

Laurie Jean Gustaf
1956-2024



Laurie Jean Gustaf, 67, died Monday, January 1, 2024, after a courageous battle with cancer. She died at home surrounded by loved ones who will continue to honor her by living their lives to the fullest.

Laurie Jean Twedt, daughter of Wilbur and Shirley Twedt, was born October 31st, 1956 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. As fate would have it, the same doctor delivered both Laurie and Steve into this world. She spent her childhood being raised on a

farm near Montrose, South Dakota. She attended school in Montrose, South Dakota and graduated from Montrose High School in 1975. After graduation she worked for Kluth and Lane Insurance Company as a Records Clerk. She was later united in marriage to the love of her life and best friend, Steve Gustaf, on August 14, 1976 in St. John's Lutheran Church, Montrose. Her husband was in the Air Force and together they lived in Germany, Guam, California, and also enjoyed traveling all over the world.

Laurie worked as a Military Clothing Store Manager for the Army Air Force Exchange Service while living in Germany, California, and Guam. She also worked as an Office Manager for the South Dakota National Guard and the South Dakota Highway Patrol for nearly 20 years before retiring in 2009. She was a very compassionate and kind person who cared deeply for the welfare of others in her community. To support her community, she worked for two years as an Advocate for Working Against Violence Inc. whose mission is to assist women in crisis and provide them and their children a safe place to stay. She also was a volunteer for eight years at Monument Health Regional Hospital and accumulated over two thousand volunteer service hours. While there, she served as a Volunteer Services Board Member for two years, tasked with managing the entire hospital volunteer services program. She was an active member of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Rapid City and the church's ladies aid. Laurie loved to hike in the Black Hills and was especially proud of finishing the Michelson Trail Half Marathon twice. Laurie loved animals and forever missed her Golden Retriever, Abby, and her little white Maltese, Shilo.

Some people only walk this earth for a short time. Their departure reminds us that angels are watching over us. Laurie rejoined her heavenly family and gained her wings. Laurie was a beautiful person inside and out. Her smile was so stunning it would light up the whole room. She cared so deeply for the people around her. She was so kind and passionate. She made an impact on many lives. She will be forever missed. Until we meet again.

Grateful for have shared her life are her husband of 47 years and best friend, Steve; her two children, Christi (Doug) Livingstone, Chicago, Illinois, Daniel (Jaki) Gustaf, Upton, six grandchildren (Ryan, Emma, Brendan, Addison, Alli, and Kate), a sister Carolyn (Darrell) Spielmann, a brother Ron (Renie) Twedt, a brother Michael (Julie) Twedt, and a host of other relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Wilbur and Shirley Twedt, and a brother Roger (Linda) Twedt.

A Visitation and Catholic Vigil was held at Kirk Funeral Home on Thursday, January 4, 2024 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. A Funeral Mass was held at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church on Friday, January 5, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. with a luncheon following the service. Interment was held at Black Hills National Cemetery following the luncheon at 1:30 p.m.