



Sheila "Shelly" May Wobbeking

June 14, 1945 - July 5, 2023

Sheila May Wobbeking passed away unexpectedly on July 5, 2023. She was born on Flag Day, June 14, 1945 in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. She was preceded in death by her parents, Jim and Erma Heitz, son Christopher and grandson Zack. She is survived by son Brian (Annie), Dana (Don) and Nicole, Grandchildren Briana, Josh, Sydney, Matix, Alex, Sam and Olivia, great grandchildren Aria and Parker, sisters Barb and Karen and brothers Mike (Pam), Pat (Peggy) and Gary (Carrie), many nieces and nephews and long time best friend, Diane Jones. All of whom are mourning the loss of her.

Shelly was a beautiful soul who will always be remembered for her dry wit, unconditional love and unwavering support to her family and friends. She was so giving to others, even to those she didn't know as she was an active volunteer for her community and church, in which Sharing and Caring Hands and Meals on Wheels being her particular favorites. She loved travelling, reading, cooking (we could always expect a tray full of cookies at Christmas) and absolutely adored her dog, Sasha.

Her granddaughter, Olivia, shared a story that goes as follows; "Before she passed, a Cardinal was by her front window. She would always say it was Zack (her grandson who passed away in 2008) saying hello. Once she passed on, the cardinal began singing for the first time since it has visited us." Her granddaughter, Briana, also had a similar experience with a singing

Cardinal the night of Shelly/Grandma's passing without knowing the significance of what the Cardinal meant to her Grandmother. Clearly, she is still with us spiritually, and although we miss her and we know she misses us, it is comforting to know that she is so happy to be rejoining those loved ones she has missed so much.

We would like to leave this obituary with what was so eloquently stated by her nephew, Jesse, that beautifully sums up about our thoughts of Mom/Grandmother/Sister/Aunt and Friend;

"Nearly two centuries ago, Alexandre Dumas penned his most celebrated work, "The Three Musketeers". In the opening pages, the young D'Artagnan prepares to set out on his own, to go into the world and meet his destiny. However, before he leaves, his father reminds him of his duties as a man of honor, and commands him to "Never fear quarrels, but seek hazardous adventures."

On a day of tremendous loss, that quote, and the finest qualities of the character to whom it was spoken, penetrate the gloom. For that's who my great-aunt Shelly was, and that's how she lived.

A noble soul devoted to the service of something greater, to her family, her friends, and her faith. Formidable and resolute, temperate and measured. Fearless and genuine, caring and compassionate. Generous beyond measure, selfless without equal. Sophisticated and eloquent, experienced and cultured without pretense.

Touched by grace, distinguished by honor. A sentinel, a teacher, and a healer.

The champion and advocate you needed, but didn't deserve. The worldly advisor that could keep you grounded. The trendsetting globetrotter who

sparked your imagination. The ferocious intellect that kept you honest. The razor-sharp wit that could raise the lowest of spirits. The inspiration that pushed you to summits you thought unreachable.

The guardian that would pull you from the rocks when you ran aground. The guide who would correct your course when you drifted astray and set you back out to sea in pursuit of your dreams.

The one-of-a-kind character that the greatest works of fiction could not accurately depict. A spirit so pure that it cannot be replicated or duplicated. A light so powerful that it could scatter even the darkest of clouds.

That was Shelly.

As reality slowly sets in, there are countless things I'll miss. And I suspect it'll be the seemingly little things that strike the sharpest notes. Things like her comfort-inducing command to give her a hug before she left. The simple, but powerful, beacon that called an old weary ship home.

While there's sorrow, there's also gratitude and solace. Gratitude for having been able to trod the same ground as her for 36 years. Gratitude for having been able to receive firsthand instruction on how to live a life of adventure and purpose, a life marked by love and service.

And there's solace in knowing that a great explorer has gone to where only the most worthy of us will ever go." Jesse Heitz

To our Shelly/Mom/Grandma/Friend/Aunt, We love you and miss you so much, but when our time on earth is done, we have you to look forward to seeing again.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1:00 P.M. on Monday, July 17, 2023 at St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, 17205 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN. Lunch will be served.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, we respectfully request a donation, if you wish, to The Glioblastoma Foundation, to honor her son, Brian.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 17. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church
17205 Co. Rd. 6
Plymouth, MN 55447

Tribute Wall



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Sheila "Shelly" May Wobbeking.*



July 14, 2023 at 03:51 PM



“ *My most vivid memory of cousin Shelly is from 1963 when she was a Senior pompon cheerleader in a tight fitting Indian Princes costume at Grand Rapids High School where I was a Sophomore attending pep rallies. She was the most gorgeous cheerleader I have ever known or seen. As a youngster, our families would get together frequently and hanging out with Shelly was always great. After I left Minnesota for the Navy, we seldom reconnected. I regret that now.*

Gordon Lipsy

Gordon Lipsy - July 13, 2023 at 11:38 PM

“ *It seems that we commonly take our pillars for granted, always thinking we have more time. More time to snag another hug, more time to cackle at razor-sharp quips, more time to bask in a one-of-a-kind sustaining glow.*

And in times like these, we so often focus on what was taken, not what had been given. And how could we not?

She was the guardian who never wavered. The advocate who never tired. Mender of broken spirits and healer of unseen wounds. Selfless without pause and giving without hesitation. The radiant light that brightened even the darkest of hours. Selfless, generous, and compassionate beyond compare. A truly radiant spirit and beautiful soul.

She was our beloved Shelly.

But my God, what a run she had.

She broke the sound barrier on the Concorde. She stood in the footprints of kings, sultans, and warriors. She dined with CEOs and university presidents. She beheld beauty in its simplest form in distant lands. She traced the steps of Jesus and the Apostles.

And that seems only fitting for someone so special, someone who personified all that humanity could, and should, be.

The one who moved at light speed to help her tribe. The one whose grace enlightened, guided, and defended. The one who inspired those desperate for a spark. The one who saw value in all things, providing a voice for the meek and peace for the embattled. The servant who fed the hungry and carried the infirm.

It's a tremendous loss, and while grief abounds among the legion who knew her, a comforting truth can be found in the words of a famous storybook character.

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

Jesse Heitz - July 12, 2023 at 02:12 AM

MB

*“ Shelly was a kind, caring, genuine person and an intentional and patient listener. I always enjoyed seeing her at various places and especially watching her face smile and light up when she talked about her children and grandchildren. I’m grateful I got the chance to work with her at Annie and Brian’s kitchen and experience her gentle ways and sweet nature. She is dearly missed. Her light will live on in all those she touched !!!!
My brothers and I are here to support the family however we can.
- molly burgess
(grade school friend of Annie’s and long time 30 plus year friend of both Annie and Brian).*

molly burgess - July 11, 2023 at 09:02 PM

KA

*“ Brian and Annie, we are so very sorry for your loss and are sending thoughts of health your way Brian. We love you both.
Karla and Brad Anderson*

Karla Anderson - July 11, 2023 at 07:54 PM

LB

“ Shelly was my cousin. Distance made no difference. I miss her.

Lillian Hill Byrne - July 11, 2023 at 07:51 PM