



Kathryn S. Fischbach

August 29, 1965 - October 14, 2018

Kathryn (Katy) Fischbach, beloved daughter, sister, wife, mother and friend, died Sunday, October 14, at Arbor Hospice in Saline, Mich., surrounded by her loving family. She was 53. Katy was the daughter of Neil and Jean Savage of Ypsilanti, Mich. (formerly of Saline) and was a 1983 graduate of Saline High School, where she was class salutatorian. Katy participated in the marching band and the National Honor Society throughout her years at SHS. A gifted student, she was already attending mathematics classes at the University of Michigan while still in high school, and she went on to graduate from the University of Michigan's School of Nursing in 1987. In that same year, she married Dirk F. Fischbach of Saline. The couple have two children, Evan M. (Rachael) Fischbach of Tipton, Mich., and Colwyn T. Fischbach of Saline. Katy spent her entire career at the University of Michigan Health Centers. A talented and compassionate nurse, she worked in neurology and neurosurgery for the first part of her career, before moving to the Medical Procedures Unit where she became nursing supervisor. She was known as a tireless patient advocate who was loved both by the people in her care and her colleagues. Always determined to stay on the leading edge of advances in care, she attended nursing conferences and continuing education opportunities throughout the country during her 31 years of professional nursing.

Katy was an avid reader, and enjoyed historical fiction and classic literature. She delighted in using her love of books to inspire her sons to read when they

were young, and together they read all the Harry Potter books and the Lord of the Rings Trilogy. She had an incredibly quick mind and enjoyed playing trivia and challenging herself against the competitors on Jeopardy.

Family history was important to Katy, and along with her mother and a group of special friends she created photographic scrapbooks to commemorate her family's milestones. Especially enjoyed were trips the group would make for weekend scrapbooking marathons in Archbold, Ohio.

Katy also loved the outdoors and from her earliest days spent as much time as possible at the family's cottage on Drummond Island. There, she would hike, kayak, canoe and fish with her family and friends. She made a very meaningful trip to the Island this past August to attend a memorial service for her cousin.

She also was fond of the American West and traveled with her husband and sons to Montana, sightseeing in Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas along the way.

She enjoyed being near rivers, and would often accompany her husband and sons when they would fly fish on vacations.

She is survived by her parents, husband and sons, as well as her brother Patrick (April) Savage of Saline, and their children Jack and Scarlett.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, Nov. 1, at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Faith Church, 6299 Saline-Ann Arbor Road, in Saline with Pastor Andrea Martin officiating.

A memorial scholarship has been established in Katy's name at Saline High School, and in lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to: Saline Area Schools, Finance Department, 7265 N. Ann Arbor Street, Saline, Michigan, 48176, with "Kathryn S. Fischbach Memorial" in the memo. To leave a memory you have of Katy, to sign her guestbook, or for directions please visit www.rbfhsaline.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Kathryn S. Fischbach*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *Katy and I were born five days apart in 1965 and we were fortunate to celebrate our birthdays amongst our families on beautiful Drummond Island. It was a time of freedom and just plain enjoyment of living including picnic lunches in the woods, swimming nearly every day, badminton, board games on raining days, hike to crab point, picking on Patrick and Niki and, of course, birthday scavenger hunts. There are, of course, many, many more. I will always remember the happy feeling we all had together on those perfect summer days. I think back and remember most Katy's smile, laugh and wit. We ran into each on occasion at the University of Michigan and throughout adulthood as we each followed our paths through life. At each meeting, we both had irrepressible smiles because we were both thinking of the close friendship and fun we share together as kids. She is a friend to me forever.*

Dave Jones

Dave Jones - November 01, 2018 at 07:44 AM



That's so nice, Dave. Patrick's eulogy touched on many of those same Drummond Island experiences. Cherished memories for all of us.

Jean Savage - November 04, 2018 at 09:07 PM

TH

“ I first knew Katy as a business partner, then on a more personal level. I will miss her intelligence, caring, and that great smile. She was a beautiful person.

Tom Hirzel

My condolences go out to Katy's Family & Friends

tom hirzel - October 30, 2018 at 11:39 AM

PA

“ To the Fischbachs and the Savages,
What a courageous selfless person Katy was. Not only was she a sweet neighbor, the main memories are from when her children were little. My daughter babysat for two very well behaved boys and I loved to see them when they went trick or treating. It is a very sad day and wish the family many healing prayers.

Penney Acosta and family

Penney Acosta - October 30, 2018 at 08:57 AM

WD

“ My deepest sympathies to Katy's family. I worked with her several years ago at UM, where she generously impacted my working life as an approachable, patient, and kind nurse educator. My heart aches for all who knew and loved her.

Wendy Diehl - October 29, 2018 at 04:42 PM

AS

“ Dear Fischbach family,
I am honored and blessed to have known Katy for 13 years. I am deeply saddened by your loss. Katy was a joy to work with. She always had an upbeat and optimistic personality. I will miss her laugh and smile!! My thoughts and prayers are with your family.
Angie Shamou



Angie Shamou - October 29, 2018 at 12:16 PM

LL

“ Dirk, Evan and Colwyn, I am thinking of you and praying for each of you and your extended family during this difficult time. Katy was such a kindhearted person with a smile for everyone. I always enjoyed our chats as she came by on her walks. May you each find peace and strength in all the wonderful memories you made together.
Lori LaBoe

Lori LaBoe - October 26, 2018 at 06:31 AM

MA

“ I’m so sorry for the loss of such an amazing human being - Katy was one of the kindest, sweetest, most generous souls I have had the pleasure to cross life paths with and she will be greatly missed. I met Katy about 20 years ago at a scrapbooking class where she was so passionate about sharing the mission of helping all her family and friends preserve their family memories and history. Over the years to follow I grew to know her kind, sweet, generous nature more deeply. I also worked at the University of Michigan where I saw her in action helping to improve every life she came in contact with every single day. I truly believe Katy’s soul lives on continuing to touch all of our lives. Until we all meet again, we love and miss you! 💕💕

Mary Kay Anderson - October 25, 2018 at 08:22 PM

JS

Mary Kay, those are such kind words about our dear daughter. Thank you for sharing them.

Jean Savage - November 04, 2018 at 10:13 PM

MS

“ On behalf of the everyone at AFS we send our condolences to the Fischbach and Savage families. Stay strong during this difficult time.

With Love,
Mike, Devin, Jared, Kemper and the entire AFS Family!

Michael Stack - October 25, 2018 at 04:30 PM



“ Katy was a wonderful Education supervisor and coworker at MPU. I have so many memories of her while working my 8 years there. My sincere condolences to her husband, boys and family 🙏🙏🥹

Mary Perfetto - October 24, 2018 at 12:50 PM

BL

“ *Condolences and prayers of comfort.*

Barbara Schmid Losee - October 23, 2018 at 09:28 AM

LN

Aw, so very very sorry, Dirk and family. May your beautiful memories and God's love bring you peace and comfort today and always. Hugs.

Laurie Naebeck - October 24, 2018 at 09:07 AM

FF

“ *Katy was a beloved wife, mother, daughter, nurse, and friend to many. Our families shared many memorable Thanksgivings together where she always brought a smile that lit up every gathering. Our deepest condolences to her husband and sons during this difficult time.*

Fred Foster - October 22, 2018 at 04:16 AM

JS

Those are fond memories, Fred. Thank you.

Jean Savage - October 23, 2018 at 10:19 AM

KC

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Kristen Collins - October 17, 2018 at 08:28 AM

RC

“Dirk, Jean and families, I am so sad to be sending this note to you. Bill and I are heartbroken for you. I have many great memories of scrapbook weekends and Friday nights at the UAW hall with Katy. I can't imagine what you are all going through. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Renee Collins

Renee Collins - October 16, 2018 at 01:47 PM

PD

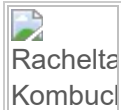
We are so sad to hear about Katy's passing. Sending prayers and love to all of you. Glenn and Paula Davis.

Paula Davis - October 18, 2018 at 07:34 AM

SS

So sorry to hear about the passing of Katy. Our prayers are with all the family
Tom and Suzie Stalker

Suzie Stalker - October 19, 2018 at 10:32 AM



Shocked and saddened prayers and blessings to you and your family

Racheltarek Kombucha - October 20, 2018 at 07:28 PM

DT

So very sad to hear about Katy. I first met her in middle school, when she was one of the first people to befriend a new student. She was kind, smart, and just a joy to be around. My condolences to her family.

Diane Telgen - October 23, 2018 at 02:31 PM

SS

We're so sorry to hear of Katy's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of her family and loved ones. Bill and Shelly Sherman

Shelly Sherman - October 23, 2018 at 06:45 PM

JS

So appreciate this love and caring from all of you. A part of us is still in disbelief, this precious life taken from us.

Jean Savage - October 23, 2018 at 07:46 PM

DW

Dirk, Neil, Jean and families, Our hearts are saddened by this loss. I met Katy at Holy Faith many years ago and she was a nursing student of mine in Community Health Nursing years later. Such a smart and caring person/nurse. Prayers for all. Peace, Delores (and Walter) Wurst

Delores Wurst - October 24, 2018 at 09:22 AM

MY

Katy I will forever keep you in my heart we was best childhood friends many sleep overs, slumber parties, making rock candy salt water taffy, So many memories. Love you

Michelle snook young - October 24, 2018 at 04:34 PM

LH

We are so very sorry for your loss, with our deepest sympathy. The Henes family, Wilbur, Lisa and Jake

Lisa Henes - October 25, 2018 at 02:26 PM

SJ

We are so saddened to hear of this news. We were fortunate to get to know her, Dirk and the boys through the local Cub and Boy Scouts with lots of great memories. We extend our deepest condolences to the entire family at this very difficult time. The Jasmans - Chuck, Sandy, Alex, Nick & Mike

Sandy Jasman - October 25, 2018 at 04:26 PM