



Shelley Taylor-Donahue

February 5, 1966 - January 29, 2019

Shelley Lynn Taylor-Donahue, 52, passed from this life on Tuesday, January 29 after a battle with Cancer. She passed peacefully in her sleep at her home in Tallahassee, surrounded by her human and “furry” family. Shelley faced the past two and a half years with amazing strength and selflessness, concerning herself more with the well-being of family, friends and colleagues who would survive her.

For 34 years Shelley was an advocate for anyone touched directly or indirectly by HIV. Throughout this period of radical change in understanding, knowledge and policy surrounding HIV, Shelley was a fierce and constant ambassador, offering compassion and demanding change in public attitude. Beginning with volunteer work in high school, Shelley continued to pursue this mission at EVMS, EVAN (TACT), and the state Public Health Departments in Virginia and Florida. Shelley’s passion lead her to a Masters in Public Health specializing in Epidemiology. Her most recent work was as an administrator of the Ryan White Foundation, the largest provider of services for people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States. Affectionately referred to as “Boss Lady” by colleagues throughout her career, she mentored and inspired a new generation of HIV advocates. In her personal life, Shelley and her husband Chris spent 22 years navigating life together. They built a home for daughter Sage and many “furry” children including Lily and Spook. They shared an affinity for Caribbean cruises, NCIS, Metallica and a love of cats. Shelley was born to and preceded in death by Kenneth C Taylor (1937-2017) of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, and Linda R Williams (1942-2018) of Jacksonville, Florida. Shelley is survived by her husband, Christopher Donahue, of Tallahassee, Florida; her younger brother, Neal Taylor, of Albany, New York; her step-daughter, Sage Warner McCoy, of Norfolk, Virginia; her step-mother, Cheryl Taylor, of Florida; her step-father, Rodney Williams, of California, and her aunts, Sylvia Prevatt, Lisa Thomas, Peggy Roche and Tanya Brannan.

Rather than a formal funeral service, Shelley wished for an informal gathering of family, friends and colleagues to celebrate and reminisce. Several locations are being considered, including Norfolk, Virginia and St. Petersburg, as well as Tallahassee. Please share your interest directly with Chris at chrishell051097@yahoo.com. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in Shelley’s name to the Ryan White Foundation through Big

Bend Cares, www.bigbendcares.org, Stand-Up to Cancer, <https://standuptocancer.org/> or the A.S.P.C.A, <https://secure.aspca.org/donate/donate>

Comments



“ I was so sorry to hear of Shelley's passing from another Chelmsford High School Band member. I was her Band Director and saw what an energetic, funny person. She lit up the Band room as soon as she entered. I did not know what she was going through but know that her family was there for her. May she now rest in peace. John Leite

John Leite - February 19 at 09:03 PM



“ Kathy Lynch lit a candle in memory of Shelley Taylor-Donahue



Kathy Lynch - February 19 at 08:38 PM



“ I'm so thankful to have known Shelley and will miss her warmness and big smile. The thing I loved most about Shelley was that she was always down for a good time. :) She had a fun-loving spirit, and I'll cherish memories of our Pinellas team trips to PDQ for lunch, meeting up at Skyway Jack's, enjoying a Rays game... Chris, Charles still talks about how much fun he had playing Cards Against Humanity at you guys's place. We're here when you need us.



Uneda McCurdy - February 09 at 10:22 AM



“ YOLANDA ARRIAGA lit a candle in memory of Shelley Taylor-Donahue



YOLANDA ARRIAGA - February 08 at 10:09 AM



“ Shelley, I miss your laugh...your smile.
Shelley was a good friend and great boss. She had the effortless ability to make everyone have a good time. She had a great character and a big heart.
She will be truly missed and will always be remembered.

Eunice Sawaya - February 08 at 09:24 AM



“ Christopher Donahue lit a candle in memory of Shelley Taylor-Donahue



Christopher Donahue - February 07 at 10:16 PM



“ I met Shelley on a swingset in Reston, VA, in 1973. We shared so many great times -
- tormenting our little brothers, pepperoni pizza with our families, putting on a dance show to the Star Wars Soundtrack, digging out of the snow in Chelmsford during the blizzard of '78, and so many more good times. This summer she was there for me to support me through a low point in my life even while she was battling against the demon of breast cancer. No matter how far apart we were, she was always with me, and I know she is still with us now. She was a bright light in this world. I love her and miss her.

Kelli Bullard Dunn

Kelli Bullard Dunn - February 07 at 12:41 PM



“ Thank you Kelli. That is what Shelley is about - always there for others despite her own needs.

Christopher - February 07 at 10:15 PM



“ Thank you Kelli. So sweet.

Sylvia Prevatt-her aunt. February 10 at 0200

sylvia prevatt - February 10 at 02:10 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Nitanio Jicotea - February 05 at 04:01 PM



“ It was a time of challenges and Hope. Shelley was more than our Leader - she was our compassion, our unwavering defender, and always a courageous advocate for those in need.

Nitanio - February 05 at 04:04 PM



“ Thank you. Shelley was always looking out for the other guy.

Christopher - February 06 at 04:17 PM



“ 9 files added to the album Shelley



Christopher Donahue - February 05 at 01:55 PM



“ My condolences to Shelley's family members and friends, may you find comfort in knowing that she is safe in Almighty God's memory. Isaiah 25: 8

Allison Simon - February 05 at 01:50 PM



“ 4 files added to the album "Boss Lady"



Christopher Donahue - February 05 at 01:40 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Travels



Christopher Donahue - February 05 at 01:27 PM



“ I never knew Shelley as well as I would have liked, but I admired her bravery, fortitude, and her love and caring for Chris. I know she was much loved and will be missed.

Martha Wiencek

Martha Wiencek - February 05 at 01:09 PM



“ Shelley gave me my start in FDOH and I will forever be grateful to her. I will miss all the times you gave me advice, your love of the ocean, peanuts, and your kitties. Thank you Shelley for the impact you made on my life, others, and the people we served. You will greatly missed.

Darius Lightsey - February 05 at 09:32 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Shelley



Chris - February 05 at 07:55 AM



“ Dear Chris,
Our family is so sad to learn that Shelley has passed away. We really never knew Shelley, but have always heard what a wonderful woman she was. She certainly was a brave lady with her fight against the cancer. She gives me hope. All those many years that we watched you growing up, whoever could imagine where life would take you. Just know that you are in our prayers and hope you are at peace. Love to you all. Patty and George Koehl , Tim, Lisa, Andrea, Ted

Patty and George Koehl - February 04 at 11:27 PM



“ Thank you so much for the kind thoughts. I was blessed to find Shelley. Take comfort in knowing that no matter how much sadness me and all those who Shelley touched feel right now, the joy she brought to our lives far out weighs it.

Christopher - February 06 at 04:22 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Shelley



christopher - February 04 at 03:53 PM



“ This was in Roanoke with the Donahue family, Shelleys brother Neal and the Bowman's (Chris's niece, Lauren)

Lisa - February 05 at 10:01 AM



“ 50th Birthday - Never thought my parents would take me to a brewery for my birthday, lol.

Christopher - February 06 at 04:24 PM



“ My sweet friend. We have shared so many memories. you were such an evergiving women, with a smile that would light up a room when you came in. Your passion for your work was something I admired, as well as your strength and determination to fight a battle for so long. You helped so many people, and helped change their life for the better, I will miss you my friend. You taught me a great deal, I will never forget you. To Chris, she loved you without hesitation. I am so sorry for the loss of such a wonderful soul. May Shelley forever rest in

Paradise.

Debbie Norberto



Debbie Norberto - February 03 at 08:24 AM



“ I have never met Shelley, but felt that I knew her through her mother-in-law, who loved her very much. My sincere sympathy to all of her family and friends for your loss. She is resting in heavenly peace. Treasure the beautiful memories that she left behind. Prayers for all,
Carolyn Balog.

Carolyn Balog - February 14 at 08:22 AM