



Michelle (Schwartz) Kragness

April 15, 2009

Kragness, Michelle R. (Schwartz) Age 57 of Coon Rapids, MN, passed away unexpectedly in her sleep on April 9, 2009. Michelle is preceded in death by mother, Genevieve Schwartz, brother, Joseph Schwartz Jr. and sister, Judy Beitel. Survived by father, Joseph Schwartz Sr.; devoted husband of 34 years, James Kragness; daughter, Jennifer Kahle; sons, Phillip Kragness and mom's "baby boy", Robert (Bob) Kragness; sisters, Janet Bickman, Sharon Rowinski, Peggy Wurl, Deborah Christensen; 4 granddaughters and many nieces, nephews and friends. Service will be held Friday, April 17 at 1 PM at: Washburn-McReavy Coon Rapids Chapel 763-767-1000 1827 Coon Rapids Blvd.

Tribute Wall

DM

“ *Missing you 'Chelle. You are loved and thought of frequently by many of us...You left us way to soon..but I know you have found peace..Hugs and loves..Dar*

~

Darlene Miller,

Goose Creek, South Carolina

Contact Me

Darlene Miller - June 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ Hi Auntie Chelle-I was reading your guestbook and thought I'd write a quick note. You are deeply missed. Mom still has a hard time and starts to cry everytime we talk about you. To this day, she still reaches for the phone and 3 am to call and talk with you but suddenly remembers that you're gone. It's very sad. I still think about the times I spent with you and find myself giggling out loud. I love you. Please watch out for mom and guide her through the tough times. You know what I mean. I love you.

~

Erica Richards,

Oak Grove, Minnesota

Erica Richards - May 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *In your memory Chelle..I miss you a lot!!! I love you!!*

~

Darlene Miller,

Charlston, South Carolina

Contact Me

Darlene Miller - September 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Mom, I wish you were here, I miss you so much... My hearts hurts SO bad. everyone said that things would get better with time, that my heart would heal. well all I can say to that is.. ANYONE who believes that is true, has NEVER lost someone that they REALLY loved. Cause I dont feel any better in fact alot of the time I feel worse especially when I think about all the time that has gone by that I havent been able to see you, hug you, kiss you and have you there for support and encouragement when I think what im doing is pointless or when Im feeling useless or worthless even... I just miss my mom. I am so frustrated that you left. at some point i am gonna have to find a way to come to terms with this. I dont know how though. I wasnt ready to lose you, I thought I had many more years. I have so many regrets when it comes to what i should have done to try to save you from yourself, even if you hated me for a while, you would at least still be here with me. and I would rather have you here yelling and complaining than not to have you here at all. I know that you are always with me and that you are all around me, in everything that I do, in everything that I am, I am you and I am my dad. I am undoubtably yours. I see you in my face everyday when I look in the mirror. In my eyes I see you looking back at me. My greatest fear is that I let you down... that when you died you got to see a full view of my life and the things i've done and whats ahead of me. I hope that you are proud of me and the way i've changed over the last 3 years, im glad that you got to see the first year and a half i started to get my stuff together, but you missed so much since you've been gone. just remember mom I love you more than life itself. u gave me life and I watched give up on yours way to soon.. I will stay here, stay strong, strive to succeed, to show you that no matter how bad things are that there is always the miracle of hope. I wish you could have held on to that. I will become the man you thought I would and I will live a long fullfilling life full of love and I will live it for both us. I will keep fighting, when even like right now, it seems like im fighting a battle thats already had its fate decided. I know I deserve a good life and good fortune with people who love me and not the idea of who they think I am or the idea of who they want me to be, but they will love me for me, the same as you and

dad do. I miss your unconditional love, your words of wisdom, your honest criticism, your laugh, my god do i miss your laugh. I just miss you mom and I wanted to let you know how much. I LOVE YOU MOM.Love your baby boyBob

~

Rob Kragness,

Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Contact Me

Rob Kragness - September 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ *HAPPY ANNIVERSARY MOM!!! I just wanted to say I love you and Happy 37th Anniversary. Dad is so lost without you. Today was a really hard day for him. Dad says misses and loves you and wishes you were here Love always Jim and Bob*

~

Rob Kragness,

Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Rob Kragness - June 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Mom,yesterday was mothers day. the second one now since you left us. however it felt like the first to me since the first mothers day was only a month after you passed and I was still in a zombie state than so didnt even realize what day it was all i could focus on is much I missed you. Yesterday sucked.. Hard to celebrate mothers day without your mother... I feel the same way about my birthday (which is coming up) whats my birthday without the woman that gave birth to me? I miss you so much Mom!!! I think about you everyday, but you know that cause I talk to you everyday and tell you I love you. I still am having serious issues coping with losing you. So many questions... So many answers I cant have. I just want to say I miss you Mom. And to the greatest mother in the WORLD... Happy Mothers day and I LOVE YOU MOM. I wish I could be hugging you while im saying that. I love you momLove Always your baby boy

~

Rob Kragness,

Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Contact Me

Rob Kragness - May 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Chelle, it has been about a year and it just seems like yesterday when we were talking on the phone and laughing our guts out! I miss you and I cannot even begin to tell you how much you are on my mind from day to day. Sometimes I go to the phone to call and then remember there is hardly anyone to call anymore... You and I had great fun talking about your plans, my plans, our men, our kids and our faith...everything...I miss that so much too. I know you are with the Lord and surrounded by the Angels you so dearly loved and that comforts me...but my heart breaks for Jim in his life without you. Rest in Peace sweetheart and always know you are never forgotten...All my love your Sis,Dar

~

Darlene Miller,

Charleston, South Carolina

Contact Me

Darlene Miller - April 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Mom, I know its been a while since I have written you. I love you SO much and I miss you. I really wish you were here right now. I could really use your support. I have had such a bad weekend. On thursday my buddy went into the hospital with a seriously high fever, once he got there the docs decided that it was H1N1, so they started treating him for that, they could not get his temp to break so early friday morning they induced him into a coma because the temp was literally cooking his brain and they thought they could save him from brain damage by doing this, they were unable to get his temp to break and then his brain started swelling so they had to drill holes in his skull friday evening to release the pressure on his brain. when they did that it released the pressure and broke his temp and they were able to bring him out of the coma early sat morning, when he woke up he was for the most part ok and slightly disoriented, and had a VERY small case of amnesia, the only thing he couldnt remember was me. So on sat morning I sat on the phone with him for 3 hrs going through memories that I hoped would make him remember me, and finally he did. I spent of of saturday talking to him and texting him, up until I went to bed round 11. I woke up sunday morning, txted him to see how he was feeling and his dad text me back and told me that he found Bray dead on the sofa that morning. His dad goes on to tell me that the coroner says Bray had a twisted artery in his brain and that it burst sometime early in the morning, he bled out and died in seconds, the doc says he didnt fell anything. Im not so sure that true, when I talkted to him sat night before he died he told me that his head hurt, I assumed it was just the holes they drilled, maybe it was the artery. This is the 23rd person I have lost now in a 10 yr period. Im not sure how much more I can take mom. The best way I can explain my state of mind is, "I am like a very paper thin sheet of glass just waiting for the smallest grain of sand to hit and shatter my whole existance. i am so vulnerable right now. My heart is filled with so much pain and so much sorrow. Why wqould god take the life of someone who just turned 19 and had a whole life yet to experiance? My faith in God is dwindeling to say the least. I keep thinking I have the strength to overcome all this loss and pain in my life but im not sure how much

more I have left in me. Therapists are supposed to be positive and help you move forward with your life, do you wanna know what mine said to me? She asked me why I get up everyday... what makes me get out of bed. she said that she has clients that are twice my age and have not been through 25% of what i have and they are no where near being in the emotional state that Im in. She stated that she wishes she could bottle up whatever is in me that makes me keep going so she could sell it and help cure the world. One hell of a compliment, dont ya think? I than told her my theory of being a paper thin sheet of glass waiting for the grain of sand. I told her I know how fragile my state of mind is right now, and how little its gonna take to send me over the edge.Dad is really worried about me cause he sees that all of this death and loss and pain is taking such a huge toll on me, he told me he was afriad that I was gonna do something stupid and that he was gonna lose me. I told him that even if I did feel that way (which I don't) I would never do anything to take my own life, I would never see you again and all those that I've loved and lost. and I would never do that to him, I am all he's got and he is all I've got.Its comming up on a year now since we lost you, and neither of us is doing much better than the day we lost you, however we do push forward, for each other and for you. And now this will be my lifes journal to you, I will come and write to you during every major event in my life that I cant share with you, your guest book will stay online forever, I took care of making the payment for that today.I wish you were here Mom, I need you now so bad. But I know you are hear wi

Robert (Bob) Kragness - February 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Mom, So I went to the Titanic exhibit yesterday at the science museum, thought about you a lot of the time. You would have loved it. First when I got there, I got a boarding pass for the RMS TITANIC, and on the back of the boarding pass there was info on a real passenger that was on the ship and at the end of the exhibit you get to check the wall to see if your passenger survived or if their life was lost. I also watched a movie in the omni theatre that showed an expedition of the RMS TITANIC, and they showed the ship and the debris field around it. The ship is 25,000 feet below the ocean bottom, and it took the submersible 2 1/2 hours to descend to the bottom. and in the movie I got to see THE EXACT items on the ocean floor that I just got to see in person. It was the craziest thing. and then at the end I found out that the passenger on my boarding pass was on board with his brother and when the ship went down they both lost their lives that day. Seriously one of the coolest things I have gotten to see, to know that I was that close to things that were involved in the biggest ship wreck to date. I wish you could have been here to hear all about it when I got home. I MISS YOU MOM, I LOVE YOU!!
I decided this summer I'm going to take dad to a cabin for a week, just him and I, I already told him and he is really excited, I told him I would make sure that we have a dock and a boat so we can go out on the lake whenever we want. Wish you were here to come with us. Love you Mom...

~

Robert (Bob) Kragness,

Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Contact Me

Robert (Bob) Kragness - November 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Aunt Michelle, This is the first time I have been able to write on your page. It has been so hard to come in here and read what other people have written. Then to hold back the tears long enough to tell you how much I love you. My family means everything to me and we are losing it way to fast. I really wish I would have planned the family picnic sooner than I did. I know it meant a lot to you and we did'nt get to see it happen. I wrote to Bob to see how he is. I know he is hurting and I want to be there for him. I miss you very much already. I love you , Joey

~

Joel bURRINGTON,

Columbia Heights, Minnesota

Joel bURRINGTON - November 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Mom, well we just celebrated your 58th bday this last friday.. Me and dad went out to eat at Keys cafe' and two of my friends came with us. Really wish that you could have been there. I miss you so much. i still think about you all day everyday, I dont think 5 minutes goes by where I dont think about you for some reason or another. My friend Kelly made me this really kool candle flower memorial thing and gave it to me on your birthday. I really cant expalin how kool it is and she put it all together by hand, literally she has alot of hours vested into such a small project. BUT completly worth it. I LOVE IT. It is a wonderful tribute to you, and the candle is a forever candle so I can light it on all important anniversary's like your birthday, ur anniversary with dad, and the day you died. I still have such a hard time trying to believe that you really are gone. And the question that scares me most... Will I ever see you again? I would like to believe that yes there is a Heaven and that you are there waiting for the day I am there for you to greet and embrace me again, on the other hand I fear that maybe its just people being hopeful and that there isnt gonna be that reunion, and all I have is the memory of the time here I got to spend with you, and to be honest that alone scares the hell outta me. I dont want that to be it. I want to see you again and talk to you and give you a hug and kiss and tell you I LOVE YOU MOM. Happy 58th Bday. Talk to you soon.

~

Rob Kragness,

Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Rob Kragness - November 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Mom, Hey I know its been a while again since I have had a chance to get on a computer and talk to you. First.. AS USUAL... I MISS YOU AND I LOVE YOU!! We I wanted to let you know that I got saydee back and I know how happy you would be about that. she was so happy to see me and you should have seen dads face when he saw saydee, he had the biggest smile and a quick twinkle in his eye, It was awesome. I have written a few other entries in here to you however due to "certain content" instead of editing it or sending back to me to edit they deleted pages upon pages of things I had to tell you. So your not gonna believe this but I got layed off as a mngr at the shop. they are starting to really struggle and I stayed as a full time driver (i got to pick my hours) but i dont think that will be much longer than 3 weeks before we close so I have been looking for another job, nothin yet....It's ok you know me I am strong and YOU made me that way, i.ll figure something out. I got saydees papers signed and now she is a legal therapy service dog and she is now protected under fedral guidlines. I can have her anywhere.. ;)I wish you were here mom, I miss you so much and I cant believe that it's already been 6th mnths since you've been gone. I push on and spend as much time with dad as I can. I see him everyday Talk to him every morning and talk to him every night before bed. We dont take one single moment with eachother for granted, we know from you my mother that nothing is ever a garuantee. Well your birthday is coming up, I told dad we should go out for your birthday and he thought so too.. So we're gonna go out to eat and talk about the good ol times when you were here. Its gonna be me dad shawn not sure if sara's comin but kelly and tony will be there too.I got internet now so you can expect alot more entries now. I MISS YOU MOM!!! LOVE YOU!!!Love Your baby boyBob

~

Robert Kragness,

Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Robert Kragness - October 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“*Hi, Michelle. Still missing you terribly. It's already been a year since we lost Judie and soon it will be a half a year since we lost you. I still have a hard time believing you are gone. I hope you guys are having a wonderful time in heaven together. All of you are deeply loved and missed. Keep praying for us. You are all our angels and we know you are watching over us. Love you, Michelle.*

~

Deb

September 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Bob, Deb, I just got notification of new entries in Michelle's guest book and I read what you both wrote and the tears are streaming down my cheeks. Deb you are right when you said she couldn't possible have known how many people loved her and would miss her so very much. It is so hard not to think of picking up the phone and talking to her or just shooting the breeze about everything... We laughed sometimes until we cried and we cried together over losses and tragedies. He was indeed like my very own Sister.. We yelled at each other and we hugged each other and the very last words she said to me was Dar I love you.. talk to you soon. I am so glad I was able to tell her the same as I remember my last conversation with her.. I love you too God Bless... Bob I know your Mom would be very proud of the way you have handled things. The way you have been there for your Dad and how close you guys have become... She always was proud of you in her own way and she always loved you for all she was worth... and yes you were her "baby boy". My love and prayers go to all that continue to grieve and will always grieve for our loss. I do know that she would tell everyone to live their lives as she would have if she had stayed with us. She had made many changes in her life those last months and had many plans so if it is up to us to carry them out.. I love you guys... Dar (Auntie Dar)

~

Darlene Miller,

Goose Creek, South Carolina

Contact Me

Darlene Miller - August 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ I MISS YOU MOM, I LOVE YOU Every day I hurt so much from losing you, That saying "it gets better with time" or "time will heal you", its bull. The person that said those things just hasnt lost someone important enough to them to understand that all time does is perpetuate the pain. It's just one more day that I didnt get to call you, or get a call from you, another day I didnt get to see you (since I saw you everyday), another day I didnt get to hear you laugh (god.. I loved hearing you laugh, another day I didnt get to see you smile, another day I didnt get to hear you complain (one of the things I miss the most), one more day I didnt get to here you say you love me, one more day that I didnt get to hug you and tell you I love you. I miss you SOOooo much Mom. I HURT SOOoo much without you in my life. I wish you could be here to help me through my life and to be there to see the things I have accomplished that I know would make you proud. I always did everything in my life thinking about how it would make you feel or how it would effect you, just to let you know that has not changed I still live my life the same, even though I can not see you here with me, I know you are right beside me all the time and I will always do everything I can to make you proud of me. I was and always will be proud to call you my Mom. You were the greatest woman in the world, you loved me unconditionally, and in return I loved you the same. I think about you everyday, and I still cry all the time. I dont feel ashamed of that no matter where Im at or who sees my tears because they fall from the pain of losing the 1/2 of the biggest part of my life (the other 1/2 being dad), and the person with whom my soul IS strongest connected to. I MISS YOU MOM, I LOVE YOU Love your baby boyBob

~

Robert Kragness,

Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Contact Me

Robert Kragness - August 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Hi, Michelle! I just found out about the guest book today when talking to Janet. God, I miss you. It was nice reading the words people wrote to and about you. When Sharon called and told me you were gone, she didn't even sound like herself. She asked what I was doing, and I had to ask "Who is this?" Then she told me, and she cried. That is the first time in my life I have heard Sharon cry. She was sad also that she would have to go tell Dad that another of his daughters was gone. Gone too soon. And such a short time after losing Judie. Michelle, you are missed so much by so many! Peg and Sharon want to call you all the time and tell you what's going on. Dad just doesn't think it was possible for this to happen when you had just got the car and you were looking forward to getting out and doing different things when the weather got nice. Janet went to church and lit candles and prayed. I bought flowers and lit a candle and put them both by my angel and just talked to you. I've talked to Jim, and Dad and I visited with him when I got up to Minneapolis. He misses you deeply. I don't think you ever knew how many people loved you. Maybe none of us realize how many people love us. You always listened, no matter how trivial the subject, you always listened. Most people would just pretend to be interested, but you really were. I miss talking to you. We had such good times just talking and laughing on the phone. And I'm glad we saw each other last September and got to spend some time together. I really enjoyed that. Michelle, you were a wonderful person, friend, sister, mother, grandmother, daughter and wife. I hope you are having a wonderful reunion with Mom, Joey, Judie, Rick, Jodie, Emily and your friends in heaven. You all are our angels now. Pray for us. I love you.

~

Deb

August 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ *Michelle I am missing you and our talks and I still cannot believe you are not there to pick up the phone...I do talk to Jim and he is struggling but I am hoping he will go one as you would have wanted him to. Sheesh I really miss you even more than I ever thought I would...I miss your mischief and you laughter and your concerns and compassion....I just love you and miss you...Give my love to all of our loved ones...*

~

Dar,

Chas, South Carolina

Dar - April 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ *Dad, Jennifer, Phil and Bobby, I am so terribly sorry to hear of Michelle's passing. Jim, Brent and I send you all our heartfelt condolences. Michelle was a great woman, warm and loving, always willing to be accepting and helpful to me as the wayward kid I was. I cannot imagine the hole in your hearts, in your lives. Bob, I loved your letter to your mom. Dad, I know your heart is broken, and I will pray for peace for you all. I will be in Minneapolis next week, 4/28-5/3, call me if you would like. 360-624-7560. Love to you all, Colleen*

~

Colleen Kragness,

Vancouver, Washington

Colleen Kragness - April 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ *It's been years, since we played as children. As we gather, at each others house. My deepest feelings to the family and Uncle Joe.*

~

John Eisenzimmer,

Kearns, Utah

Contact Me

John Eisenzimmer - April 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ Auntie Chelle-I can't believe you're gone... already? You know you were always my favorite. It was fun to talk about the old days when I'd sleep over all the time as a kid. Oh we'd laugh so hard.. you and Uncle Jim squabbling or you disciplining Bob and I'd be cracking up. You'd be like.. "Erica Leigh! How am I supposed to be serious with you laughing!?" then you would too. Remember making our favorite-fried chicken and mashed potatoes? Buttons running away? Godfather's Pizza and renting VCR's? Uncle Jim falling down the stairs? Jennifer backing my mom's car into the tree when she was 5! ...there are so many memories. You were so much fun to be around.. we always giggled, ALWAYS.I'll miss you. Rest in peace. I love you.Erica Leigh

~

Erica Richards,

Ramsey, Minnesota

Erica Richards - April 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of grief. May your memories bring you comfort.* ”

~

Michael Meyer,

Lakeville, Minnesota

Michael Meyer - April 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

“ Mom, Its been 5 days now since you left us, I cant even start to tell you how much I miss you already. I am all over the place right now from being numb to sobbing uncontrollably back to feeling numb again. I am so drained right now and I have so much left to do. I haven't left dad for more than 2 hours at a time, he's doing the same as I am. It's so hard to come into the apartment now, knowing that I will never see you on the other side of the door ever again. I have had a lot of my friends over at the apartment spending time with me and helping to try to distract dad a little, I bring that up because it was late on Sunday night when I had some of my friends over and they were a little loud and I started to say “keep it down a little, my mom” and before I finished and said “sleeping” I realized what I was saying. I don't know what I am going to do with out you. I don't know how I am supposed to move forward from here. And the worst part is, this is where I would ask you for your advice, since you always had the right things to say to me. I know that if it wasn't for Dad right now, my friends and my co-workers I would not be making it at all right now. I have experienced some great generosity in the kindness of strangers in the days since you passed. And the compassion and love from my friends who ALL came to me with open arms wanting to help me stand when I don't have the strength do stand on my own. I know that you being gone has not really hit me yet. I am worried about the impact of what its going to do when it does hit me, since right now (in shock) I am just on the edge. How's it going to be when it hits me? Nothing is going to be the same for me EVER again. I will never hear your voice, hear you telling me stories, hear you say I love you. Or hear that infectious laugh of yours. I will definitely miss your food mom, at least I learned my cooking skills from you and I know how to cook most of your dishes, however missing the golden touch of YOUR love, it will never taste quite the same. We finished making all the arrangements for your service this morning. It was so freakin hard to finalize this. I just wish there was something I could do to bring you back. If I would have known that when you went to lay down for that nap that you were not going to wake up, I would have stayed and not let you go lay down I would have stayed and kept you awake. But I know that

no matter what I did the outcome would have eventually been the same. I just don't want to believe that you, the woman who gave birth to me, fed me, raised me, taught me to be a good man, and taught me unconditional love, is actually gone. I know already that this online guest book is going to be a daily diary for me to tell you what's going on in my life and through this next year I hope it will be my comfort and I will find some peace as I'm writing to you over this next year. I love you MOM. Love always and foreverYour "baby boy"Bob

~

Bob Kragness,

Champlin, Minnesota

Contact Me

Bob Kragness - April 15, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ There are words to express what Michelle meant to me and those that knew her, but they escape me now. She was like my very own Sister and we shared so much. I am searching for words that would express "my" feelings when I really want to share all the wonderful traits that Michelle had. She was loving, compassionate, unselfish, and fun! She had a wonderful sense of humor and her laughter was hearty and contagious. She was a dedicated Mom and my brothers life! Through everything that came about, she was a survivor. She always found room in her heart and home for others without. She was full of life and laughter and when life dealt her lemons, she indeed did make lemonade! My sincerest sympathies to Joe and her sisters. She loved and worried about them all so much! Michelle, I love you and you will be sorely missed. I will carry your memory in my heart for as long as I live... Now you share the space of the Angels you so dearly loved! Phil, Jennifer, Bob and my wonderful brother my heart is with you in your sorrow and my prayer that you know you now have her watching over you from the heavens. She left a bit of herself in all of you. Dar

~

Darlene Miller,

Goose Creek, South Carolina

Contact Me

Darlene Miller - April 15, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ hey aunty michelle, i know that u and i werent close the last few years but i loved you and now that your gone i miss you and think about how i should have kept in touch more. i will forever miss you and will love you forever. Rest In Peace....hey tell jodie hi from her babygirl will ya?

~

stephanie hastings,

st.anthony, Minnesota

Contact Me

stephanie hastings - April 15, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *Jim, Jennifer, Phil and Bob, There are no words that I can say to comfort you right now, but know that I am praying for you. I pray that God will give you incredible peace and comfort. I love you. Jude*

~

Jude Richter,

Brooklyn Center, Minnesota

Jude Richter - April 15, 2009 at 12:00 AM