It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of former AHC General Manager, Darlene Riffe. She passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at the age of 70 with her family by her side. After being diagnosed with an upper respiratory infection the beginning of January, she entered the hospital on January 19th with confirmed Covid. Darlene was loved and will be deeply missed by many, including the AHC Board of Directors, her AHC co-workers and friends in the Office, Maintenance Shop, and the Armistead Community. We send our love, comfort and peace to her family. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Friends may call at Bruzdzinski Funeral Home P.A. 1407 Old Eastern Avenue, Essex at Route 702 (beltway exit 36) on Tuesday, March 1st from 2 to 4 PM and 6 to 8 PM. Funeral service will be held at 10 am on Wednesday, March 2nd followed by interment at Holly Hills Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, feel free to donate to one of Darlene’s favorite organizations, Allegany County Animal Shelter. P.O. Box 566, Cumberland, MD 21501. 301-777-5630. Please note that your donation is in memory of Darlene Riffe. Or, go to their website, [www.alleganyanimalshelter.org](http://www.alleganyanimalshelter.org) The Donate Button is located in the upper right hand corner. Enter Darlene’s name in the note area on the top of the donation page.

Darlene was married for 50 years to the love of her life and high school sweetheart, Gordon Riffe. She was the loving mother of her daughter, Christy Riffe, devoted grandmother of Megan Riffe and Zachary Crall and great-grandmother of Anthony Cook. She was the sister of Linda Sowa (recently deceased) and her husband Richard, and Brenda Pickering and her husband Philip Sr., aunt of Jeffery Sowa, Jaime Clagett and her husband Josh, Philip Pickering Jr. and his wife Melissa, Ashley Tourangeau and her husband Russ and great-aunt of Logan Clagett, Ryleigh Clagett, Jace Tourangeau, and Cole Tourangeau. Darlene is also survived by her beloved pets Lady & Sam.

Darlene originally worked at Western Electric until the birth of their daughter, Christy in 1977. On October 27, 1984 she was ready to head back to work part-time and joined AHC as an office clerk. At that time, her mom, Audrey Moffitt, was the AHC manager. Darlene became full-time office clerk on January 12, 1990. When her mom retired, she stepped into the position of Assistant Manager. With all her knowledge and expertise, in 2010 she followed in her mother’s footsteps and became our AHC General Manager until her retirement in June, 2016. You could count on being greeted with her friendly smile and she would do anything she could to help you. She was honest, fair and respected in all aspects of her job and her life. Her dedication and compassion for the Armistead community was always evident even during her “off” hours. Her husband, Gordon, was the photographer while Darlene handled the photo printing at the annual Children’s Christmas Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus for many years, even after her retirement. Memories of Darlene will be always be with us. She was very special lady.