



Susan M. Kelly

April 18, 1957 - October 7, 2021

Susan Hayes Kelly passed on from this life surrounded by family on October 7, 2021, in Crown Point, IN at the age of 64. She was born in Chicago on April 18, 1957, and grew up in Pullman with parents Evans and Florence, and sister Janet Hayes (McMahon), attending Edgar Allen Poe Elementary and St. Anthony Parish. She moved with her family to Lansing in her teens where she attended TF South High School and met her life-long love, Ed Kelly, whom she married June 18, 1977. Ed, along with their children Nicole (Coltrane) Douglas and Gina (Sokhna, Evans, Nicholas, Ethan, Oliver, Uriah, and Iris) Kelly-Elliott, carry on her memory in love and life. Her legacy is one of strength, service, generosity, beauty, and adventure.

The first college graduate in her family, she achieved her Bachelor's in Education at Purdue while raising her two young girls, and she passes on her work ethic and tenacious drive. Her love for teaching and learning, language and travel live on through her family and the countless students and colleagues that she taught and mentored. She taught French and Spanish for three decades at Bloom and Thornton High School Districts, then went on to earn her Master's degree from Roosevelt University in French literature, modeling the pursuit of brilliance and the fruits of hard work. Through her work in the Prairie State College ESL and citizenship programs and sponsorship of the Spanish and French clubs, she cultivated and championed an appreciation for diversity and equality. From her thesis work on French feminist existentialism to her participation through knitting and marching, she

was an educated, engaged, and fierce supporter of women's rights. In addition to being a tireless supporter of the values of equality and personal integrity, she also inspired a love of music and the arts. Our family that remembers childhood trips to the Art Institute, museums, and ballets was lucky to enjoy her recent trip to the Van Gogh exhibit. Herself a master fiber artist, she shared her eye for beauty and detail through knitting, weaving, crocheting, and will be remembered for the quality of her work and her spirit of community and volunteerism by the members of her Weaver's Guild, knitters of the dunes, and her family local yarn boutique, Sheep's Clothing. Among her children and grandchildren are talented and committed linguists, activists, artists, and musicians. We continue to live her passions and values every day. Never one to sit still, she enjoyed throughout her life active and bold pursuits such as dance, kickboxing, and travel. From their honeymoon camping in the Smoky mountains ending with flash flood, to enjoying beaches along Sanibel and St Lucia, climbing the pyramids in Mexico, sightseeing in France, Spain, and Italy, and scaling the side of a ship in Senegal; watching her toddler grandchild win slots in Vegas, to the brakes going out in the Rocky Mountains, she was a constant adventurer who could roll with the punches. She stayed active after her retirement from teaching, furthering her participation in the family business, Kelly Construction, with a second career in real estate, and kept up her travels with her lifelong friend Gayle Planeto. She especially loved hiking and boating around her and Ed's beloved Saugatuck-Douglas area, where she enjoyed boating and walks with her family just a week ago. Of all her achievements and passions, oceans crossed, mountains climbed, Susan will probably be remembered most as the grandma of all grandmas. Never did a grandma love her grandkids more. She was our strong matriarch and our dedicated cheerleader. Though she referred to herself as a simple woman, no indulgence was too silly or trivial or too great for her loved ones. Never was a task too big to be undertaken or a gesture too small to be remembered and honored. And so will we remember and honor you, in spirit, in peace, and in commitment. We send you on with love. Burns Funeral

Home, Crow Point entrusted with arrangements. www.burnsfuneral.com

Tribute Wall

LK

“ Susan was my dearest friend and Sister in Law. Life will not be the same without her.



Lynne Kelly - October 17, 2021 at 05:14 PM

LT

“ So sorry and shocked to hear of Sue's passing. Way too young. I had the pleasure of working with Sue during her entire time at Thornridge High School. She was always friendly and laughing. We had many great conversation about all sorts of things. And of course, there were the cups and cups of hot chocolate...lol Sue loved her students and they loved her. She treated them well. After reading her obituary I'm so glad that she had a life well-lived, rich and full. God has plans for everyone. I'm sure he has a special one for Sue. Peace and serenity for all eternity.

Lee R. Talley - October 15, 2021 at 05:25 PM

SK

“ When I was so sad at my Mon's passing, Susan was there to give me comfort. In return I gave her my Mon's knitting needles, and she could not have been happier or more appreciative. My Mom would have loved her. I am sad that she left us so soon, but I am confident that God has welcomed her to his kingdom.

Sue Kotora - October 13, 2021 at 08:14 PM

JG

“ I’ve known Susan for over 30 years as we taught together at both Districts 206 and 205, and her passing leaves a hole in my heart. Susan was a good listener and friend. She loved her family fiercely and was proud of everything her children and grandchildren did. No matter what kind of day she was having, she would be the first to burst into laughter at anything funny. I think of her as lightness, always upbeat. Knowing her was a blessing, and my memories of her are blessings, too. My sincere condolences to all of you.

Julia Glaser - October 13, 2021 at 01:27 PM



“ Although several years have passed since her retirement, I can still feel Sue's beautiful, worldly energy in the halls of Thornridge High. She was a calming, loving, gorgeous woman who lived a life of passion and service. May her memory be ever eternal.

Mary-Tina Vrehas - October 13, 2021 at 11:36 AM

A(

“ All the fun of being across the hall from you and listening to the energy in your classroom always made me feel good about our occupation. I always have and will forever treasure the shawl you knitted for me. You will be truly missed, Madame

Amy Goodman (Adkins) - October 12, 2021 at 10:09 AM



Gina Michelle - October 12, 2021 at 06:57 PM

LK

“ *Aerobics at the gym on Saturday morning when Bill and I would be in for a visit, walks, a walk in St. John and running into the iguana, taking the paddle boat onto Wolf Lake and 'rescuing' the paddle boarder who had capsized (don't worry young man, these 2 gals in a paddle boat are on the way), family gatherings at your home (always very eventful), learning and teaching me techniques and tricks of how to talk to a Kelly man. Love to you Susan, Lily.*

Lily Kelly - October 10, 2021 at 09:01 AM



Thank you for sharing, Lily ❤️

Gina Michelle - October 10, 2021 at 09:01 PM

PF

Thank you for all the laughs and memories at TR. Your love for our students was always inspirational and never ending! You, Leo, me and ACT days....LOL!

Patricia A Fortier - October 12, 2021 at 10:27 AM



Gina Michelle - October 12, 2021 at 06:57 PM