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Ellen Lapinski, 85, Though Color-Blind, Helped Pick 'Army Green Shade 44' Used in U.S. Army Uniforms

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Ellen Fleming (Lynch) Lapinski of West Barnstable, Massachusetts died peacefully on June 24, 2019, at the age of 85.

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Born June 19, 1934 to Albert F. and Margaret Lynch, Ellen was predeceased by her husband, Dr. Ronald L. Lapinski, and her brother, Albert F. Lynch Jr.
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<https://darienite.com> Barnstable, Darien and Palmer Township, Pennsylvania, she graduated from Natick High School, Natick, Massachusetts in 1952, and the Katharine Gibbs School in 1953.

During the Korean War, Ellen was employed by the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, where she met her beloved husband of 58 years. Ellen's contribution to the U.S. Army was choosing the color "[Army Green Shade 44](#)" for the military in 1954. The U.S. Army, fortunately, never knew she was color-blind.

She later earned her associate degree in nursing from Norwalk Community College in Norwalk at the age of 50, graduating first in her class, and, as a registered nurse, practiced on the neuro/orthopedic floor at Stamford Hospital.

— [an obituary](#) from *John-Lawrence Funeral Home*. Online condolences can be made on the funeral home website.

Her many interests included architecture, designing, gourmet cooking, and nursing. Always a kind, gentle, and gracious woman, the greatest joy in her life was her family.

Ellen is survived by her daughter, Margaret L. Fleming of West Barnstable; Margaret's children, Kate and Jack; her son, Ronald P Lapinski of Elkridge, Maryland; her son, James A. Lapinski, and his wife, Linda, of Newtown; and their son, Alex. She also leaves her sister-in-law, Bernadette Lynch of Darien; and her nieces: Melissa Davidson and Meghan Lynch, both of Darien.

The family would like to thank the many staff members of Broad Reach Healthcare for their care, compassion, and friendship to Ellen.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in her memory to the Stage Harbor Unit, Liberty Commons, [Broad Reach Healthcare](#), Chatham, Massachusetts.

A Funeral Mass followed by burial at St. Mary's Cemetery in Needham, Massachusetts, will be private.