



Elizabeth Ann Van Buskirk

August 3, 1965 - June 18, 2016

Elizabeth Ann (Gregory) Van Buskirk, 50, of Independence, MO, died at her home on June 18, 2016. She was born August 3, 1965 in Kansas City, MO the daughter of Ruth (Wren) Goodpaster and Billie Don Gregory.

Elizabeth is survived by her husband, Carl Van Buskirk of the home; her mother, Ruth (Wren) Goodpaster of Pittsburg, KS; her two sisters, Amber Goodpaster Tauscher and her husband Paul of Scottsdale, AZ, and Ann (Gregory) Schrock and her husband Clifford and their sons, Shawn and Brian of Harrisonville, MO; along with several aunts, one uncle and many cousins. She was preceded in death by her father, Billie Don Gregory, her step-father, R. Dwight Goodpaster, and her step-mother, JoAnn (Grimsley) Gregory.

Elizabeth loved books, music, traveling, animals including her two cats, Bunny and Cosmo, and relished watching her two nephews Shawn and Brian grow into young men. She was a member of the Community of Christ church and her faith in God's plan for her life was strong. She relied on the prayers and concern of others to get her through – in her words – her Unexpected Journey.

After graduating from Graceland College in Lamoni, IA, Elizabeth continued her studies at The University of St. Louis in Madrid, Spain. While visiting Greece during that time, she fell in love with the Greek culture, people and

lifestyle. Returning home Elizabeth soon found herself selling her belongings, packing her bags and moving to Athens, Greece where she lived for the next 17 years. During those 17 years she traveled the world where she met and made life-long friends. A few years after returning to the States, she met Carl Van Buskirk - the love of her life. They were married on November 2, 2013. Elizabeth delighted in being a wife, being involved in Carl's life and establishing a home together.

During her illness, Carl was Elizabeth's primary caretaker and lovingly devoted his entire life to caring for her.

At the time of her death, Elizabeth was writing a book for cervical cancer patients as she found information lacking in that area with most research funds going to other types of cancer. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations to the American Cancer Society (<http://www.cancer.org/>).

Services private. A celebration of Elizabeth's life will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall

AR

“ I have only just heard about Elizabeth's passing, and I know my sadness and tears for the loss of my dear friend must be nothing compared to the pain and loss Carl, Ruth, Amber and Ann must be feeling. I first met Elizabeth when we were 'bunked up' together sharing a cabin on a Greek cruise ship in 1994. We became very good friends over that summer, and my happy memories of that summer alone could fill a book. Over the years, we have taken trips together, shared adventures and kept in touch across the miles and years. I and my husband felt extremely privileged to share Elizabeth and Carl's very special wedding day, and I feel particularly blessed to have had Liz as a friend over the last twenty two years. She was extremely generous, kind and above all a really fun person to be around. My life would have been a darker place if we had never met. I had hoped that the recent lack of email replies meant that Elizabeth was recovered, and enjoying life, too busy to email. I'm sorry I was not able to send my condolences at the time of her loss, but I send my love and tears now to Elizabeth's family and friends, and share your sorrow from the UK. Elizabeth, rest in peace, dear, dear friend. I will miss you always, and will never forget the great times we shared.

Anita Ragan, Norwich, UK 10 August 2016

Anita Ragan - August 10, 2016 at 04:30 AM

TS

“ Carl, our thoughts and prayers are with you, your family and Elizabeth's family. Sincerely, Paul, Teresa and Margaret Welling, Baltimore, Maryland

Teresa Schmiedeler - June 22, 2016 at 04:56 PM

LH

“ I was not blessed to have been around Beth very often, a few meals or visits, & one rummage sale, but the times I was able to spend with her you could tell she was a very special person. She always had a smile & a nice word or two. She loved cats & Henry (out Tabby) bonded with her right away. She will be greatly missed by family & friends. Heaven has a new angel to help with all the pets that have gone on before us.

Liz Harry

Liz-Paxton Harry - June 21, 2016 at 10:16 PM

SD

“ I thought so much of Elizabeth. She was kind, caring, genuine. She was thoughtful of others and had a positive spirit. We have lost someone who brought out the best in all of us. Rest in Peace, dear Elizabeth. Your spirit is now free to "run with the foxes" .
Carl and Ruth: you and your family are in our prayers. May you find comfort in the happy memories you have of Elizabeth. She would want us to remember her with smiles.
Peace be with you, Sally Dux

Sally Delwiche Dux - June 21, 2016 at 08:05 PM

JR

“ I got to know Elizabeth when she helped the Frost family plus me tour Greece in 2007. She shared her expertise, her residence, her friends and patience. She was wonderful. Glad her suffering over now. May God comfort you with sweet memories. Sincerely. Juanita Risker

juanita risker - June 21, 2016 at 05:34 PM

WJ

“ I went to college at Graceland University with Elizabeth. We lived in Kimora Hall together. Elizabeth was a friendly bubbly person. I am so sorry to know that she is gone. Prayers and thoughts to her family.

Winnie (Hill) Johnston

Winnie Johnston - June 21, 2016 at 03:24 PM