



## Kelly R. Bukaty

December 13, 1967 - January 11, 2024

Kelly Ragan Bukaty, age 56, of Lake Forest, Illinois was surrounded by her loving family when she passed January 11, 2024 after a courageous battle with cancer. Kelly was born in Walla Walla, WA on December 13, 1967 and raised in Lake Forest, IL. She graduated from Lake Forest High School where she was on the badminton and swim teams.

She received her Bachelors degree from the University of Kansas where she was a member of the Kappa Delta Sorority and the KU Crew team, before going on to a successful career working at Abbott Laboratories and Hospira. Kelly won the Abbott All-Star Sales Award four times, and she was the national sales trainer for Hospira before going on to her favorite career, being a mother to Ragan and Quinn.

Kelly loved the outdoors and traveling, her 2 favorite places being Cannon Beach Oregon and Squirrel Island Maine. She also had a love for creating beauty in the home and the garden. This past summer Kelly was able to take a family trip to Paris, Lake Como Italy, Paros and Santorini Greece.

Kelly is survived by her husband of 28 years, Douglas Chatham Bukaty; her daughters, Ragan and Quinn Bukaty; her parents, Mary Dale Houston and Dale Houston (Aline) ; her siblings, Sean (Eileen) Houston, Ashley Houston (Tyler Parsons); Her step brothers Doug (Jessica) and Darrell (Martha)

Houston her nieces and nephews, Jake, Cole and Jacey Heffernan and Anna Houston; her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Buck and Joyce Bukaty; her sister-in-law, Diana (John) Heffernan; and many extended family members and friends.

Kelly was preceded in death by her infant daughter, Mary Joyce Bukaty in 2006; Grandfather-in-Law, Thomas Bukaty; and Grandparents James Thomas Fitzgerald and Jackie Fitzgerald.

There will be a visitation at the Church of St. Mary, 175 E. Illinois Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045 from 10:30 AM until the time of the Funeral Mass at 11:30 AM, on Monday, January 22, 2024. A private family interment will be held at St. Mary Cemetery in Lake Forest where Kelly will be laid to rest with her daughter, Mary Joyce.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Kelly's name may be made to the Squirrel Island Library and mailed to Treasure Phoebe Quattrucci P.O. Box 175, So. Freeport, ME 04078, or American Cancer Society, <https://donate.cancer.org/> or 800-227-2345.

For information – Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest, 847-234-9649 or [www.RTfunerals.com](http://www.RTfunerals.com).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Mary Cemetery

Spruce Road & Sheridan Road  
Lake Forest, IL 60045

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 22. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Church of St. Mary  
175 E. Illinois Road  
Lake Forest, IL 60045

## Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 22. 11:30 AM (CT)

Church of St. Mary  
175 E. Illinois Road  
Lake Forest, IL 60045

# Tribute Wall



“ *Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Kelly R. Bukaty*



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**Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest** - January 19, 2024 at 06:53 PM

NW

*Aww I am saddened to hear of this news. My thoughts and prayers go out to Doug and his family for their loss.*

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**Neil Warshawsky** - January 22, 2024 at 01:59 PM

TM

“ *Kelly moved in around second grade two doors down from me. From that day on we were always together. Chasing their family dog Sasha all over Winwood, playing Barbie's, sleepovers, trips, college roommates....I cannot remember a time before I was 27 without her. Kelly was maid of honor in my wedding and me in hers. I feel so blessed to have the memories and love from Kelly. I am so sad she is gone too soon from her wonderful family. Her smile lit of any room and we laughed so much our bellies would ache. Rest in peace sweet Kelly. I know I will see you again someday. I love you!*  
*Teya McDermand*

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**Teya McDermand** - February 11, 2024 at 05:28 PM

JZ

“ I am so shocked and saddened to hear of Kelly’s passing. I met Kelly when I worked worked at Abbott. She was a sales rep and I was a nurse on her team. She took me under her wing and welcomed me. We worked hard but also had great fun. I was honored to be included in her beautiful Christmas parties. She was just a lovely human being. We had lost touch after I moved away from Chicago. Then a couple of years ago I started thinking about her and finally tracked her down. She had just been diagnosed. I’m so grateful I had a few conversations over the past few years. I wish Doug, Reagan, Quinn, and all of her family my deepest condolences. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Jeanne Zabout** - February 06, 2024 at 07:39 PM

LC

“ The news of Kelly’s passing is shocking and profoundly sad. She was always the perfect vision of grace, decorum, and kindness and was as beautiful on the inside as she was on the outside. Kelly was also a strong, indomitable force of determination. She moved heaven and earth to bring Ragan and Quinn into the world and those precious girls were her greatest joy. I’ll always remember Kelly’s dancing brown eyes and big merry laugh that sometimes ended with a little snort. Heartfelt condolences to Doug, Ragan, Quinn, Mary Dale, Sean and the rest of Kelly’s family including the Mocognis who undoubtedly supported Kelly and her family through every moment. Rest in peace, Kelly and praying that heaven brings the eternal bliss that you so richly deserve. Leslie Chumbley

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**Leslie Chumbley** - January 26, 2024 at 02:56 AM

EH

“ Kelly

*I met Kelly when our oldest were two  
I'd just moved to town, and I hadn't a clue  
What I'd do with myself in this cute little town  
Until my future best friend came poking around*

*It could have been my big dog, but I think it was Abby that drew her  
Everyone knows she loved kids, at least those who knew her  
She strolled up my driveway that bright sunny day  
And she lit up my afternoon as our kids started to play*

*And from that day on we were always together  
Our kids got along like three birds of a feather  
We had play dates, and girls nights and trips to the store  
We had coffee in jammies with toys on the floor*

*I told her all of my worries and she told me her own  
If we couldn't be together, well... there was always the phone  
Our girls were best friends, a tight little core  
They were three peas in a pod, and then.. there were 4*

*Kelly welcomed my baby, loved my girls just like me  
She hugged them and fed them and patched their skinned knees  
And I loved her girls like they were my own  
We cut a hole in our fence so they could dash into our homes*

*Kelly knew everything. At least it seems so to me  
From flowers and baking to where I should plant my new tree  
I relied on her for everything, from where I should go for my hair  
To who has the best groceries (Sunset) to the best medical care*

*We had so many adventures in so many places  
From pumpkin farms to apple picking, we stood in line to paint faces  
We had tea with the Clauses and went to see Christmas lights  
We dyed easter eggs, went to the July 4th parade and the fireworks*

*at night*

*And she trusted me too if she had any fears  
And she got in some jams as well over the years  
I remember the time she turned on the hose  
Went inside and forgot, started painting her toes*

*Doug was taking a nap, and an hour passed by  
When Kelly heard an ominous dripping and remembered why  
She crashed through my door slamming it hard  
“Em, I need your shop vac!” She’d flooded her yard*

*And also her basement, while her husband peacefully snored  
So we sprung into action, and snuck the shop vac in the door  
And we were sneaking downstairs when we heard the stair creaking  
And Oops. There was Doug, mouth agape, not speaking*

*So I sidled away and crept out the back  
I left her alone with Doug and the Shop Vac  
I thought about staying, I mean if looks could kill  
But knowing when to sneak out is another friend skill*

*We always knew we could lean on each other  
If one of us couldn’t be there, the other would cover  
Our girls always knew one of us would be there  
Which one? I think my girls didn’t care*

*When Kelly got sick, I was her first call  
And I made a promise to help her through it all  
And I know that she felt my love through her fear  
I told her no matter what I would always be here*

*Because there was nothing at all in this entire big world  
That she loved so immensely as her two beautiful girls  
And she would endure anything to be able to stay  
And hang out with her girls for just one more day*

*But we can't control fate or what God decides  
If we could Doug would do it! Lord knows that he tried  
He would have done anything for his beautiful wife  
And she trusted him and loved him to the end of her life*

*And I know when I read this my vision will blur  
Because what she meant to me was too big for words  
I knew this was coming, but my brain wanted to fight it  
She loved my poems, but I just hated to write it*

*But I know from this moment on I will feel her with me  
When I make caramel apples or plant flowers or trees  
I will feel her at Christmas and in the fall air  
I will go forth and know she will always be there*

*I will keep her memory alive until my own life should end  
Farewell my dear Kelly. My very best friend.*

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**Emily Houlihan** - January 22, 2024 at 05:52 PM

**JB**

*So beautiful!!!*

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**Joyce Bukaty** - February 06, 2024 at 02:42 PM

**SN**

*“ I've known Kelly since Mary Dale told me she was pregnant! I love this family so so much. Mary Dale is my closest friend. . So tough to lose a child. Not the way it's supposed to be.*

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**Shirley Nelsen** - January 16, 2024 at 10:50 PM

BB

“ I know that much of Kelly’s spirit was in Maine and especially on Squirrel Island and on the waters surrounding Boothbay Harbor. She will be always be remembered for her great smile and dedication to her girls and Doug God Bless. Bruce Burnham

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**Bruce Burnham** - January 16, 2024 at 08:35 PM