



Laurie Middleton

February 25, 2014

Memorial Service is planned for 3:00 pm, Sunday March 2nd 2014 at the Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel with Visitation starting at 2:00 pm
Laurie Andra Middleton was born on November 20, 1962 in Neptune, New Jersey. Her father, Len Middleton, was working on the Verrazano Narrows Bridge. Her mother, Anita (Hokkanen) Middleton was working on finishing her college degree and raising her growing family. The family would stay in New Jersey a couple years and brother Paul joined the family in October 1964. Her father's career had the family moving around the country from Boston to Houston to Detroit in the next few years. Sister Kara was born in Pennsylvania in March 1970.

The family moved to Eveleth, Minnesota, soon after Kara's birth. They purchased a house on Ely Lake and lifetime friendships were formed. Swimming, waterskiing, ice-skating and duck camp became a favorite group activities. The family moved again to Esko and Laurie entered junior high and high school. The family attended Cloquet Gospel Tabernacle and a deep faith took root as well as deep friendships. Laurie was involved in track and cross country running, piano and flute, cheerleading, and some theater and musical productions, and church activities. Finally, the family moved to the Twin Cities and Laurie graduated from Richfield High School in 1980.

Laurie received her mass communications degree from Oral Roberts

University. In 1992 she received her Juris Doctor from William Mitchell Law School in St. Paul. After receiving her law degree she also held a number of positions including law clerk, judicial clerk and revisor of statutes. She particularly enjoyed her work as an Assistant County Attorney in Beltrami County in the mid-1990's. Laurie worked in various communications, administrative and government positions throughout her career including at Georgetown University, DC, the Minnesota legislature, and the Minnesota Department of Administration - Workers Compensation Program.

Laurie had many creative interests, especially movies, theater, and writing. The stories she wrote about Grandma Hokkanen and niece Abby entertained her family. Laurie truly enjoyed entertaining not only her family but her friends as well. A good dinner party, a fun birthday party, watching a movie or playing a game were always on the agenda.

Laurie loved to travel. There were countless trips to Sugar Island and Detroit, Michigan and later Clearwater, Florida to visit grandparents and family. There were also international trips to England, Finland, and Russia in 1975, a Teen Missions trip to Egypt in 1982, another missions trip to Eastern Europe in 1984 with a short stop in Finland and a trip to Italy in 2012. Laurie travelled extensively around the United States. Her love of travel eventually focused on Hawaii. Her first visit was with her sister and brother and his family in December 2006 for Christmas following the death of their parents that year. She visited two more times for interviews hoping to land a job and a reason to move. She also visited in 2008 with her traveling and adventure friend, Sandy. Laurie's final trip was to Kauai in October 2013 after her diagnosis of 4th stage esophageal cancer. Laurie relaxed in the lovely scenery and frolicked in the ocean with her family for a week and then Sandy joined her for a second bonus week.

A deep, personal and steadfast commitment to Jesus has been the foundation

of Laurie's life. She appreciated Bible studies and sermons that stirred her faith and sharpened her ability to hear God. Her friends commented that she really knew the Word of God. Laurie would take every opportunity to pray with her sister, friends and sister-in-law. After she received the terminal diagnosis, her faith gave her strength day by day to focus on living. She prayed through each decision and, as attested by those who spent time with her in the last few months, Laurie truly experienced God's peace which exceeds anything we can understand. (Phil 4:6-7)

Laurie is survived by sister, Kara Middleton of Plymouth; sister-in-law, Nyla Middleton of Plymouth; nephews Peter, Henry, Joshua and niece Abigail; Aunt Marilyn and Uncle Harvey Warburton of Seattle; cousins Bill Warburton and Tom (Jenna) Warburton of Seattle.

Tribute Wall

BA

“ Dear Kara, Kyla and friends of Laurie,

I am so sorry that I did not read of this until the funeral was over. I shared 3 decades of wonderful memories with many of you. I hope that you are free to get in contact with me at any time. I was at the bowling party and board games party that Laurie hosted.

I am sorry I missed the glass-blowing party that summer before she went on to glory. We had a long chat but she did not mention all of these struggles physically, emotionally or otherwise on the phone, only alluding to them. I believe she wanted to share more in person, but we did not meet as we had hoped.

Barb

bjmpelzer@netzero.net

ps Hi, also to Joyce!

barb - January 24, 2016 at 03:28 PM

BA

correction - greetings to Nyla, rather than Kyla - typo.

barb - January 24, 2016 at 03:31 PM

BH

“ Dear Kara,
*It was with shock and sadness that we read about Laurie yesterday in the paper. We send you our love and prayers as you go forward in the days ahead. Laurie was a lovely
And gentle person who lived a deep faith. It was a privilege to know her as well as all of your family beginning with our years together in Esko. You have been through so much
In the past years and we pray The Lord will be with you and sustain you in the days ahead. Please call on us if we can assist you in any way. Our care reaches out to Nyla and those precious nephews and niece as well. With love and caring,
Barb and John Hanson*

barb hanson - March 02, 2014 at 06:52 PM

PS

“ Dear Kara
This is Penny, Jack and John in the wonderful Upper Peninsula of Michigan. I was recently shocked to learn that Laurie had cancer and passed on. I cannot imagine her receiving the news either. Glad to hear she enjoyed a wonderful final vacation. Such a shock and so quick! We are relocated back to the U.P. If there is anything that we can do for you, please let us know. I cannot imagine all you have been through. Many fun times were had with all of us on Sugar Island and at my folks place on Lake Superior. Glad we were able to see everyone when we came to MN the months prior to Pauls passing. Please keep in touch with us. Keep the memories alive. Many hugs, best wishes and condolences from our family to you. Take care.

Penny, Jack and John Strongman - March 02, 2014 at 01:25 PM

EL

“ *Elise lit a candle in memory of Laurie Middleton*



Elise - March 01, 2014 at 08:44 AM

EL

Hello, I am so sorry to hear of Laurie's passing. This is quite a shock - I had no idea she was suffering with an illness. I met and knew Laurie through Open Door and then I did see her at Woodland Hills Church from time to time. My sincerest condolences to you and the family. I know she is with Jesus now, so the sorrow is just for us - not her. What a beautiful picture. I know she is with Jesus now, starting her new life. but I will say this too. Rest in Peace dear sweet Laurie, rest in Peace, Elise Weinberg

Elise - March 01, 2014 at 08:53 AM

PA

“ *Dear Kara,*
It is with complete shock that we send our deepest sympathies. We received a Christmas card from Laurie this past year, but she mentioned nothing of her illness. Although it was quite a few years ago now, I am so glad that we were able to catch up with her, and Paul, and Nyla and the kids when we were last in Minneapolis. I have many fond memories of your family's visits to the U.P. and am heartbroken by all of the pain you have had to endure the last several years. Hopefully we have the opportunity to see you again soon. In the meantime, if there is anything that we can do for you, please just let us know.
Wishing you all the best in this time of need.
-Patti, Paul & Nikolai Chang

Patti - February 27, 2014 at 04:41 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Laurie Middleton.*



February 27, 2014 at 04:29 PM



“ *Dear Kara, When Laurie first came to work for the State of Minnesota in the Workers Compensation Division which at the time was part of DOER, I asked her if she was related to you, then I related how I knew your parents she then her commented was that Kara the one that now keeps the Finnish part of our heritage alive. Said she wasn't to much into it that stuff ,however she knew how much FACA meant to you and the wonderful friends and support you had from all those Finns.SISU during this time will be a good Finnish idea to hang on to. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help. Laurie,Nakemiin-until we meet again,cause Gil's mom always said you never say goodbye.May God hold you in the palm of his hand and give you his peace. Our prayers and thoughts are with you during this difficult time, Love,Gilbert and Dawn Kinnunen*

Dawn Kinnunen - February 27, 2014 at 03:35 PM



“ *LOVE RAY AND KAREN purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Laurie Middleton.*



LOVE RAY AND KAREN - February 27, 2014 at 12:44 PM