



Kelly "Kelly Jean" Siebert Edwards

February 26, 1965 - October 20, 2020

Kelly "Kelly Jean" Siebert Edwards, 55, left this life at 11am on October 20, 2020. She bravely took the cancer head on that did its damage long before she had the chance for a fair fight. Kelly accepted the cards she was dealt with amazing courage and strength, never complaining once or allowing the disease to break her spirit or determination to live every day to its fullest. Kelly was the quintessential American girl from the beginning. The rumor has it she was conceived in a '58 Chevy in LaSalle, IL to Joyce and Terry and was proud of the fact she shared the same birthday with Johnny Cash. Kelly was always doing something with her hands, and her first encounter with crafts that we remember was at 5 years old when she left her father's hand at the old Rockford Goldblatt's store to look at sewing machines then walked several blocks home on her own. This was a precursor of the independent spirit she never lost. She met the love of her life, Mike, on a sunny June Sunday afternoon and she always claimed he was "smitten" from that day on. This encounter lead to a marriage that became just over 29 years of "wedded bliss" as she would say. Kelly knew more than anything she wanted to be a mom and nine months later she brought Grace into the world followed by Hannah five years later. Kelly always said, often with a tear of joy, that these were the best and most rewarding days of her life. She was a superhero to her girls and they eventually gave her the superhero name Kick-Ass Kelly. But soon another sewing machine caught her eye, so she started a long-arm machine quilting business that lasted twenty years. She completed quilts for some of

the best quilters across the Midwest, doing all her work freehand, without computers, and won several ribbons and tons of recognition in the process and her work was published in nationally distributed magazines. Kelly always had the desire and ability to reinvent herself to meet her family's needs so once again she changed paths and studied to become a respiratory therapist. She worked hard, earned her college degree finishing second in her class, and went to work as a mission partner at OSF St. Anthony. Before long she became a team-leader and earned the nickname "Boss Lady" from her co-workers that she wore like a badge of honor. As Kelly completed her end of life journey not a day went by that she did not get cards in the mail or packages left at the door from someone who loved her dearly. She left an indelible mark in this life and touched so many in so many ways. Left to carry on her spirit and memory is her "still smitten" husband and biggest fan Mike, daughters Grace (Jimmy) Bartlett and Hannah (Scott Hallow) Edwards, parents Terry and Joyce Siebert, brother Kyle (Becky) Siebert and sister Krista (Paul) Ruprecht, and faithful companion Lily that stayed by her side every night. There are so many close family members and friends that she enjoyed being with and loved dearly. Kelly was a mom, partner, friend, artist, and truly an American girl. She loved all her pit-bull mix dogs, farmer's markets, any body of water anywhere, campfires, and a good glass of Chardonnay with some good food and music to go with it. Kelly said she felt like there was something left in this life she had yet to do and Lord knows she will still find a way to do it. Kelly and her family would like to send a very special thank you to ALL of the mission partners at OSF St. Anthony, but especially Natalie, Mackenzie and the entire Respiratory Therapy team for their remarkable and endless generosity, love and support. We love you all and we know you love her. We would also like to thank the amazing OSF Hospice team that kept Kelly as comfortable as possible and reassured until the end. There will be a celebration of Kelly's life in the near future that will include that good glass of Chardonnay, food and music where family and friends will be able to again admire her life's work and share stories of the times we had together. Grace

Funeral & Cremation Services assisted the family. Share a memory or
condolence at www.graceFH.com.

Tribute Wall

RE

“ I am just hearing about Kelly's passing. She was an amazing person, I've known her since kindergarten at Gregory school through high school. She will be dearly missed. My deepest heartfelt condolences to her entire family.

Rick Egbert - February 06, 2021 at 10:08 PM

GB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Grace Bartlett - October 26, 2020 at 10:48 AM

SA

Wow.... what a beautiful photo! Thank you sharing this💕

Sue Andrew - October 26, 2020 at 03:20 PM

MI

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mike - October 24, 2020 at 11:10 AM

SA

Such a talented lady💕

Sue Andrew - October 28, 2020 at 05:45 PM

AW

“ I am so saddened to hear about Kelly’s passing. Such a beautiful person taken too soon. I will think of Kelly every time I look at a quilt that she quilted for me. I am so sorry for your loss and I will keep all of you in my thoughts and prayers. 🙏🏻🙏🏻

Ann Wissbaum - October 24, 2020 at 09:25 AM

BW

“ Kelly, I'm sure going to miss you. In the halls at OSF or you coming to pick up the fresh eggs you loved so much. Life isn't fair. The last time I saw you was a few months ago when you were a patient and you told me your story. It took me back many memories ago cause my Grandmother had the same thing so I knew what you were going through. All I could say to you with tears was God be with you. God is with you and your family. Hugs and love beautiful ❤️
Brenda Witte

Brenda Witte - October 24, 2020 at 06:02 AM

LB

Kelly had a smile for everyone Beautiful person. A true artist with a lot of passion. She also did lots of quilts for me. Memories come back to me of her friendship and sewing skills. So sorry for your loss. PRAYERS and LOVE to you Mike and the girls

linda buttel - October 25, 2020 at 10:47 PM

SP

“ My memories of Kelly will always put a smile on my face. We met during my time in Rockford through the quilting community. We always had such great times working on quilting projects together, traveling trips to fabric stores from far and near and all the fun times working at the Quilters General Store. Our paths didn't cross as much after I moved to FL and I was shocked and so saddened to hear of the news of the passing of my sweet Rockford friend Kelly. I will never forget her and I'm once again punched in the gut.... and reminded just how much each day is a gift! My heart goes out to her family ♥

One story comes to mind. Kelly, Cindy Tolliver and I were in WI (quilting) we of course went to a local bar and each had a beer. (They brewed their own beer). Our beers arrived in 3 different types of glasses. We tasted each other's beers and when the waitress came by our table to ask if we wanted another beer, we all proclaimed we wanted what the other had. Then she said "you're all drinking the same beer"! We laughed and laughed about that! Again, my heart goes out to Kelly's family.

Sue Paschall-Andrew

Sue Paschall-Andrew - October 23, 2020 at 05:20 PM

PT

“ Terry, Joyce, Kyle and Krista,

I am so sorry to hear about Kelly. I have many fond memories of growing up on Carol Court and Kelly was a big part of that. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your extended families.

Patrick Tomlin



Patrick Tomlin - October 23, 2020 at 04:48 PM

KR

Thank you ol neighbor friend we so appreciate your prayers

krista Rupprecht - October 25, 2020 at 07:00 PM

DK

“ I cherish the many quilts that Kelly enhanced with her quilting expertise. I always let her choose the designs for each quilt. She was an amazing person: caring, thoughtful, and creative. May we all find some solace in our memories of her.



Deb Kelly - October 23, 2020 at 01:10 PM

MG

“ Marilyn and John Good purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kelly "Kelly Jean" Siebert Edwards.



Marilyn and John Good - October 23, 2020 at 11:51 AM

KB

*“ I am one of many quilters who can look around their home today and be reminded of this talented lady (I personally counted 3 wall hangings and 1 quilt). My favorite memory is when I picked up a fall quilt and she told me how she had taken a walk and gathered leaves to incorporate into the quilting. How special and creative is that!
I am so sorry for your loss because I know she will be deeply missed by her family and friends. May you grow to find joy in your memories and may Kelly rest in peace.*

Kathleen Behrens - October 23, 2020 at 10:39 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Kelly "Kelly Jean" Siebert Edwards.



October 23, 2020 at 10:32 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Kelly "Kelly Jean" Siebert Edwards.



October 23, 2020 at 10:27 AM



“ *Kelly and Mike were great neighbors to my husband and I Tom. We had the opportunity to have a wonderful weekend together up in northern Wisconsin at our cabin, enjoy some good fall weather good dinners and lots of wine. My husband Tom and I send our deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy and prayers to Mike, Grace her husband and Hannah, and family. Tom and Debbie Oracki*



Debbie Oracki - October 23, 2020 at 10:20 AM

KM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kim Meyer - October 22, 2020 at 04:38 PM

LK

“ Kelly you were such fun to hangout with! Although it's been a long, long time since we've lived in Ogle County, I still remember our Saturday spent in Clare all-day making our "matching" apple baskets. I still have mine and I cherish it and those times we've had some good laughs. Rest Easy, Kelly. ~ Lori Krekeler and the extended Hallowell-Krekeler Family.

Lori Krekeler - October 22, 2020 at 04:20 PM

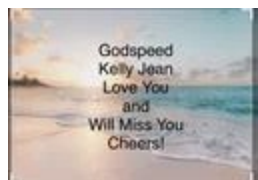
BE

“ I am shocked and so sorry at the passing of a friend and an amazing talented quilter. I have lost touch with her in the past couple of years but I have amazing quilts she quilted for me that I will hold even more precious. I will miss you Kelly!

Bernie - October 22, 2020 at 04:14 PM

KS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kathleen Edwards Smith - October 22, 2020 at 09:26 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kelly "Kelly Jean" Siebert Edwards.*



October 21, 2020 at 11:18 PM



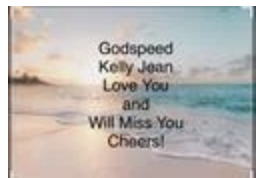
“ *As a clinical instructor of Kelly Jean, who was a student in the Respiratory Care program at RVC, I am in a position to evaluate a student's knowledge, critical thinking skills, and over all performance of an individual that would provide care to patients at all levels of care. My vivid memory with Kelly Jean was during her final clinical evaluation with me. I'm not sure that she knew she would receive an evaluation as great as it was but as she teared up, I was choked up telling her why she was so deserving to receive far more than what she expected. Not only was this a high yet seemingly effortless achievement for her but it is a reflection of a great person, compassionate caregiver, and so much more...*



Todd Shellhorn - October 21, 2020 at 10:03 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Kathleen Edwards Smith - October 21, 2020 at 09:38 PM

KG

“ I was proud to call Kelly my cousin. We also shared the same first name...I thought that was so cool. I have many holiday memories from our youth. I always thought she was so pretty. My best memory was spending 2 weeks with her in Hawaii when I was 10ish, she was 13ish. Our paths have not connected for many years but I am thankful to read here that her life was happy and full of love...and also to see the beauty she brought to those who knew and loved her personally and professionally...I am not surprised to read she was another fearless warrior to the very end. I giggled when I read where she was conceived. I lost my warrior mother to cancer in 2019 and I proudly shared, with all who came to celebrate her life, that I was conceived in the back seat if a car....so we had that in common too. It brought a moment of needed laughter in all the pain. I would like to send my deepest and sincere condolences to Aunt Joyce and Uncle Terry, Kyle, Krista and Kelly's life parter and their girls. God sure knows how to pick his angels. As I shed a tear for all of you...I am thankful she can rest in heaven...hoping our paths may cross again there.



Sincerely,
Kelly Noel Gierat ♡

Kelly Noel Gierat - October 21, 2020 at 09:34 PM

SC

“ I was so fortunate to work with Kelly at OSF. My deepest sympathies to her family. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.
Sherry Cerasani

Sherry Cerasani - October 21, 2020 at 06:51 PM