



## Adria Joy Edwards

April 6, 1978 - June 24, 2023

Adria Joy Edwards, 45, of Kansas City, Missouri, died peacefully on June 24, 2023, with her wife and partner of 11 years, Mary, by her side.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 6, 1978, Adria was the loyal sidekick to older brother, Darrin, until his sudden death in 2006. Their bond continued long after his passing through her close relationship with Darrin's daughter, Lola, and Lola's sister, Gia. Being Aunt Adria was one of her most treasured roles and she especially appreciated the girls keeping her current on the ever-evolving slang of today's youth.

After graduating in 1996 from Parkway South High School in St. Louis, she attended Rockhurst University in Kansas City, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She continued her education at Park University in Parkville, Missouri, where she graduated with distinction, obtaining a Master of Public Administration in Non-Profit/Organizational Management and receiving the Larry Guilliot Nonprofit Student of the Year award.

This was only the beginning of the incredible accomplishments Adria achieved throughout her short lifetime. With a professional career dedicated to serving others (both human and animal), she gave her all to a diverse group of worthy organizations, leaving her mark on everyone she encountered.

She spent three years in Norfolk, Virginia, where she helped lead a community project aimed to alleviate the suffering of all animals, with a particular focus on helping dogs that were isolated and chained outdoors in dangerous conditions and without adequate shelter. The field team's work vastly improved the lives of neglected and abandoned animals in the region. Upon her return to Missouri, she worked as a health services manager at Planned Parenthood, providing reproductive health care, sex education, and additional services to the greater Kansas City area for more than seven years.

Next, Adria spent five years at Operation Breakthrough, a local organization dedicated to providing a safe, loving, and educational environment for all children. During her time there, she established free dental care, ensured children received routine healthcare, and fostered trusting relationships with students and their families. She was a fierce advocate for addressing the health disparities of the community and always led with compassion, competence, and love.

Her professional career concluded at KC CARE Health Center, where she spearheaded the Get Tested KC campaign, driving awareness, accessibility, and action for HIV testing aimed to greatly reduce transmission of the disease. In 2021, when the COVID-19 vaccine was made available, she helped KC CARE launch some of the earliest free vaccination clinics in the area, focusing her efforts on mitigating the impact of the pandemic and creating a safer, healthier community.

Though her work was challenging and often emotionally taxing, she never hardened. She remained fun-loving and a joy to be around—often found supporting local establishments, enjoying a delicious beer with Mary and their “chosen family” of close friends. For those lucky enough to be nearby, they would be gifted with the most beautiful voice and laugh they'd ever heard—a sound we will surely miss most of all.

As a devoted vegetarian, Adria boasted her love of all things veg with a series of tattoos displaying her favorite produce. Thanks to her vegetarianism and love of purple, she may have been the only lesbian on Earth with an eggplant tattoo.

Adria also loved to travel, listen to live music, wear the coolest eyeglasses, and watch TV. As an avid Top Chef fan, she was delighted to receive a Cameo by her favorite contestant, season 12's Melissa King, on her 45th birthday, and rewatched the personalized video message at least 100 times.

But while her crush on Melissa was strong, it couldn't compare to her love for Mary. The two met through mutual friends and after nearly 11 years together, married on Dec. 20, 2022, in a private ceremony at their home, with their beloved dogs, Nora and Charley, by their side.

Adria is survived by her wife, Mary Bellcock; mother-in-law Connie Bellcock and father-in-law Bernie Bellcock; brother-in-law Matt Bellcock; sister-in-law Megan Wilshusen, brother-in-law Todd Wilshusen, nephew Troy, and niece Mia; sister-in-law Jaclyn Rivituso DiMartino, brother-in-law John DiMartino, and nieces Sophia, Lola, and Giovanna; and countless members of her chosen family.

There is no easy way to say goodbye. But we will keep our eyes open for signs of her—in the purple bloom of an African violet, the hazy hello of a rainbow, or the slobbery kiss of an overzealous pup—and patiently wait for that welcomed haunting she promised.

Rest easy, loves. We'll take it from here.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, Sept. 30 in the Reclamation Room at Cinder Block Brewery (110 E. 18th Ave, North KC) from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Adria's honor to some of her favorite local organizations:

Lucky 13 Rescue

KC CARE Health Center

Kansas City Pig Rescue Network

Adria's loved ones would also like to send a heartfelt thank you to the care team at KC Hospice House—especially Nurse Toni—for providing Adria with a comfortable, peaceful place to rest.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

SEP **30**. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Reclamation Room at Cinder Bloc Brewery  
110 E. 18th Ave  
North Kansas City, MO 64116

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ *I miss you.* ”



Mary Bellcock - October 10, 2025 at 09:49 PM

MB

“ *Thinking of you. Today and always. Miss you so much.* ” ❤️

Mary Bellcock - June 19, 2025 at 08:57 PM

MA

“ *Not a day goes by where I don't think about you. I miss your beautiful blue eyes, your infectious laugh, your voice, the way you loved me. So many things. I'm grateful for the years we had together and still can't believe you picked me. I love you now and always.* ”

Mary - February 22, 2024 at 09:24 PM

LR

“ *miss you more than ever. thank you for painting a pretty sky for us.* ”  
💜



Lola Rivituso - October 27, 2023 at 03:02 PM

FP

“ From Andrea and Ed Pharr purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Adria Joy Edwards.



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From Andrea and Ed Pharr - September 26, 2023 at 05:00 PM

FP

“ From Andrea and Ed Pharr planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Adria Joy Edwards.

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From Andrea and Ed Pharr - September 26, 2023 at 05:00 PM

BC

“ I have had the great pleasure of knowing Adria and Mary throughout the years in KC. I've never met a person as strong as Adria. I've seen her in her worst moments deal with it with such grace and it has truly inspired me. Much love to Mary and family. Love Brian Callahan

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Brian Callahan - July 22, 2023 at 08:20 PM

RC

“ Love you friend. Not even sure what to think except, I will see you in my mind and feel you in my heart. Lovely human.



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Russell Campillo - July 04, 2023 at 01:32 PM

SD

“ I did not know Adria personally. However, Mary is a friend of mine and the love she shared with Adria was beyond beautiful. This tribute to her legacy has me crying and laughing. I know Adria will be missed by so many. And I realize now that she has touched thousands of lives. God must have needed an angel in heaven to take one from earth so soon. Rest in peace Adria, I think you're love ones have your back here on earth.

Stacy L Davidson - June 30, 2023 at 02:16 PM

MK

“ Adria was a good friend of mine in Jr high. I moved around and we lost touch to reconnect years later through FB. I was happy to see her become the person she was meant to be with the people she was meant to be with. Our Jr high days were spent like a bad PEN15 episode. We spent hours talking, laughing and listening to Nelson. My heart goes out to your loved ones.



Melissa Kostecki - June 28, 2023 at 10:10 PM

TP

Adria was a good and beautiful human. I wish I had known her better. I am grateful that she made my friend Mary happier than I have ever seen her be. Blessings to friends and family.

Terry Paine - August 04, 2023 at 09:40 PM

CC

“ Adria and I worked together at Planned Parenthood. She was a delight to work with. You will truly be missed.



Connie Campfield - June 28, 2023 at 05:33 PM

CO

“ I convinced Adria to take a job that was still honestly a draft job description at KC CARE 4 years ago...I just knew I had stumbled upon an incredibly special person that I simply HAD TO HIRE. And, honestly, best choice of my career. I loved working with Adria everyday--not only did she work hard, care about the quality of her work, and always DELIVER; she was just SO MUCH FUN TO WORK WITH...once we were no longer boss/employee, it was a joy to just get to be her friend (and to make Mary my friend, too :))

Corinne - June 28, 2023 at 04:47 PM

BP

“ A beautiful soul taken far too soon.

Blaine Proctor - June 28, 2023 at 03:48 PM

AB

“ Amy (Operation Breakthrough) lit a candle in memory of Adria Edwards



Amy Reames (Operation Breakthrough) - June 28, 2023 at 02:19 PM

AB

“ I will certainly miss hearing your contagious laugh as our doggies run through the house, (sorry Mary) your beautiful smile, and that delicious veggie lasagna. The world isn't the same without your light-

Anthony B - June 28, 2023 at 01:34 PM