**Obituary**

**Ellen Jane (Mangus) Toy, 54, of Vandergrift, passed away on Monday, February 22, 2016 in her home surrounded by her loving family.

Born February 25, 1961 in Natrona Heights, she was a daughter of Eleanor (Kearney) Mangus of Vandergrift, and the late Samuel Mangus, Sr.

Ellen lived in Vandergrift all of her life, and was a 1979 graduate of Kiski Area High School, and 1984 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. She was a star volleyball player throughout. Ellen was a member of St. Gertrude Roman Catholic Church.

She was a health and physical education teacher for the Leechburg Area School district for 25 years, retiring in 2014. Ellen was a member of the PSEA, and the Leechburg Education Association.

Ellen coached the Plum High School Volleyball team, and won the state championship in her first year in the position. In 1992, she founded the Leechburg Girls Volleyball Program, and in 2006, started the rebuilding of the Kiski Area Girls Volleyball Program. Ellen was a member of the Westmoreland Elite Volleyball Club, recipient of the WPIAL Courage Award, and member of the PVCA where she received the Rich Schall Lifetime Service Award- recognized as a player, coach, and role model. Ellen was the founding member of the We Serve First Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping athletes who need financial assistance to begin or continue their club volleyball careers due to a family medical situation. She was a true inspiration to Pennsylvania Volleyball.

Ellen enjoyed collecting antiques, golfing, and was an all-around sports fan. She loved going on family vacations to the Outer Banks.

In addition to her father, Ellen was preceded in death by her daughter, Maggie Toy, who passed away in November of 1988.

In addition to her mother, Ellen is survived by her high school sweetheart and husband of 32 years, Timothy C. Toy; son, Mason S. Toy; daughter, Aly M. Toy; brothers, Samuel A. (Barbara) Mangus, Jr. of Sarver, Daniel A. (Kimberly) Mangus of Washington Township; sister, Pamela (Ed) Tola of Leechburg; mother-in-law, Marie R. Toy of Allegheny Township; brother and sister-in-laws of the Toy family; and nieces and nephews of the Mangus and Toy families.

Friends will be received in the Kiski Area High School Gymnasium, 250 Hyde Park Rd., Leechburg, on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. until the Celebration Of Life Tribute Service at 7:00 p.m. honoring Ellen’s life. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. in St. Gertrude Roman Catholic Church, Vandergrift, with Father James Loew, O.S.B. as celebrant. EVERYONE PLEASE MEET AT THE CHURCH. Private entombment at St. Gertrude Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that Memorial Contributions be made in Ellen’s memory to the We Serve First Foundation, c/o First Commonwealth Bank, 152 Grant Ave., Vandergrift, PA 15690**

**Player**

**Kiski Area High School – 1975-1979**

**Team captain 1977-1979**

**All-WPIAL Team 1978 and 1979**

**Recruited to play in the first Mid-East Junior Training Program in Pittsburgh in 1976**

**Played for the Pittsburgh Pacers**

**University of Pittsburgh – Athletic Scholarship – 1979-1982**

**Coaching**

**Assistant Boys' Volleyball Coach at Plum High School 1982-1988**

**Head Girls' Volleyball Coach at Plum High School 1983-1988 – PIAA Champions – spring 1984**

**Head Girls' High School and Junior High Volleyball Coach at Leechburg High School – 1991-2006**

**Head Girls' High School and Junior High Volleyball Coach at Kiski Area High School – 2007-2014**

**Westmoreland Elite Volleyball Coach – 2008-2010**

**Served as a coach for sixty-one seasons**

**Ellen received the 2015 WPIAL Courage Award.**

**Ellen was inducted into the PVCA Hall of Fame in 2015**

**Ellen and her husband Tim developed the “We Serve First” Foundation, to provide volleyball players the opportunity to attend camps and to be involved in club programs.**

**From Ellen: “Volleyball has been a huge part of my life since I began practicing in the eighth grade. The game has been a vehicle in my journey, and it has taken me to some fantastic places and lead me to so many incredible people. From playing to adjusting to being a coach, to having the opportunity to positively affect so many athletes throughout the years, to seeing so many of them achieve success in their lives – it has been a lovely ride!”**