



Kit Diane Mikovitz

May 5, 1947 - May 30, 2019

Kit Diane Mikovitz, 72, died peacefully Thursday, May 30, 2019 at her home in Traverse City after a brave year fighting kidney cancer. She was born May 5, 1947 in Detroit to her parents, William and Lillian (Roberts) Axelson. She grew up in Farmington, and married Timothy Mikovitz on March 22, 1968 at Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills, Mi. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Tim Mikovitz of Traverse City; four children and eight grandchildren: Timothy and Emily Mikovitz (Sadie and Maggie) of Thetford Center, VT, Jacob Mikovitz of Traverse City, MI, Bethany and Brian Mikovitz-Wibby (Mateo, Juniper, Kahlil, Veda) of Marquette, MI, Alexis and Jacob Nink (Oliver and Clara) of Boise, ID; and her sisters: Valorie (Edward) Morey of Milford, MI, Shelley (Roger) Schamanek of Sterling Heights, MI, Tonni Gerlach of Manistique, MI, and Jodie (Tim) Cooper of Greensburg, KY, and many nieces and nephews.

Kit was a dedicated public health nurse. She graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. After her early career with Oakland County Public Health and as a home care nurse in western Michigan, she worked for the Grand Traverse County Public Health Department. After 28 distinguished years, culminating as the Personal Health Nursing Administrator for the health department, Kit retired and moved into private practice as a nurse case manager with Clarity Consulting. Her commitment to nursing was admired by all who knew her.

She also had a passion for her home and gardens. Alongside her husband, Kit spent countless hours renovating and updating their unique home and property. Always willing to tackle any project, "Kitten" was known and admired for her tenacity and determination in every aspect of the house; from plumbing to construction to wiring to landscaping. The joy and laughter, trials and tribulations, mistakes and grand successes they shared while working on their adventurous projects, were a defining feature of Kit and Tim's marriage.

Before her death, Kit expressed wishes to include deep gratitude to Dr. Peter Kohler and Melanie Olson, RN, of the Cowell Family Cancer Center for their compassionate and honest care through the course of her illness.

Additionally, she was very grateful for her relationship to her dear friend, Linda Johnson, and for their many years of professional and personal friendship. Over many glasses of wine, Kit and Linda discussed their life, work, and families. Their mutual respect, and ability to laugh with each other through the hard times was the basis of a true friendship that stood the test of time.

Kit was a beautiful, honest, loving, modest, and altruistic woman who dearly loved and supported her family. As a “Grammie” she showered her grandchildren with unending love and attention. Always ready with creativity, energy, and exciting activities, she made her grandkids feel truly special and welcome with every visit to grandma’s house. As a mother, she was a steadfast supporter of all her children. Her calm and respectful guidance and advice was often sought through long, late-night phone conversations. As a sibling, Kit’s four sisters adored and admired her for her thoughtful and attentive relationship she had with each of them individually.

Another way Kit shared her love was through cooking, baking, and preparing food for others. She was well known for her ability to make outstanding food for any occasion. Her carrot cake and pierogis were legendary. Her holiday cookie trays were unmatched in variety and flavor. The staff of the Great Wolf Lodge, where Kit’s husband has worked for 17 years, were frequent recipients of her generous cooking, and always grateful for her amazing carrot cake. She excelled at complicated and adventurous meals, always presented with attention to detail and beauty, but also truly made the best comfort food filled with the love and joy that she embodied.

Kit was a strong and fierce woman, with a heart of gold. She will be missed by all, in a way that words truly cannot express.

A visitation will be held from 11am-12pm, with a memorial service at 12pm at Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home. A Garden Reception will follow immediately after. In lieu of flowers, kindly send donations to the Safe Harbor Shelter of Traverse City, Mi, www.gtsafeharbor.org/donate/

Events

JUN **Visitation** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JUN **Memorial Service** 12:00PM

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JUN **Garden Reception** 12:30PM

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - June 11 at 11:03 AM



“ Tim and family, I went to Kit's service yesterday. It was perfect. Just the way she would have wanted it. When the breeze blew the trees, I could feel Kit's presence.

Kit was not only a great supervisor at the Grand Traverse County Health Department but she was a good friend. Kit was the kind of supervisor that just didn't give directions but helped in any way she could. If her staff had an assignment, she was there helping. There were many times she would jump in to help when she didn't have to do it.

Kit made work fun. There would be potlucks for holidays. And, she did bring that carrot cake. In the summer, she'd organize trunk sales from our vehicles at lunch hour. We'd all trade treasures and what wasn't a treasure, Kit loaded into her car to take to Goodwill.

My only regret is that we had made lunch plans with Lucy and it never happened. I'll miss knowing you're not there to email my friend. Rest well.

Debra Miner - June 05 at 05:51 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kit Diane Mikovitz.



June 04 at 11:31 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers to Tim and the Mikovitz family. I first met Tim at the end of 2002 as we prepared to open the Great Wolf Lodge. We have worked together for almost 17 years, and there was never a day that passed that he didn't mention his love for Kit and his kids. I pray for his strength during this difficult time. We are all here to support you Tim. With loving thoughts & prayers, Laura Neubauer and Darcy Leatherberry Family.

Laura E Neubauer - June 03 at 10:38 PM



“ I remember Kit's laugh! You could hear it throughout the health department. She lived to bring in goodies She was passionate about public health and was a great teacher, asking the difficult question, to get us to think things through. I was proud to work with her. I have a hole in my heart upon hearing of her passing. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and all.

Amy Alflen - June 03 at 04:50 PM



“ I had the pleasure and privilege of working for Kit and the GTCHD. Kit was a great supervisor, mentor and teacher. She was so dedicated to public health. She was an inspiration to many. She was an all around amazing person and I send you Light and Love to comfort you for your loss. She will never be forgotten! I appreciate everything she did for our Outreach Program and the many things she taught me as a person. So sorry to her family.

Brian Simerson

Brian Simerson - June 03 at 04:22 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kit Diane Mikovitz.



June 03 at 03:41 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kit Diane Mikovitz.



June 03 at 10:08 AM



“ Glorious Grace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kit Diane Mikovitz.



June 03 at 09:54 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Julie Kincannon - June 02 at 03:46 PM



“ Kit taught me well while working at GTCHD. She was a very understanding and memorable supervisor in her own special way. My sympathy to Tim and the family. She will be greatly missed. Dianna Anderson

Dianna Anderson - June 02 at 02:40 PM



“ Kit was one of my first mentors in the field of public health and taught me many important lessons. She always had a place for me at GTCHD while I was raising my kids and brought me many new opportunities while I was learning. I'll never forget her encouragement and her faith in my abilities. Tim and family, I am so very sorry for your loss and will be thinking of you through the days ahead. Lisa Peacock



“ During my earliest years as a new Health Department Medical Director, Kit was a knowledgeable, consistent, helpful and supportive influence as I learned my job. Through many years we worked closely together, with her in the role of administrator of the personal health division. From disease outbreaks to administrative issues, staff turnovers to public relations, Kit was always reasonable, pleasant, fair and persuasive. She was respected and liked both by those she supervised and by those to whom she reported. To me she was a valued colleague and a good friend, and I will miss her greatly.

Michael Collins, M.D.

Michael P Collins - June 01 at 02:50 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kit Diane Mikovitz.



June 01 at 11:10 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kit Diane Mikovitz.



June 01 at 07:13 AM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Kit Diane Mikovitz.



June 01 at 06:34 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kit Diane Mikovitz.



May 31 at 05:07 PM