



Kathleen "Kay" Eves

September 26, 1952 - March 22, 2023

Kathleen (Kay) Eves

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Kay Eves was a warrior. She fought and fought, but ultimately passed away at the age of 70 after a long and courageous battle with cholangiocarcinoma. Her life was a testament to the beauty of love, kindness and generosity, and we are all better for having had her in our life. Her niece Flora Bowley, summed it up perfectly when she said “when I think of memories with Aunt Kay, I think of her big smile, sparkling eyes, genuine warmth, and how she always made me feel loved and embraced.” Kay’s love will remain forever in our hearts.

She is greatly missed by her family: her husband of forty years, Don Eves; her daughter, Kristi Knopinski (Jason), stepsons Jon (Cindy) and Patrick Eves; her mother Lloyd Clark; and sisters: Chris Colley (Larry); and Debbie Tamburri (Bob). She was preceded in death by her father Jerry Clark and sister Diana Clark (Beto Rojas). Other survivors include her grandchildren Simon and Anslei Knopinski and Sarah Eves. Nieces, nephews, special friends (aka the beloved Card Sharks) and all who knew her are deeply saddened by her loss.

In a double wedding ceremony in 1971, Kay married Doug Lyman and her

twin sister married Larry Colley. Although Kay and Doug's marriage didn't last forever, they had a beautiful daughter, Kristi, who they, along with Don, raised as a team.

She met Don Eves while working at a travel agency. They, together with Tom Bartlett, started Consulting Travel, serving the Springfield, Missouri area. Kay served as President of the company, and it thrived under her leadership. Needless to say, she was well traveled.

Don and Kay married in 1982 and, with Kristi, relocated to Tampa, Florida. Kay was very active in Kristi's gymnastics through the YMCA and LaFleur's Gymnastics Club. Kay spent many years as Don's back up to his successful insurance practice. Most importantly, she served as his caregiver, transporter and medical proxy through 20 years of his cancer treatment.

The beach was her happy place! Even when she was sick, having her toes in the sand and watching a beautiful sunset brought her peace. She also enjoyed spending time and winning money at the casino. She had a magic touch with slot machines and was usually able to cover Don's losses.

A celebration of Kay's life will be held at Gentry-Morrison Funeral Home at Serenity Gardens at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 28. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Kay's memory to the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation, <https://cholangiocarcinoma.org/donate>.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR **28**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - Serenity Gardens Chapel

3350 Mall Hill Drive

Lakeland, FL 33810

(863) 858-4474

t.hall@gentry-morrison.com

<https://www.gentry-morrison.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Kathleen "Kay" Eves



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - March 27, 2023 at 12:29 PM



“ Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Kathleen "Kay" Eves



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - March 26, 2023 at 11:29 AM

“ In loving memory of our dear friend Kay Eves:

It's hard to find the words to adequately express how sorry we are that your beautiful family and your many friends must now say good-bye.

Kay, your strength and courage inspire us to fight like you did, if we are faced with adversity. Your resilience reminds us to bounce back and start anew, like you did. Your hope and your never-ending positivity embody the idea of focusing on what you have that day, but not what you have lost. Those qualities allowed you to fight so hard, for so long. Thank you, Kay, for allowing us to be at least a small part of your support system, as you've dealt with all of the ups and downs of the last seven and a half years.

We will always cherish the great memories we have of Kay and how she impacted our lives. In the early days (late 1980's) we all lived in the Dana Shores neighborhood of Tampa. We took the Dana Shores Women's Club by storm when we instigated Happy Hour parties, kid's events and a whole lot more. After Tampa, we didn't live near you for several decades, but Kay (and Don) were the friends you could call...and pick up the conversation where you left off, whenever you last talked. In recent years, now that we are not that far away, there were wonderful dinners together, more phone calls and many texts.

We will always smile when reminiscing about our trip to New York City sometime in the early 1990's? We saw Phantom of the Opera on Broadway and then it rained like crazy! The saga of the cheap and gaudy "travelling umbrellas" bought from a street vendor, came out of that adventure. Back and forth, those 2 ugly umbrellas went between us. Disguised as elaborate gifts in person, randomly sent in the mail...even delivered with a floral arrangement one time. Funny, priceless memories.

But most importantly, we remember the easy conversations...and of course, the tough ones. They were an important part of the love and

support that has been the foundation of our long friendship with both Kay and Don.

We are sending our love to you Don, and to all of the family, as you navigate the new path you will take. We will continue to hold Kay in our hearts and minds. She has made an incredible difference in the lives of so many people, including ours.

Faith, Family and Friends: Kay always acknowledged the importance of those 3 necessities in her life. She had faith and a loving family. We are thankful and honored to have been her friends.

*Sending our love and sympathy-
Shawn and Matt Mills
Clearwater Beach, FL*

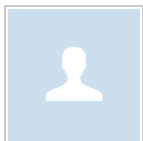
Shawn Mills - March 27, 2023 at 10:29 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Kathleen "Kay" Eves.*



March 27, 2023 at 07:43 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kathleen "Kay" Eves.*



March 27, 2023 at 04:52 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kathleen "Kay" Eves.*



March 27, 2023 at 03:09 PM



“ *JAN & ALLAN NYE purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Kathleen "Kay" Eves.*



JAN & ALLAN NYE - March 27, 2023 at 11:01 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Kathleen "Kay" Eves.*



March 26, 2023 at 10:39 PM



“ *Many fond memories of Kay, during our high school years. Her beautiful smile and that twinkle in her eyes is the way I'll always remember her. Peace to her family.*

B Davis - March 26, 2023 at 05:28 PM

AE

“ I have a lot of fond memories of Kay. When she moved into the neighborhood she was like an ambassador. She was the new neighbor but brought the neighbors together with a toy party at Christmas and putting huge birthday cake balloons in our yards before we woke up on our birthdays. She will be missed but not forgotten.

Ann Edwards - March 26, 2023 at 09:39 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kathleen "Kay" Eves.



March 25, 2023 at 09:58 PM



“ [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Kathleen "Kay" Eves.

March 25, 2023 at 02:27 PM

KR

“ Dear Don,
I remember so well the night I met you both. It was at your high school reunion. Neither Kay nor I knew really anybody and we bonded that night! Our visit to see you both was wonderful, fun and filled with laughs! I had NEVER seen so many fields filled with strawberries! The beautiful dinner downtown. Kay was a warrior with a heart of love and strength. Our friendship was a blessing and an honor. Thank you, Kay. We are here for you Don, anytime...anywhere.
Katy and Gene R.

Katy and Gene Rudloff - March 25, 2023 at 12:54 PM



“ Kay...we are so unbelievably proud to have had you as our friend. Proud and amazed by everything that you did with your life. Your smile was absolutely beautiful, your laughter was unbelievably contagious, your heart was bigger than any of us could have ever understood. With everything that you have been through, every morning when you woke up and looked in that mirror, I hope you saw what we all saw.. an eloquent, compassionate, courageous beautiful soul! You played an essential role in many people's lives and you were often under stress, but you smiled even when you were exhausted. We have so many great memories together and we enjoyed every moment. it was an honor being your friend. We miss you so much already!

Penny Ivy - March 25, 2023 at 08:33 AM



“ *Mouthwatering Meat and Cheese Gift Tower was purchased for the family of Kathleen "Kay" Eves.*



March 24, 2023 at 01:43 PM



“ *Kay was an inspiration to all of us. She had an inner strength that few of us will ever find. It always amazed me that she would travel to Mayo for long medical appointments, procedures, whatever go back to their hotel, take a quick nap and be ready to go out for dinner and drinks. She was amazing. She also had a smile on her face a twinkle in her eyes and she was genuinely interested in hearing about your life. We feel very blessed to have met Kay on a wonderful Alaskan trip that she planned for us all. I will miss you Kay! Our love, hugs, thoughts and prayers are with Don and the family. Ed and Pam Hesterlee*

Ed and Pam Hesterlee - March 24, 2023 at 01:31 PM