



Holly Elizabeth Reed

July 16, 1954 - August 29, 2019

Holly Elizabeth Reed, 65, of Columbus, went home Thursday morning, August 29, 2019. Born July 16, 1954 in Columbus, OH, Holly was the beloved middle daughter of Barbara Kemery Heer Reed and Edward Douglas Reed. She is preceded in death by her father (1984), her mother (2013), infant sister Cynthia Ann (1964), grandparents William Charles Heer, Sr. (1923), Hilda Kemery Heer Herbst (1986), Frederick W. Herbst, Sr. (1978), Jefferson Jackson Reed (1962), Hattie Yonker Reed (1976). Survived by her treasured cat, Lucky, sisters and brothers-in-law Kathryn B. Reed and Kevin H. Walsh and Rebecca H. Reed Liefeld and Mark S. Liefeld; niece Cynthia Throckmorton (Alex), goddaughter Adrienne Young (Hunter), nephew Christian Liefeld, great-niece Allie Throckmorton; uncle Donald Detmer; many cousins; special friends Carolyn Gerlach, Elaine Alton, Reba Alton, Carolyn Wolfel, Anna Wernicke, Jenny Johnson Peponis, Sue Pinkerton; and a host of many other loving friends. A lifelong Berwick resident, Holly was baptized and confirmed at First Congregational Church. She was a graduate of Eastmoor High School (1972) and Capital University (1976). She delighted in many happy vacations in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Born prematurely and totally blind, Holly was always a bit ahead of her time. She was educated in a public school classroom with her sighted peers at a time when not many differently-abled children were. She was selected to represent Eastmoor High School at Buckeye Girls State, but was refused admittance because of her blindness. Her efforts to fight this injustice were denied, predating the Americans with Disabilities Act by 19 years. Holly served as a substitute teacher for the Columbus Public Schools for 18 years, Coordinator of Substitute Teachers for the Bexley City Schools for 16 years, made and distributed countless Braille alphabets for elementary students in schools across Central Ohio, and was a one-on-one classroom volunteer for many years at Montrose Elementary in Bexley. She was honored with the Friend of Education Award from the Bexley City Schools in 1990. Holly had an amazing memory and uncanny voice recognition. She loved a good mystery, was a voracious reader, and eagerly awaited the arrival of both Braille and audio books from the National Library for the Blind in Cleveland. She enjoyed sharing a laugh with friends, swimming, tandem bike rides, Bible studies, singing and playing her own compositions on the piano (she had perfect pitch), fragrances, chocolate, rare steak,

and watching old TV shows like Bewitched or Christmas specials from her childhood. For decades she brailled and delivered special Christmas and Hanukkah cards for each and every student at Montrose, along with many other children throughout the Bexley City Schools. She shared her faith through her many kindnesses and by praying with and for her many friends and family members. She dearly loved finding just the right gifts for people. She didn't mince words, was unwavering in her beliefs, and woe to the person who tried to dispute those beliefs with facts. She was a fiercely loyal friend and never one to back down from a fight, even when not in her best interest. Her life was always challenging but became more so following an assault that left her with hearing loss and tinnitus that ended her ability to be in loud environments with groups of people. Her world began to shrink a bit, but she remained a model of perseverance and determination to live life on her own terms, including her decision not to treat her chronic kidney disease. Holly was loved for, not in spite of, her quirks because they helped make her the unique and loveable character that she was. Her beautiful smile and spirit will be greatly missed. We are joyful knowing she is now pain- and restriction-free, seeing for the first time, and enjoying her self-appointed position on the Heavenly Chocolate Commission working to reinstate Milton Hershey's original recipe. In remembrance of her, do a good deed, share a laugh or a smile, write a note or call a friend to say you care. Thanks be to God for the gift she was to us. Friends and family will gather from 3-7 pm on Thursday, September 5 at SCHOEDINGER NORTHWEST CHAPEL, 1740 Zollinger Road. Interment at Green Lawn Cemetery, Columbus Ohio at 9:30 am on Friday, September 6. A celebration of Holly's life will follow at 11 am, officiated by Pastor Tim Iseringhausen at Christ Lutheran Church, 2314 E. Main Street, Bexley, followed by a reception. In lieu of flowers, the family asks you consider a memorial contribution in Holly's honor to benefit The Bexley Education Foundation, VOICEcorps Reading Service, or The Columbus Humane Society. To share memories or condolences, please visit www.schoedinger.com.

Cemetery

Green Lawn Cemetery
1000 Greenlawn Avenue
Columbus, OH, 43223

Events

SEP 5 Visitation 03:00PM - 07:00PM
Schoedinger Northwest Chapel
1740 Zollinger Road, Columbus, OH, US, 43221

SEP 6 Memorial Service 11:00AM
Christ Lutheran Church
2314 East Main Street, Bexley, OH, US, 43209

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Schoedinger Funeral Service - September 04, 2019 at 02:37 PM



“ Holly was the substitute teacher caller before the days of Aesop. Hard to imagine, but her voice was so warm and friendly that we didn't mind getting a call early in the morning. Holly's love of people and learning was an inspiration to us all.

Merry Pruitt - September 06, 2019 at 11:28 AM



“ My deepest sympathy in this difficult time. I loved hearing Holly's voice on the sub-line. She put her heart into helping Bexley staff and substitutes. She never failed to make each of us feel special and wish us a speedy recovery. She became a true friend over the phone. I still have the Christmas cards she sent us. She is truly an angel who spread joy to those she touched.

Beth Paulino Brendle
Bexley HS

Elisabeth Brendle - September 04, 2019 at 10:30 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Holly Elizabeth Reed.



September 04, 2019 at 06:41 PM



“ Holly was an amicable and caring soul. We first became friends as I started subbing in Bexley. It didn't take long for the quick check-in phone calls to evolve into personal and light-hearted conversations about family, friends and world events. She cared about others and enjoyed sharing special stories with you! Holly's friendly voice is

forever etched into my memory.

Diana Pryor - September 04, 2019 at 06:17 PM



“ I enjoyed the time that I worked with Holly. She was so kind and encouraging to me as a new principal. I would start many days with a voicemail from her and it was just a good way to begin the day.

Jason Caudill - September 04, 2019 at 03:16 PM



“ I have fond memories of Holly. She was the most conscientious person to work with at Bexley. She took the greatest care when scheduling substitute teachers for my special education students. I always trusted her to go the extra mile. I am so sorry for your loss.

With sympathy,

Lisa Gatterdam

Lisa Gatterdam - September 03, 2019 at 11:32 AM



“ My condolences to Kathy, Becky and their families. It is so hard to lose a sibling, especially one so dearly loved. The Reed family was very dear to their neighbors the Wendt family. I recall many great memories of Holly and your mother when my mother-in-law Wilma lived across the street. Please accept my condolences. Susan J. Wendt

Susan J Wendt - September 02, 2019 at 11:13 AM



“ Oh my gosh. As a "substitute teacher" in the Columbus & Pickerington Schools, I've often shared with the kids the legendary Holly Reed. When kids had excuses as to why they couldn't do something...it led me to talk about Holly. My Mom always reminded us that Holly's amazing accomplishments were acquired in part by her Mother! Mrs. Reed was truly the "Annie Sullivan" of our generation. Isn't it true that Holly could walk herself to Berwick School by herself, simply by counting the steps it took to get there? Isn't it also true that Holly would give the new Freshman class at Eastmoor, a "tour" of the school when they arrived? When we were little...she could listen to our voices...touch our faces...and always knew who we were. I was the 10th of 13 Children...and Holly always knew who was who. Holly Reed...you were an inspiration to so many...for so many years. Now...with you looking down on all of us, I'm sure you'll agree...I was the best looking Messmer in the bunch...wasn't I? God

bless your beautiful sisters Kathy and Becky and their families. Our prayers are with you in this time of loss...but Heaven's gain.

Respectfully,
Peter Messmer

Peter Messmer - September 01, 2019 at 10:09 AM



“ I remember Holly at our camp fire girl meetings. She was truly amazing! I also remember her fight with buckeye. She was a strong independent woman and I know she will be truly missed. I was blessed to have known her for such a short time.

Marla Keith Baer Wegrzyn

marla keith baer wegrzyn - September 01, 2019 at 07:41 AM



“ Oh Holly. You were my friend starting in fifth grade. We reconnected as adults for a while. You were always an inspiration to me, long before I was old enough to know. Condolences to your wonder family, especially your sisters. You brought so much to this world. Rest In Peace my childhood friend.

Cheryl George

Cherri George - August 31, 2019 at 10:00 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Holly Elizabeth Reed.



August 31, 2019 at 06:43 PM