, double lemon.

Maddie in the deep end, "What ever-rrrrrrr!"

You turn to me one more time. And I see the excitement in your beautiful, bright face. "Are you really getting in?" you ask of me. You really want me in the pool playing with you. Playing with you all those nieces. I kick off my shoes, and throw my wallet safely aside. I launch my body over you, and our eyes meet once again, just before I splash down into the refreshing water. Street clothes cannonball!

My three nieces need a moment to recover. The water is now rough. I made a good cannonball for you, with a huge splash.

"That was a good cannonball my son. You got me wet all the way over here." And she smiled at all of us. And took one more drink of her Diet Coke, double lemon. Under her umbrella. In her corner.

I grabbed the yellow noodle, because a second noodle war has started. Four on four this time. I hear an "OMG". Then someone screams "like ouch, stop it..." Noodles of all colors coming at me from all sides. Lots of splashing water. Little bodies of nieces flopping around. The pool is very confusing for a moment.

I hear a "what ever-rrrrrrr!" coming from the deep side of the pool.

I pause just for a split second. my heart and sole smile bigly. And I scream out, "I love these little nieces to pieces!"

Kaylee. Let's all go back and live that day again. I love you.

Your Uncle Danny.

Daniel Howell - May 27 at 04:40 PM