



Becoming a Member of The Order of St John in 2012, Ellen served as Regional Chair for the Richmond region (2016-2020) during which time she organized the 2018 Grand Council Meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia. As Chancellor of the US Priory, she was inspired by the 2021 Pilgrimage to Jerusalem to see first hand the amazing work of the St John Eye Hospital Group and its dedicated staff. Ellen's lifelong enthusiasm for Great Britain and the Monarchy began as a child when her grandmother gave her the book "*The Little Princesses*" to read one summer. When she was 13, her aunt, who traveled in Europe each summer to escape the Virginia heat, began taking her abroad, primarily to England. After graduating from St. Margaret's School, Ellen did a "Gap Year" winning an English-Speaking Union scholarship to attend boarding school in the UK. While at the College of William and Mary, she jumped at the opportunity to study a term at Christ's College Cambridge.

In 1999 she and her husband, Pettus, with another couple purchased a cottage in the Cotswolds area of Britain where they spent several weeks a year for eighteen years. In 2007 Ellen was part of the committee welcoming Her Majesty and British dignitaries to Virginia for the Jamestown 400th Celebration which led to collaboration on the book "The Queen and the USA" which was published in 2012 honoring the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and another edition in 2022 for the Platinum Jubilee. Since 2003, Ellen has annually been recognized by Travel+Leisure magazine as one of the top 130 travel advisors in the country as a UK expert. Ellen grew up in the National Historic Landmark town of Waterford, Virginia and has a deep appreciation for preservation and history. For the past 47 years she has lived in Richmond where she has pursued her interest in history, gardens, architecture, historic conservation, and literature, balancing a full travel schedule, community involvement and family.