



Katherine Frances Kerze Arrigo

January 13, 1956 - December 23, 2018

Katherine Arrigo, 62 of Molalla, passed away peacefully with her husband and children at her side. She went to Heaven on December 23, 2018.

Kathy was born January 13, 1956, to Frank Kerze and Eleanore Leszcynski Kerze in Northridge, California. As one of nine children in a very loving family, she grew up in Van Nuys, California. She attended St. Brigid of Sweden Catholic Elementary School and Birmingham High School in Van Nuys, Cali and graduated from high school in June of 1974. After high school, Kathy attended North Hollywood Community College and studied Early Childhood Development. From 1975 to 1981 Kathy worked as a Teachers Assistant at the John Thomas Dye School in Los Angeles.

As a young adult, Kathy wanted a change and moved to Libby, Montana to join her partner in crime, sister Emma. Moo fell in love with the outdoors and always treasured her time spent in Montana.

While on vacation to Maui with her friend Glennis, she met Rod, the man she would marry a year and a half later. They were blessed with their first child Michael Frank Arrigo. The young family moved to the mountains in California and a couple of years later were blessed with their second child Patricia Lenore Arrigo. In 1993 the family moved to Oregon; Moo went to work at the middle school in Molalla as a food service worker. Where she met many of the children who now as grown-adults knew her as a friend.

Moving to Oregon gave us the opportunity to visit with Moo's sister Jeanie and her family in Yamhill at their place on the river. Unfortunately, Jeanie passed

away with complications of Multiple Sclerosis in 1998.

River rafting, camping, and fishing were some of our favorites as well as supporting our kids in sports. Ironically Moo was diagnosed with MS the same year her sister passed away. Moo was fiercely independent and a strong fighter. With a positive attitude and a smile on her face, she did everything she could to slow the progression of the disease.

In 2006 Moo inspired a project that would provide fishing opportunities for others with disabilities, and in 2007 a fishing platform and boat ramp were constructed on Estacada Lake.

Kathy was a devoted, loving wife and mother who cherished her time spent with family and friends. She was especially proud of her two grandsons Rylan and Talyn.

Moo was a beautiful person inside and out.

She will be remembered for her great sense of humor, her strength and determination and her love of life.

Kathy was preceded in death by parents Frank and Lenore Kerze and sister Jeanie Molinelli.

She is survived by her husband of 34 years Rod, son Michael Arrigo, daughter-in-law Cheri Arrigo, daughter Patty Stewart, son-in-law Cody Stewart, grandsons Rylan Stewart and Talyn Stewart. Her Heart Daughter Carla Dupin De Saint Cyr and grand dogs Kora Sue, Bailey and Brody. Her brothers Bill Kerze, Michael Kerze, Joe Kerze, Pat Kerze, Frank Kerze, sisters Tina Aghily, Mary Williams, many nieces, and nephews.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 17. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Marys by the Sea

275 S. Pacific Street

Rockaway Beach, OR 97136

stmarys1927@gmail.com

<https://www.stmarybythesea.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Katherine Frances Kerze Arrigo*

January 28, 2023 at 02:51 PM

“ Last week at work, someone mentioned the two letters MS, and I remembered that I hadn’t checked on Kathy Kerze in some time. Google Search = Blam, obituary, ahh ahh. She died on December 23 of last year, aged 62. I haven’t seen or spoken to her in 42 years, but the old law compels me to deliver sweets to the sweet. I guess in every elementary or high school, there’s a golden girl, someone who always seems to bring the beach and the sun into the darkest room, who always carries with her the whiff of Coppertone. I attended St. Bridget Of Sweden Grade School with Kathy for eight years, and my strongest memory is of her in seventh or eighth grade, picking out “Both Sides Now” on a guitar and singing along. It would be trite for me to claim that song as her anthem, because she appears to have seen eight or nine sides of life; she was California Girl, Wife, Oregon Woman, Mom, Fisherwoman, Grandmother, and finally Wheelchair Moo (her nickname from elementary school on, because she loved to wear muu-muus). In Molalla, Oregon, they built a wheelchair-accessible dock, so that she could fish from her wheelchair, and named it Moo’s Dock. In the end the disease that killed her sister Jeanie took Kathy’s life as well. But this is not a sad story; I’m not trying to squeeze out your tears for Kathy. Because I’ve looked through the 152 photos her family posted after her passage, and there isn’t a speck of sadness in her face; the great constant in all these pictures is the joy in her smile. Life was a transcendent, happy thing for Katherine Frances Kerze Arrigo, if these photos are true evidence of the life she lived. I know no finer gift than the gift of joy, and she possessed it. Then and now, I live about a half mile from St. Bridget’s; she lived about 7 houses south from the school. Some nights, I walk over to my grade school and I let old memories wash over me. I call them “Proustian Constitutionals.” The next time I walk down Whitaker Avenue, will I see the ghost of a smiling blonde girl, happily late for class, running past me? And will I catch the scent of Coppertone on the night breeze?

Reposted from Facebook,

Richard Heft

Richard Heft - October 29, 2019 at 04:42 PM

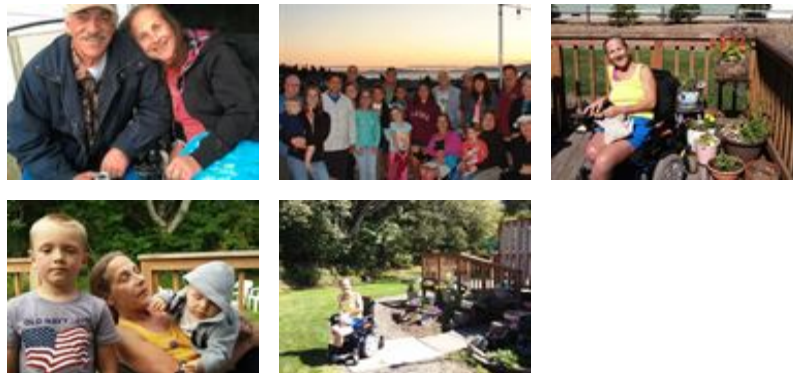
KW

“ *So many beautiful photos. They tell the story of a life filled with adventure, strength and so much love of family. I'm happy we re-connected, Moo. Rest peacefully, my friend.*

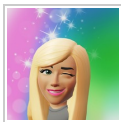
Kris Watson - August 09, 2019 at 11:55 PM



“ *152 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Hillside Chapel - August 01, 2019 at 05:13 PM



I only just now found out that Kathy passed last year. Losing anyone is so painful, but so young & vibrant Kathy was. I attended 8 yrs of elementary school with Kathy & thanks to Richard Heft who just now informed me of her passing. I have such fond memories of her that have never faded and my heart goes out to her entire family. How blessed we all were to know such a darling, sweet, precious girl. Always loved & admired her, even though she was a cheerleader, but I wanted to be too! I have to say Kathy Kerze & Kathy Kurowski were the most popular girls in our class. She will be so missed!

Lynn LePre - October 25, 2019 at 02:30 PM