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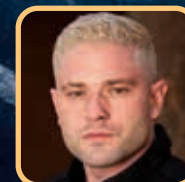
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Seven years. It's hard to believe that what began as a vision to celebrate the very best of Albuquerque's real estate community has grown into something so much bigger than a magazine. This month, as we celebrate seven years of **ABQ Real Producers**, my heart is filled with gratitude for every person who has helped make this journey possible.

This milestone isn't about the pages we've printed—it's about the relationships we've built. It's about the REALTORS®, Brokers, and our countless industry preferred partners who have trusted us to tell their stories. Your dedication, resilience, and commitment to serving your clients have inspired every issue we've published.

Throughout these past seven years, one thing has remained constant: the strength and professionalism of our

local real estate community. What makes Albuquerque special is the people who make this city a wonderful place to live. Every closing represents a family finding a new beginning. Every success story contributes to the growth and vitality of our community.

To our preferred advertising partners, thank you for believing in our mission from the very beginning. Your investment has allowed us to continue highlighting excellence and creating meaningful connections throughout our industry. This publication exists because of your partnership, and I am deeply grateful for your continued support!

To the real estate professionals featured throughout these pages, thank you for raising the standard of excellence year after year. Your achievements deserve to be recognized, and it has been an honor

to celebrate your accomplishments while sharing your wisdom with others.

Thank you for allowing **ABQ Real Producers** to be part of your journey. Here's to seven incredible years of celebrating success, building community, and telling the stories that matter most—and to many more years of growing together!

With sincere gratitude,



ML Rauch
Publisher, *ABQ Real Producers*

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

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ABQ Real Producers is partnering with our sister publications, *Stroll Tanoan*, *Stroll North Albuquerque Acres* & *Stroll Paako* for our annual **Charity of Choice** private event!

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P.R.I.D.E. GARAGES

From Concept to Completion,
Ed McGee Helps Clients
Build with Confidence

BY ELIZABETH MCCABE
PHOTOS BY LIZ LOPEZ PHOTOGRAPHY

What do a horse barn, an RV cover, a backyard workshop, and a 50-by-100-foot commercial building have in common? Ed McGee has helped make them all a reality.

He owns P.R.I.D.E. (Professionalism, Reliability, Integrity, Dependable, Experienced) Garages and helps clients' visions come to life from the ground up.

"I enjoy creating things," says Ed, who is also a REALTOR®. "I like taking a project from nothing to the finished work." Seeing the finished product and making

his clients happy is priceless for this entrepreneur and his husband, Project Manager/Coordinator David Large.

Best of all, they have partnered with the best in the industry, Eagle Carports. Eagle Carports builds 50,000 buildings per year across its six manufacturing facilities. They've stood the test of time in the building industry. Ed opened his business in December 2024. It was a decision that simply made sense.

"One of my main clients, Clayton Homes, was buying garages and putting them on their projects," Ed explains. "Every time I ordered one, I got a call



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-DAVID LARGE



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construction. “I helped him on job sites by stripping concrete forms, building docks, even interstates,” he comments. Now he enjoys designing metal structures and bringing clients’ plans to fruition.

Commercial buildings are also growing in popularity among his clients. Why? “It’s a good route to go,” says Ed. “They’re also more economical and built faster.” Clients can choose insulated or non-insulated structures, with the option to add power. “On the commercial side, we design the building and Eagle Carports has stock buildings that we can customize.” All of their engineering drawings have been readily accepted by local jurisdictions.

“Once we say that the engineering drawings are from Eagle, people are very impressed,” says Ed. “We haven’t had any pushback.” Currently, he is working on two commercial buildings for two separate businesses.

He tells other real estate agents, “If you have a client who is looking for a new garage, shop or barn, please give P.R.I.D.E.

Garages the opportunity to work for them.”

Family + Felines

When Ed isn’t working, you can find him with his husband, David. “We just celebrated our 20th anniversary in June,” he smiles. “Time flies.” They went to Red River, New Mexico, and the mountains to celebrate. They work well together. Ed jokes, “Our joke is that if we can’t figure something out, we can always YouTube it.”

Together, they have two Maine Coon cats who are under 2 years old. Vivian is pushing 25 pounds while Zona is 15 pounds. “Maine Coons are very lovely,” says Ed. They’re wonderful pets for their constant companionship and unconditional love.

To relax, Ed and David like fishing and seeing the highlights of New Mexico. Of course, they also work beautifully in the business together. “I do anything and everything,” laughs David. They love working with clients, helping them with their metal structures and feel honored to help them in any way that they can. 🏡



from a dealer to finalize the order. I thought, ‘Why not get rid of the middleman and do it myself?’”

Ed met with Eagle Carports, became an authorized dealer, and P.R.I.D.E. Garages was born, much to the delight of his clients. His business has grown naturally through word of mouth. Clients ask for standard garages, RV structures, carports, barns, and even commercial buildings.

“Right now, we are working on a commercial building that is 50 x 100 feet,” says Ed. “We are also working on a new barn for a client that is 50 feet wide and 40 feet deep.” That barn will

feature a tack room, a barn area, and stables for the horses. The options are endless for clients.

A Seamless Process

When someone reaches out to Ed, they tell him what type of structure they would like and the structure’s purpose. Then he designs it using the Eagle Carports website and sends them a link to the design. Everything can be customized according to the clients’ preferences, including color and size.

“We can also do walkthrough doors and windows,” says Ed. Garage doors

can also be customized from one large garage door to multiple garage doors.

How long does it take? From concept to completion, a standard garage takes 6-8 weeks. A dozen different colors are also available so clients can match their house as much as possible.

Reconnecting to His Roots

Ed genuinely loves what he does, especially since it connects him to his roots.

Raised in Mississippi after his family relocated there in his early childhood, he grew up watching his father work in

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Charlene RYAN

Turning Life's Transitions into New Beginnings

BY ELIZABETH MCCABE
PHOTOS BY PONIC PHOTOGRAPHY

On July 28, 2021, Charlene Ryan's phone rang at 6:00 a.m. On the other end of the line was the production team for LIVE with Kelly and Ryan. Weeks earlier, when the show announced it was resuming its vacation giveaways after a pandemic hiatus, Charlene had boldly told her family she was going to win them a trip. She entered online, focused on her daily affirmations, and let the universe do the rest. That morning, she went on live television, stumped Ryan Seacrest and guest host Maria Menounos, and nailed the trivia question to win a \$13,500 luxury getaway to Puerto Vallarta. They went on this once-in-a-lifetime trip in April 2022, which was nothing short of fabulous.

"What you put out into the universe really can come true," Charlene smiles. "Staying positive is so important to me," she adds thoughtfully.

Her positive nature has defined her life since childhood, growing up in the San Jose/Los Gatos area of California. Real estate was in her roots, even at an early age.

"My Dad was an interior designer, and he used to decorate model homes in Southern California and San Jose in the '70s," she says. "I grew up around contractors." Her father even tore down and rebuilt her childhood home. Although he passed away when Charlene was 21, his life made an impression upon her.

She attended the University of Arizona to study fashion merchandising and design and later considered nursing, but her love for looking at homes led her to real estate.

"I was a stay-at-home Mom to three children and a Navy wife," she says. "We traveled a lot and moved around." That was another step toward real estate. "It helped me understand people who had to move," says Charlene. Fast forward to today and she loves when she can help military families move into the area.

It wasn't until Charlene moved to Albuquerque in 2006 that she launched into real estate, but the desire had been in her heart for decades.

"I had wanted to do real estate for a long time," says Charlene. She put it on the back burner until a friend convinced her to make the leap. "I had a friend at Keller Williams and she talked me into it."

In her first year in real estate, she was awarded Rookie of the Year with Keller Williams. In 2010, she switched to Coldwell Banker, and her career blossomed from there. She actually met her current husband, Michael Ryan, while selling real estate.

"His buyer bought one of my listings," she smiles. "We started talking in March 2015 and started dating in April 2015."

Two months ago, they got married. "Timing is everything," points out Charlene. Soon she will change her name from Charlene Rockwell to Charlene Ryan.

Real estate fills Charlene's cup. "I just want to keep helping people buy and sell homes," she says. She jokes, "I want to retire one day and travel, but I love to shop and spend way too much money." She laughs.

No matter what obstacles she has faced in her life and career, Charlene embraces optimism. As she says, "You have to keep your head up and not let things get to you." Even when transactions don't materialize into closings, Charlene keeps moving forward. "If I stay positive, think positive thoughts, and trust in God, then good things come," she says.

Family Focused

When not working, it's all about family to Charlene. "My mother moved in with us in 2023," she shares. Now there are three people in their happy home, complete with a pool.

One of Charlene's daughters married her high school sweetheart and recently moved back from Washington State. "Trevor, my 3-year-old grandson, is everything to me," raves Charlene. She equally adores Amelia Rae, her 10-month-old granddaughter, who shares Charlene's middle name. "I get to see them more often," she beams. She wouldn't have it any other way.

"My youngest daughter, an artist, owns Harvest & Clay Pottery, sells her art at local markets, and is very talented," says Charlene. She is also married and resides in Albuquerque.

When not spending time with her grandchildren, Charlene loves to relax. "I jump in my pool and I float



around," she says. She recently got back from a trip to Barbados for her honeymoon. "The ocean is my peaceful place," she says.

Other pastimes include gardening and reading. "I love to plant and have a stack of books to catch up on," says Charlene. Lots of pretty blooms are brightening up her yard.

Final Thoughts

"When one door shuts, a window opens," concludes Charlene.

With twenty years of real estate expertise, a new marriage, and a beautiful multigenerational home, Charlene is proof that when you keep a positive outlook, the best is always yet to come. 🍷



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“Seth made me feel SPECIAL.”



BY ELIZABETH MCCABE

In Memory of SETH ROCHEFORT

LOVED, LOST, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

At Seth Rochefort's memorial service, a box overflowed with hundreds of cards. All of them said the same thing: Seth made me feel special. This generous real estate professional lived a life of impact, making others feel loved, valued, and cherished.

“I felt SEEN.”

Even though Seth left the earth too soon, the impact of his life is felt in the hearts and souls of those left behind. Seth always helped others, making the world a better place.

After the tragic shooting in Las Vegas, many in the community were devastated. Seth, who resided in Las Vegas at the time, wanted to help brokenhearted people. “Seth made a point of gathering up a group of people that he knew, taking them with him to his church, and that really helped them,” says his mother, Sally Kruger.

It was the little acts of kindness that people still treasure today.

“After moving to Albuquerque in 2017 following his time working aboard the Pride of America, Seth worked for my husband and me at our business, 3H Fitness and Wellness,” says his sister, Elizabeth Valdez. “Everyone just loved him. His personality was magnetic. He had a way with people and building relationships. He wanted others to feel special and he had a gift of doing that.”

This past Christmas, Elizabeth ordered a game called Tales, where people are asked questions. She talked about it at Seth's memorial.

She asked Seth, “If there was one law that everyone had to follow, what would it be?”

“Forgiveness,” he said without hesitation.

“That's where his heart was,” she says. “That's what he believed.”

She asked him, “What is one thing that you hated in your life that you are thankful for today?”

“My past trauma allowed me to heal and become the man that I am today,” he said.

Seth was a man of character, grace, and compassion; he treated other people well. His passion for people and building relationships, along with the experiences throughout his life, made him a loving, compassionate real estate broker and colleague. He had an uncanny ability to genuinely connect with people, making them feel heard, seen, and valued. His magnetic personality drew people to him in both his personal and professional relationships.

“I felt VALUED.”

During the COVID shutdown, with families needing help, Seth found purpose and passion in helping his sister feed 60 families a week for two months straight. Later, when Weichert REALTORS® - Image organized a suitcase drive for foster children at the business, Seth helped coordinate the effort. Through his generosity, he met Ynette Colyer of Shine



*“Seth was
LOVING.”*

Partnership and helped bring the “Laundry Love” program to GAAR, where it continues today because of his care, compassion, and desire to help people on a grand scale.

Meaningful Memories

“Seth is my not-so-baby brother,” points out Elizabeth. “He was much taller than me.” Elizabeth stands 5’3” and Seth stood 6’3.” She adds, “He was my shadow. He wanted to be with me everywhere I was.” When she was in high school, he was only 6 years old. “We remained very close throughout our life.”

After moving to Albuquerque in 2012, Seth lived with Elizabeth and her husband before relocating to Las Vegas, where he lived from 2012–2016. He later accepted a position aboard the Pride of America cruise ship, a demanding job that often required him to work from 4:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. on only a few hours of sleep.

With just three weeks left on his contract, exhausted and overwhelmed, Seth called



his mother to say he had bought a plane ticket home. Elizabeth immediately called him back, her voice firm, “like a scene from Rocky.” She told him, “You have three weeks left. Get back on that ship. If you quit now, you will never succeed at anything.” Furious, Seth hung up on her. But within a few hours, he called her back to thank her, tell her he loved her, and say, “I’m getting back on the ship. I’m going to finish my stint.” And he did. He pushed through the final grueling weeks, walking away with a certificate of completion and glowing professional referrals.

That was the dynamic they shared. Seth appreciated Elizabeth’s honesty, even when it was difficult to hear, and he regularly sought her advice on business decisions and life’s toughest challenges. Their conversations were built on trust, accountability, and a deep belief in each other’s potential.

Sally has her own memories near and dear in her heart. “I have to tell you how precocious he was,” she says. “I grew up on a farm and we went down for my uncle’s memorial.” Seth walked

up to Jimmy Carter at the funeral, introduced himself, and shook hands with the former President.

“He was never intimidated by anyone. He treated everyone with dignity and made them feel special,” she says. She adds, “He was just a light, recognized by people when he walked into a room.”

Seth’s generosity, care and compassion for others will stand the test of time. Although he is irreplaceable, the love he left behind is timeless. 🏠

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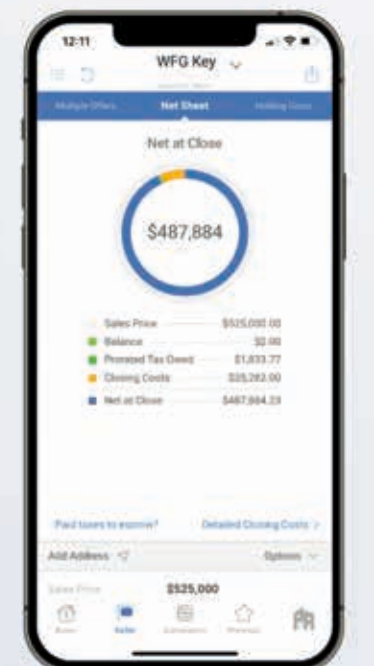
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How **LIZ MCGUIRE**
Has Thrived for More
Than 40 Years

"Being recognized by *Real Producers* is the epitome of my career," says Liz McGuire, reflecting on more than four decades in real estate. She learned the secret to sales at age 15.

BY ELIZABETH MCCABE
PHOTOS BY PONIC PHOTOGRAPHY

➤ "My sister had a job as a Fuller Brush girl one summer, and when she went off to college, I begged my mom to let me take over the job," Liz laughs. "I desperately wanted to buy myself a stereo."

Without a car, she quickly realized that door-to-door sales wasn't quite the piece of cake she had imagined. "I found out pretty fast that you run out of friends to sell to after a while!"

But her mother wouldn't let her quit until she earned enough to buy that stereo. Through that summer hustle, Liz discovered the power of goal setting. "That was my first sales experience," she says.

Her father, a mining engineer, also influenced her life. "I inherited his analytical ability," she says. "He went into sales for DuPont selling explosives."

As for Liz, she majored in Math at the University of New Mexico. "I love problem-solving," she raves. "That has carried over to my real estate career."

Hired by General Motors as a reliability engineer, Liz moved to Ohio after graduation. She was promoted to the headquarters in Detroit after her first two years.

"But after three years, I missed New Mexico too much," she says. "I ended up moving back and landed a job at Mountain Bell as a microwave engineer." That's when she met her future husband, Don, whom she knew from college. He was a pharmacist in New Mexico.

"After we became engaged, we were approached to take over a pharmacy in Cedar Crest," says Liz. "That was back in 1981. So we moved out to

CONTINUED ➤



Photo by Amy Luna Photography

the East Mountains 45 years ago.” Although the pharmacy didn’t quite survive, Liz had a customer, Liz Mazzola, who kept encouraging her to pursue real estate. She followed her advice in 1984, earning Rookie of the Year.

In 1987, after she had her daughter, Liz talked to a fellow broker who also had a baby that year. “We ended up forming our own real estate company and we worked out of our houses. When we felt it was time to have an office, we rented space and it worked really well for us with our little toddlers.”

When her associate broker and partner moved out of state, Liz continued with her own firm, changing it to McGuire Realty. “I moved the office to where we

are now,” she says. Peter Parnegg came along and wanted an office in the East Mountains, proposing to buy her out.

“I decided it was time to be relieved of the responsibility of managing five brokers. I liked being in the field more,” she says. She partnered with Peter to build the building where she is now, housing Coldwell Banker Legacy. They’ve been there ever since. After working individually for many years, Liz was approached by a young woman looking for a real estate team.

“Now, I have a dynamic mentorship-based team,” says Liz. Today, the team consists of six members, including five brokers. “One is a licensed assistant, Manuela Thompson,

who has been with me for over 20 years. She’s been instrumental in my success.” Together, they developed a robust client communication system that has earned Liz 100% approval ratings consistently for the past several years.

“My team named me the ‘East Mountain Queen,’” she laughs. She supports her brokers with ongoing training and mentorship. “It’s nice to see them grow and be successful.”

Work-Life Balance

Balance is also very important to Liz. “I have always balanced my work with my family, my health, friendships, hobbies, community service, and faith. That has helped my success for sure,” she comments.



“I LOVE PROBLEM-SOLVING.
That has carried over to my real estate career.”

Married for 45 years, Liz has a very supportive husband, Don and a fabulous daughter, Maureen, who is a REALTOR® and married to a wonderful son-in-law named Luigi. They reside in Santa Fe.

“I have two sweet grandchildren now and I enjoy spending time with them weekly. That’s been rewarding,” she smiles.

When not working, Liz enjoys numerous hobbies. “I play tennis, take jazz piano lessons, and take French classes,” she says. Liz also plays bridge and enjoys belonging to a book club. “I make sure that work overlaps with fun,” she says.

“Life is full for sure,” she says.

Concluding Comments

More than 40 years after earning Rookie of the Year, Liz still loves answering the phone, solving problems, and helping people find their place in the East Mountains. But when the workday ends, she’s just as happy picking up a tennis racket, practicing French, or spending time with her grandchildren. Liz has proven that you can have both a thriving career and a fulfilling life. 🍷



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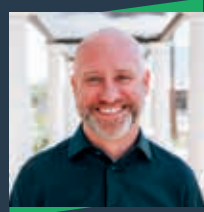


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