



Dr. Cynthia Ekstedt Connelley

October 6, 1954 - September 4, 2022

Cindy passed away after a 14-year courageous and determined battle with cancer. She leaves behind her father, Bill Ekstedt; wife, Anne Pope; stepchildren and grandchildren, Taber Meth (Andy), Hughes Pope (Kristin), Rowan Pope and Hazel Pope; sister, Cristin Lyon (Michael) and many cousins, nieces and nephews. She was pre-deceased by her mother, Marion and sister Karen.

Coach Cindy had a talent for developing the gifts of others and it showed in her coaching, teaching and mentoring. She touched the lives of thousands of students and athletes in the schools where she taught/coached: Hunter Huss High (Gastonia, NC), taught at Catawba College in NC, basketball coach at U of North Carolina – Charlotte, basketball coach at Bucknell U, softball coach at Middle Tennessee State, Professor at U of Maine, coach, professor and athletic director at Husson U.

Coach Cindy served as professor, K-12 teacher, athlete, athletic director, sports clinician, camp program director, department chair, NCAA Division I, II, III coach, collegiate scout, Special Olympics director. She coached and taught in seven states and earned several teaching awards, five “Coach of the Year” awards and three state championships.

Dr. Connelley wrote her post doctoral on “Movement Science” programs for

students on the autism spectrum. "Medical Retirement" allowed her to do research and consulting while living on the coast of Maine and New Hampshire with beloved family, friends and dogs.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Springfield College, Alden St, Springfield, MA 01109 or any animal rescue of your choice. She lived by the scouting code...always leave a place better than you found it.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, September 10th.at St. John's Episcopal Church, 101 Chapel Road, Portsmouth, NH.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church
101 Chapel Road
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Cynthia Ekstedt Connelley*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *Sadly, I did not have the pleasure of knowing Coach Cindy and after reading about her, I can tell I missed experiencing a wonderful woman. As a fan of Women's sports and a volunteer at a cat shelter, I know we would have had a lot in common. A kind man just brought in a generous donation to Safe Haven Humane Society to honor her memory, and that's how I learned about her. My condolences to those who were fortunate to know her and I hope you have many warm and happy memories that you will carry forward.*

Pat Santoro - September 16, 2022 at 11:37 AM



Pat, I would love to know who donated to Safe Haven so I can thank them. Please contact me if possible - 603-828-1316. Thank you - Anne

Anne Pope - September 26, 2022 at 07:39 AM



“ *I Met Coach Cindy Connelley in 1999. She was the head softball at Tennessee State University. She recruiting me to come and play for her and boy did we enjoy our time together on the field. She was a dynamic coach and also become a great friend. She was a caring and supportive person. She will be missed for sure. Condolences to the family.*

Antionette Armstrong - September 13, 2022 at 07:53 PM

JL

“ I first met Cindy when I relocated from Massachusetts to Maine in the fall of 2017. She was very welcoming when I became a member of the Wells/Ogunquit Community Center. Cindy encouraged me to sign up for some day trips which I did.

One I remember fondly is a trip to an animal sanctuary in Gray, Maine. We had such a fun time. I have pictures somewhere...

Cindy's "joie de vivre" was unmatched! A smart lady, for sure.

The last time I saw her was in June of 2019 at a fashion show. Then Covid hit...

She would still message me though sending articles, quotes, or jokes that would tickle her fancy or passionate about.

Cindy, your presence will be missed by all who met you!! Rest In Peace!

Joanne Lamothe

Joanne Lamothe - September 13, 2022 at 06:49 PM

JH

“ I will miss your wit and fight for what you wanted. You will always be in my heart and thoughts. Happy memories of our days as professors at Husson and apartment-mates in the "Harry Potter" house. Condolences to your family.

jeannie hamrin - September 10, 2022 at 07:44 AM

TM

“ I met Cindy when she live in Louisville Ky. & I will never forget how amazing she was as a person & a friend. I have some great memories of her. Even though I have not met her wife or family I would like to send my condolences to all of u

Teri Mayfield - September 10, 2022 at 12:17 AM

CW

“ We had the honor of meeting Cindy just over a year ago. Instantly we were attracted to her personality and energy. She became an instant friend to the two of us. Her humor, generosity, and stories will not be forgotten. She absolutely was one of a kind, caring and just an awesome person. We are so blessed to have met her. Much love to her wife and all other family members. Love, Cory and Damien

Cory Wells - September 07, 2022 at 08:54 PM

CG

I am so sorry for your loss. I hope I have the Cindy and Karen from Feeding Hills MA. If so I knew them from High School but lost touch after. Again I'm so very sorry. Carol Rossi

Carol Rossi Grzywacz - September 07, 2022 at 10:51 PM

MK

Mr. Ekstedt...my condolences for Cindy's passing...your old neighbor from Briarcliff/Hamilton neighborhood
Michelle Korob-Littlefield

Michelle Korob-Littlefield - September 09, 2022 at 02:23 PM

DW

We are so sorry to hear of Cindy's passing. She was a great kid, always upbeat, and such a fun person to work with at the old F.H.Pharmacy. Were glad we got to see her again at the the Band Against Cancer fundraiser. Our condolences to all.
Dave & Bobbie Wiley

David B Wiley - September 10, 2022 at 02:28 PM

SN

Cindy and I coached together at MTSU for one short year but our friendship lasted much longer despite the many miles between us. She was the one I called for advice. Always smiling, upbeat, looking for that positive light in everything she was involved in! Accepting of all, never denigrating a soul. What a blessing she was to me, my family. We have lost a dear forever friend as Heaven gains a beautiful soul. Rest In Peace, Coach. ❤️🙏

Sue Nevar - September 11, 2022 at 10:19 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Cynthia Ekstedt Connelley.*



September 07, 2022 at 05:01 PM