



Kendra Ann Gagnon

June 7, 1955 - January 18, 2021

Kendra Ann Gagnon, 65 of Traverse City passed away Monday, January 18, 2021.

Kendra was born on June 7, 1955 in Saginaw, Michigan, the daughter of Hector Joseph Gagnon Jr and Lola Grace (Cantley) Gagnon. Kendra was six-years-old when she and her two older brothers, Karl and Kerry, lost their mother, Lola. But her father met and married Beulah Chapple, whom Kendra loved as a parent, and the family happily doubled in size to include Kendra's step-siblings Terri Chapple, Lauren Chapple, and Michael Chapple.

She attended high school in Saginaw and, afterward, worked for a time in that city and then in Flint. But before long Kendra was drawn to Northern Michigan, where several of her siblings had settled. She cherished the idea of being close to her family and, in keeping with a theme that endured, Kendra built a life in Traverse City that she centered around those she loved.

She began work as a secretary at the downtown law firm then known as Running, Wise, and Wilson. There, in the early 1980s—whether Kendra realized it at the time or not—she discovered a professional passion, and a circle of colleagues, that she would adore for nearly three decades. Kendra loved her work and the role it allowed her to play in the life of the firm and in our community.

But she loved nothing quite as much as her family. And as her grateful nieces and nephews grew up, they were blessed to have their Aunt Kendra as an attentive and supportive fixture at birthday parties, at graduations, and at ballgames, cheering from the sidelines. With her pride, and her presence, and her exuberant joy, Kendra made others feel the effortless warmth of her affection.

Kendra was a careful follower of sports and an undeterrable fan of the Detroit teams, particularly the Tigers—despite their frequent attempts to test her devotion. She enjoyed with special enthusiasm her trips to football games at Michigan Stadium and to NASCAR races, often with her brother Kerry in Tennessee. She enjoyed country music and was a

voracious reader. The stacks of hardcover books that at one point filled her home included, among others, everything Stephen King had written; she loved a compelling story. She was quick to laugh, and when she did, it was a big and happy sort of laugh. The kind that made others need to smile, too. Kendra involved herself. She paid attention. She checked in. She sent warm emails and she clipped the Record-Eagle when she found in the paper some good news about somebody she loved. She adored dogs, including, for many years, her beautiful black lab named Sadie. Those who wish to honor her memory might consider making a donation to the Cherryland Humane Society.

In addition to many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews, Kendra is survived by her siblings: Karl (Linda) Gagnon, Kerry (Dawn) Gagnon, Terri Streeter, Lauren (Patte) Chapple, and Michael Chapple. She is preceded in death by her parents, Hector, Lola, and her stepmother, Beulah, and sister-in-law Cathy Chapple.

For keeping Kendra comfortable in her last days, and for easing the difficulties brought about by the current pandemic, her family offers heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Medilodge of Traverse City. It was there, on Monday, that Kendra passed. Just after noon, a favorite song had been played for her and a small tear dampened her eye. Outside her window, in the courtyard where she liked to feed the ducks, the sun had begun to shine on new snow. As Kendra's hand was being held, her breathing began to slow and she departed as she had lived: with grace, and in the presence of family.

Visitation will be held for Kendra on Friday, January 22, 2021 from 1-2 p.m. at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. also at the funeral home followed by a procession to the Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens. For those wishing to attend online please visit www.rjfh.tv

Kindly share thoughts and memories with Kendra's family at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JAN **22**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens
3575 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684

Tribute Wall

CW

“ Kendra was a beloved member of our extended family, and she was the Right Hand to our father’s work.
She had a great sense of humor, a wonderful laugh and a dedication to others that I experienced personally, and tried to learn from.
We hold you in our hearts dear Kendra.
Chris Wise and family

Christopher Wise - January 26, 2021 at 11:45 PM

CS

“ Kendra! I was just thinking of you! I found your beautiful blankets that you cross-stitched for my girls when they were babies! Now they are married and Elizabeth has had her first baby - a girl, only three months old! I'm going to gift that blanket to her now, to be enjoyed. I'm so glad I ended up working with you! Although you told me not to go to the first firm (you know which one), and you never let me forget it, either - I found my way to RWWF&P, and we shared an office for years! I learned so much! Lots and lots of memories. Your last years were rough, I'm sorry about that, but now you are with your folks! You loved them so much! Take care, my friend, rest in peace, and give Bill and Jeanne a hug for me, too! You'll be in my prayers...Cheryl

Cheryl Stayman - January 26, 2021 at 04:14 PM

JL

“ Rest In Peace Kendra.
Jann Lindley

Jann Lindley - January 26, 2021 at 01:29 PM

PB

“ I had the pleasure of working with Kendra and her friendship was above superior. She definitely was a true friend to me and my husband and we shared many laughs together. Even after I moved on to a different profession, Kendra was always in our plans of having a great time together. We never lost touch. Perhaps she can now have a friendly game of Uno with my husband (and keep it clean guys!).

Pat Barone

Pat Barone - January 22, 2021 at 06:18 PM

TP

“ Had the good fortune to work with Kendra for parts of three decades. She was an excellent legal assistant. She was highly intelligent and professional and blessed with a personality that gave clients confidence as the firm assisted them in their legal matters. She was blessed with kind and caring ways and a great sense of humor. Am blessed that she was a friend not only to me but everyone in my family. Perhaps St Kendra can help with her beloved Tigers and her other teams. It's good to have a friend in high places. Rest In Peace.

TJ Phillips - January 22, 2021 at 01:13 PM

CW

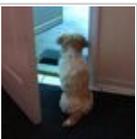
Kendra was a beloved member of our extended family, along with being the right Hand for my father's work.
A great sense of humor, a wonderful laugh and a devotion to others that I personally experienced and learned from. You're in our thoughts dear Kendra.
Chris Wise

Christopher Wise - January 26, 2021 at 12:30 PM

MH

“ My thoughts and prayers to Kendra's family. I too had the pleasure of working with Kendra as she assisted the township attorney where I worked. I loved her no-nonsense attitude and sincere comments, and oh yes that laugh and smile of her's were contagious. She truly was a one of kind women who will be missed. Although we haven't seen or spoke in years I was so sad to hear of her passing. RIP Kendra.

Monica Hoffman - January 21, 2021 at 06:14 PM



“ Kendra was my friend. She worked in our township attorney's law office and I worked in municipal government. We worked well together over the years. Kendra was very smart, a wonderful legal assistant. Rest in peace Kendra. I will always remember your beautiful smile and the laughter from you. Marge Johnson

Marge Johnson - January 21, 2021 at 04:00 PM