



## Doris "Dallas" Irene Wellman Sanders

July 5, 1953 - January 10, 2021

Doris "Dallas" Irene Wellman Sanders, 67, of Crawfordville, died on Jan. 10, 2021.

Dallas was born in Rochester, New York on July 5, 1953 to Russel Elmer and Elisabeth Gala Wellman. After graduating from Rush-Henrietta High, she embarked on a great adventure, headed to Florida in her little gold convertible.

After exploring Florida and the surrounding area for a time, she met and married her first husband, Bryan Kerwin, and they settled in Wakulla County. In 1974 her only child, Krystal, was born in their small cottage in Sopchoppy. She loved being outdoors, and plants loved her: she could grow anything. She most enjoyed going to the beach to listen to the ocean and feel the sea breeze. She was extremely hard working, driven and stubborn. She also truly enjoyed a good debate.

Dallas is best known for her role as a Park Ranger at Wakulla Springs, where she did all the things the boys did: driving boats, working on the grounds and chasing off gators. She also became a certified Horticulturist and Pesticide Operator. She worked at Wakulla Springs for 12 years before leaving to attend Florida State University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminology and went on to graduate with honors from FSU Law School. She was a

practicing attorney in Crawfordville for 14 years before being diagnosed with early onset dementia.

She is survived by her mother, Elisabeth Gala Wellman of Lizella, Ga.; daughter, Krystal Sheppard of Crawfordville; two granddaughters, Cameron and Skylar Sheppard also of Crawfordville; brother, Thomas Wellman of Lizella, Ga. (Wing); niece, Liesel Wellman Nixon of Nashville, Tenn.; nephew, Shawn Wellman of Birmingham, Ala. (Kim); beloved cousins Kendall Wellman of Bradenton, Fla. (Melinda), Dave Wellman of Kenny Lake, Alaska (Gay), and Judith Wellman of Folsom, N.Y.; as well as multiple other cousins.

She was predeceased by her father, Russel Elmer Wellman; the love of her life and fiancée, Michael Lynn Diehl; and long time friends Gary Lee McCormick and Nancy Matheny Evans.

Dallas has been a resident of Eden Springs Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for the past five years. The family would like to express a special thank you to all the nursing home staff for the kindness, loving care and friendship so freely given during her time with you.

A celebration of her life will be held in the spring.

Skip & Trey Young with Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel are assisting the family with their arrangements (850-926-5919 or [Familyfhc.com](http://Familyfhc.com)).

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ *Krystal,  
I just heard about your mom's passing. I am so sorry. I am a friend  
of hers from when she was working at Wakulla, and now live in  
California. My heartfelt condolences, even if delayed. Jeff Bozanic j  
bozanic@gmail.com*

---

**Jeff Bozanic** - January 12, 2025 at 08:28 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the  
family of Doris "Dallas" Irene Wellman Sanders.*



---

January 13, 2021 at 03:10 AM

GW

“ I didn't have the chance to spend much time with Doris, living up here in Alaska like we do. I was fortunate to marry her cousin David Wellman and from him I heard stories about growing up close enough to spend time together. I do have one very fond memory of the time she and her daughter Krystal came up to Alaska to visit us here in Kenny Lake. It happened that that summer there were forest fires all over Alaska including some not all that far from us. This resulted in the air being full of smoke. Doris and Krystal would go out on the front porch to smoke and we would joke that they really didn't need to use up their cigarettes. All they had to do was breath. We took them down to Valdez thinking it would be clearer there. It wasn't but it was a great visit anyway. Lots of laughing and sharing of stories. Then there were the visit with her in the nursing home. These were actually pretty painful but it was very touching to watch her responding to David even when she was unable to use words. There was no question she knew who he was and that there was a special bond.



---

**Gay Wellman** - January 13, 2021 at 02:32 AM

MM

“ My most vivid memory of Dallas was when she showed up at my house at 7am to retrieve her most beloved horse, Swenny. Swenny was a spunky little mare that kept "breaking out" of Dallas' yard and coming to my house down the road to visit with my horses in the middle of the night! Dallas scolded her that morning and marched her back home....Swenny came back many times in the middle of the night and Dallas was always there to scold her and with a smirk on her face march good old Swenny back home. She loved that spunky little mare and that mare always returned that love.

---

**Marcia Miley** - January 11, 2021 at 12:49 PM