



Cheryl Ann Pietzke

SEP 15, 1956 - FEB 2, 2010



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C HERYL ANN (KAY) PIETZKE 9/15/56-2/2/10

Beloved wife, mother, and grandmother passed away with her family at her side after a vigorous battle with ovarian cancer.

Our mother was a lifelong resident of Tacoma. She went to Gray Jr. HS and graduated from Mt. Tahoma HS in 1975. She worked for the Tacoma School District and missed the staff and students at Foss HS when she became too ill to work. Mom, who left us all too early, was a beautiful, intelligent, caring, and giving person. She loved her husband (Bob), her children, and her God. Though busy, she always put her children first. Mom loved reading, gardening, and packing up the family and going for a hike.

Preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Vivian Kay, Mom is survived by her loving husband of 25 years, Robert Pietzke; her son, Steve; daughter-in-law, Jayme; her daughters, Tamara and Brittany; grandchildren, Chase and Ava; niece and nephew, Tommy and Mackenzie; brothers, Danny and David; sisters, Linda Koch and Donna Steinbrugge; and numerous other family members and friends.

Mom, you were a special person. You mean so much to us. We love you more than words can ever express. A piece of our hearts went missing when you left us. We will truly miss you every day of our lives. Thank you for everything.

A celebration of Cheryl's life will be held on Friday, February 12th at 2:00 p.m. Services will be held at Mountain View Funeral Home in the Valley Chapel. Please share your memories of Cheryl under 'Send Condolence' and view Cheryl's special photos under the memories/photographic memories.



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

I remember when Cheryl was brought home from the hospital. I was eight years old. However, when I fed Cheryl, looked after her and changed her, though, I felt just like she was my own little doll baby. Over the years, though still my "baby" sister, Cheryl also became my friend. Since I was a school guidance counselor and Cheryl was a guidance office secretary, we often compared notes about our schools. Cheryl and I laughed about the funny stories and commiserated about our job stresses, especially the beginning and ending of our school years. During the past year and a half of Cheryl's battle with ovarian cancer and its aftermath, the one thing I really missed was Cheryl's fun and playful spirit. The insidious disease gave her so much pain and the chemotherapy made her so nauseated, it was hard for her to put on a brave face. She did, however, and continued working at her job until after Christmas this year. Even while working and being a wife and a mom, Cheryl also reached out to others with cancer or other problems. As the cancer progressed, Cheryl went from being my "baby" sister and friend to being my hero. Her love of her family was the driving force for at least three different kinds of chemotherapy treatments and one estrogen suppression therapy treatment (the worst). Cheryl so wanted to be there for all of them. I will miss Cheryl so much, but I know that she is with our loving Savior, Jesus Christ. In Heaven, there is no more pain, sorrow or tears. It is there one day, that Cheryl and I will again be reunited and I will see her beautiful face and hear her infectious laughter. Until then, Cheryl, you will always be in my heart!##imported-begin##Donna Steinbrugge (Cheryl's Sister)##imported-end##

March 8 at 12:53 PM



Anonymous posted:

My sister Cheryl was a beautiful person with a heart of gold. My sister was never selfish. She was beautiful inside and out. She was a kindred spirit. She always made my face shine with a smile, and often a mischievous smile at that! It's funny, but Cheryl and I fought constantly and I learned the best way to get along with my sister was to stay away from her. Of course, it didn't help that we had only one TV and one telephone. We often laughed when thinking about those good ol' days in the early 70's. I have fond memories of my other sister Linda and her husband John, taking Cheryl and myself (and whoever else we took to cram a vehicle) on vacations across the country when we didn't know what it was like to leave Tacoma! Cheryl I look forward to having another argument with you in heaven, and the best hug ever too! Please don't rig the bridge to collapse when I get the opportunity to cross it. haha! Cheryl you left behind a wonderful legacy, you were loved by everyone. I only wish I can be so lucky! Our time wasn't long enough in your "temporary" home, but I am looking forward to our next life together. I will think of you everyday I promise. Cheryl, you did real good. I will pray everyday for Bob and all of his wonderful children Steve, Tamara, Brittany, Tommy, Mckenzie, Gracy and Bella. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. With love Always and Forever, Your baby brother David! ko pu'awai hamma (because of your generous heart), Mau loa ke aloha (love is everlasting) I want to say a specail thank you to my wonderful sister Donna, who lovingly kept in touch with Cheryl, prayed for and comforted her, during her time of need, every chance she could get. He nani e - So beautiful to me###imported-begin##David Kay (Cheryl's youngest brother)###imported-end##

March 8 at 12:53 PM



Anonymous posted:

Cheryl Pietzke's Testimony (Written January 11, 2010-Final Edit January 20, 2010) I Came to Him! am testifying to the Lord's glory, goodness, and miracles He's given me in the last year and a half. My daughter, Tamara, had heard of TFC (Tacoma Foursquare Church) from one of her friends and we were anxious to visit the upcoming Sunday. We knew TFC was located at a school called Franklin Elementary but we weren't sure where that was. On the Saturday a week before we were to begin church, Tamara and I had a shopping trip to make. We were chatting and having a very important conversation on our drive, apparently, because I couldn't believe we passed up our original turn-in. Now I'd have to turn around. But the conversation got intriguing again and I missed the turn a second time. I think it was the third time that I'd swung in, not looking at the scenery, but I knowingly said to Tamara, "You know what? This is Franklin Elementary School, and church is held here next week." As I slowed in and we spotted signs, Tamara said, "Mom, how did you know?" I shrugged and said God had shown us how to get to church next week. I had prayed for the right church for our family, which was going through a variety of struggles and upheavals. It felt like God had directed us here. Thanks to God's goodness. Also, God gave me a verse in Jeremiah 29:11 through a close friend. "I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and, not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Funny thing, my son and his wife who did not know that God had given me this verse and was not familiar with it, gave me a wooden plaque with this verse on it at Christmas a year ago. Thanks to God's goodness. After my diagnosis of cancer in May 2008, I came to God and renewed my relationship with Him. I had felt so busy before; too busy to listen; perhaps, just too busy for God. Locating my Bible would have probably taken some work. This was before I had renewed my relationship with God. One early morning, I was drifting off to sleep when I distinctly saw myself sitting in front of a magnificent leather-bound book. I remember feeling excited to open it up, like it was a treasure. Then I distinctly heard a small voice say, "This book is about a journey." By then, I was completely awake and knew that I had just had a visit. I didn't know what that meant. I can say that since learning about the cancer, it has been a journey for me, and I'm so glad God's been with me with his glory, goodness, and miracles. I was baptized for the first time when I was 13 years old. It was rather memorable for me, especially given the fact that I had gotten baptized in the cold and duck-feathered water at Wapato Park. I may have been the only one baptized, I can't remember, but I felt special. I was baptized by an old-fashioned Pentecostal church pastor at a church called the Church of God. I wanted to reclaim my Christian faith. That is why I chose to be baptized again, at Tacoma Foursquare Church. Our entire family, with the exception of the youngest, also committed their lives to Jesus and began making changes. The youngest has grown in her love of God and in her faith. I didn't know that there were two separate baptisms: One by the Holy Spirit and one in remembrance of Jesus dying on the cross for the healing of our sins and sicknesses. I didn't understand about speaking the heavenly language and the Holy Spirit's duties until much later. After getting re-baptized, our family, who later also got baptized, began to make some changes. Bob joined the Men's retreat last year and it made some positive changes in him. Glory to God for these positive changes. I also made some friends that have been a support and rock to me. One other family member even began attending church again. I've been to two women's retreats and Bill Johnson Ministry, which has a healing focus. I've learned and grown from this. I've attended other classes and



Tribute Wall

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February 6 at 3:18 AM



Anonymous posted:

I met Cheryl when I worked at Foss. She was a lovely person, unfailingly kind and calm even amid the bustle of students crowding the counseling area. One of her responsibilities was to issue official transcripts for students applying to college. High school seniors can be an anxious bunch when it comes to completing college application requirements. Cheryl was patient and friendly with them all. She touched many lives at the high school with her ready smile and quiet competence, and I hope her family know that the school community will miss her very much.##imported-begin##Nancy Sprick##imported-end##

February 14 at 3:47 AM



Anonymous posted:

My Heart goes out to my Uncle Bobby, and Cousins Steve, Tamara and Brittany! (Jayme, Chase & Ava) I can't find the words to express how sorry I am for your loss.. I love you all and Pray that time Heals your hearts...But leaves you with a Beautiful Memory of My Aunt Cheryl, Aunt Cheryl, I hope and Pray that you are at Peace and with your maker!! Where you may shine down on your loved ones everyday!##imported-begin##Darla Pietzke##imported-end##

February 12 at 6:13 AM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Pietzke Family -I worked with your mom for several years in the Foss Guidance Department. Cheryl was a hard-working, gracious and sweet-natured woman.As the school focus evolved over the years, more and more work-load was expected of Cheryl. As a dedicated professional, she was always resilient and willingly took on new tasks and demands.Cheryl was a "right hand" to the counselors and her compassionate heart blessed so many students. One of the most important responsibilities of her job was sending and tracking high school transcripts for college bound students. As the volume of students planning to attend college hugely increased - so did Cheryl's workload! Her hard work and attention to detail was instrumental in many, many students college acceptance. Hundreds of student's lives and future plans were touched by Cheryl who quietly did her very important job.The students and staff of Foss will dearly miss Cheryl's presence in their lives. Please know that she has always had the highest respect and appreciation of those who worked closely with her. My deepest sympathy for your loss. You will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. Mary Kay Taylor##imported-begin##Mary Kay Taylor##imported-end##

February 12 at 4:58 AM



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Anonymous posted:

Tamara and Family,I just wanted to let you know that my prayers are with you. That I was at your Mom's service and what a beautiful witness of how the Lord works in our lives. She is a part of the great cloud of witnesses cheering us on to fight the good fight of faith. (Heb.11or 12) Know that her love and prayers are always with you.Love and blessingsPam S-J##imported-begin##Pam Stephen-Jordan##imported-end##

February 12 at 1:17 AM



Anonymous posted:

Bob & Family,Thinking of you in this difficult time! If there is anything at all you need, please don't hesitate to ask!Take Care & God Bless!The Hipner Family##imported-begin##Kristina Hipner##imported-end##

February 11 at 10:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Bob and family, we are so sorry for your loss. When I read about Cheryl in the paper, I immediately called Gary to let him know. I remember when you, Cheryl, and Steve moved in across from Larchmont School and I began taking care of Steve in my daycare. Gary said he remembered all the fun times he had over at your house playing games with Steve. Only time can heal the hurt, and if there's anything I can do for you, please let me know. Cheryl was such a sweet lady and I know she will be missed by all.##imported-begin##Judy and Gary Shafer##imported-end##

February 10 at 6:48 AM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Bob and family--It is my loss that I did not have the opportunity to meet and know Cheryl, but I can feel your loss and want you to know that I am thinking of you. May the day soon come that all of the wonderful memories you have of happier days will bring a smile to your lips and help to lighten your hearts. My prayers go with you. Affectionately, Edith (Bartley) Garberding##imported-begin##Edith L. (Bartley) Garberding##imported-end##

February 10 at 6:17 AM



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Anonymous posted:

I met Cheryl when she worked at Lincoln, soon after we both were working at Foss. Cheryl was so easy to like the moment you met her, she was easy to talk to, laugh with and she was always thoughtful of others. She was a kind, generous soul who always had a twinkle in her eyes, a great smile and a laugh that I loved to hear. Cheryl loved her family very much, they were the world to her.##imported-begin##Sharon Allison##imported-end##

February 10 at 4:52 AM



Anonymous posted:

Cheryl was a beautiful person. She was always kind, caring and very special. She had a beautiful family whom I know she loved very much. She will be missed greatly. I'm sure she's in heaven with all of our family looking down on us. I saw a saying one time that I think would express how Cheryl feels right now. "Do not weep as you pass me by, for I have just begun to live and you have yet to die". We'll miss you Cheryl. Love, Mary Jo, Bill, Jason, Rob and Tim##imported-begin##Mary Jo and Bill Mayes##imported-end##

February 9 at 1:02 AM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Bob, Tamara, Brittany, Tom and Mackenzie, We are so thankful for you all. It has been a blessing to get to know you. I am hurting knowing Cheryl is no longer here, but I'm encouraged knowing that she is experiencing the presence of Almighty God at this very moment. Thank you all for your friendship, and I just want to let you know how precious Cheryl was to me. Peace to all of you. Love, Julie Doble##imported-begin##Julie Doble##imported-end##

February 8 at 10:14 PM



Anonymous posted:

I worked with Cheryl at Foss and she was truly one of the hardest-working, most kind and caring co-workers I have ever had the privilege of knowing. I was so sorry to hear of her illness and passing. I know that her family was everything to her. I pray that they will be comforted in this loss. My sincere condolences.##imported-begin##Marianne Floyd##imported-end##

February 8 at 6:04 AM



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Anonymous posted:

With great clarity, I remember the day that Cheryl came home. I was almost 13 years old. I noticed how small her hands and feet were, but when I looked at her face, I immediately fell in brotherly love with her that will last through eternity. I often read in the obituaries that the person put up a "courageous" fight with cancer. I read the word, but did not truly understand its meaning until now. You fought this terrible disease for almost two years, but never gave up. You continued to try and live your life as normally as possible. The love you felt for your husband and children was always readily apparent to anyone who knew you as was your desire not to lose faith in your God. I will never forget last Christmas, when you put on a brave front and I know for one that I never realized how truly sick you were. There is a fairly popular old standard song that says in part "regrets I have a few"... Unfortunately, I also have regrets. I did not spend enough time with you and your family when you were feeling well. I did not spend enough time with you when you became sick. Why? I have lots of reasons, but in hindsight none of them seem as important now as they did at the time. I miss you today; I'll miss you tomorrow; and I'll always miss you. I know you loved gardening and I will end this by quoting a poem I found written by Barbara Bailey: MEET YOU AT THE GATE A beautiful garden now stands alone, Missing the one who nurtured it But now she is gone, Her flowers still bloom, and the sun it still shines, But the rain is like tear drops, for the ones left behind The weeds lay waiting to take the garden's beauty away, But the beautiful memories of its keeper are in our hearts to stay, She loved every flower even some that were weeds, So much love she would plant with each seed, But just like her flowers she was part of God's plan, So when it was her time he reached down his hand, He looked through the Garden searching for the best, That's when he found Cheryl, it was her time to rest, It is hard for those who love her, to just let her go, But God had a spot in his garden, that needed a gentle soul, So when you start missing Cheryl, remember if you just wait, When God has a spot in his garden, she'll meet you at the gate. ##imported-begin## Dan Kay (Brother) ##imported-end##

February 6 at 3:18 AM



Anonymous posted:

I was very sorry to hear about Cheryl passing away. She and I worked at Foss. She was a great lady and she will be greatly missed. ##imported-begin## Don Nickle ##imported-end##

February 7 at 10:24 PM



Anonymous posted:

I was so sorry and shocked to hear of Cheryl's passing. I always enjoyed seeing Cheryl's cheerful face at Foss and exchanging words of encouragement with her. ##imported-begin## Sally Brownfield ##imported-end##

February 7 at 7:50 PM



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Anonymous posted:

To Cheryl's Family:I knew Cheryl through working for Tacoma School District for many years. Cheryl was a wonderful secretary at Foss and I am truly going to miss talking with her and seeing her at office professional meetings and in classes we took through the district. She was always so cheerful and friendly she always had a smile on her face. She was a beautiful person and I will miss her smiling face always.##imported-begin##Machel L. Salado##imported-end##

February 7 at 3:31 AM



Anonymous posted:

I'm was truly at a loss of words when i found out about the passing or as i like to put it the rebirth of Cheryl Cheryl was a second mother to me when i was a little girl i never was home i was always at there house. We have so many good memories from packing up and going hiking to snuggling up on the couch with ice cream and watching TGIF... all the 18 years i have known this woman i cant recall ever seeing her mad. i remember i spilled bright pink nail polish on Tamara's brand new blanket and was crying and all she could do was tell me how much nit was okay. she will be gone but never forgotten. i love you pietzke family. RIP Cheryl see you soon...##imported-begin##ashley windley##imported-end##

February 7 at 3:12 AM



Anonymous posted:

So sorry to hear of Cheryl's passing. We worked together at Pay' N Pak about 23 years ago. There were three of us that were pregnant at the same time and we all gave birth just a few weeks apart. I have a great picture of the three of us girls with our babies. Cheryl was a wonderful person, and we had lots of fun at work together.##imported-begin##Terri Brokeshire##imported-end##

February 7 at 1:37 AM



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Anonymous posted:

No words can express the sadness I have for your family's loss. Cheryl was a brave woman. She truly was an inspiration, because though she fought a hard battle, she never once surrendered her faith. I have many memories of Cheryl, but I think the ones that will be most cherished were simply conversation. We had similar tastes in many things. I will never forget how her face lit up when we exchanged words about herbs, plants and gardening. Nor will I forget her excitement as she proudly showed me her hard work of healthy, planted vegetables in the backyard. You could say that woman definitely had a green thumb to be envied. I know her legacy will live on through her wonderful family. She will be greatly missed.##imported-begin##Emily##imported-end##

February 6 at 10:58 PM



Anonymous posted:

Cheryl was always so kind and greeted me with a smile and open arms. She had a light about her and seemed to love life. Strong, patient, kind and loving is how I will always remember her. She was there for me when my mom was sick and she let me cry on her lap and told me to be strong. She taught me I could be strong and push through every day. Her strength, hope and belief in me will always be with me. I loved her so very much and will miss her dearly! Cheryl and her family will always have a special place in my heart! Rest in peace our guardian angel!##imported-begin##Laurie Ballard##imported-end##

February 6 at 9:50 PM



Anonymous posted:

Cheryl, was a beautiful woman. Very kind hearted and loving. Through out the years of knowing her, I have made some lasting memories. I remember going over to visit her daughter, Tamara, and we would watch Greys Anatomy or biggest loser (I believe it was called). I also remember the first time I brought my son home to meet her. She was holding him and talking to him when there was a squeaking sound. I was pretty convinced she made my son squeak, till I was laughed at. I was very sadden by the news of her having cancer, but was amazed at her determination to fight till the very end. Cheryl will be forever in my heart, loved, remembered and deeply missed. My prayers go out the family and loved ones through this difficult time. May Jesus care for her and love her.##imported-begin##Rachel M Linn##imported-end##

February 6 at 3:26 AM



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Anonymous posted:

Tamara and family,I am so sorry for your loss. No words can make you feel better right now just know you are loved and that God grieves with you at this time. Know you are in my prayers.##imported-begin##Susan Bangs##imported-end##

February 6 at 3:18 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Cheryl by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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