



Heather D. Starr

March 2, 1960 - November 25, 2015

Heather was born in St Louis to the late John Talbot Donnell and Gloria [nee Moore] Donnell.

She was a swimming instructor at the YMCA, and is survived by her Mother, Gloria; three children: David [Kelsey] Starr, Thomas Starr, Talbot [Eric] Bussey; six grandchildren: Paige, Jack, June, Holden, Drake, Evelyn; one brother: John [Diane] Donnell; one sister: Susan [John] Flanigan; seven nieces and nephews: Eric, Aaron, John, Elizabeth, Sarah, Michael, Mary; six great nieces and nephews; and cousins Catherine Lemcovitz and Zoë Lemcovitz.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St Louis Zoo.

At 2 years old Heather began swimming and never stopped until her final illness precluded it. At 12 she spent a year traveling throughout Africa with her parents in a VW Camper Bus which influenced her love of African animals, outdoor living, and long road trips.

After graduating from Mary Institute, where she swam competitively, she

studied aviation at Parks College with an eye toward becoming a pilot, however starting a family shifted her focus. A devoted mother, she raised three children whom she deeply loved, and a menagerie of dogs, birds, rabbits, iguanas, turtles, hedge hogs, and fish.

Heather adored her grandchildren and one of her favorite annual events was to take them all to the Circus Flora. She loved having them at her house to swim and jump on the trampoline, just as their parents had done when they were growing up.

She enjoyed the outdoors particularly biking, floating, camping, and cross country skiing. She travelled extensively with her family all over the United States, and visited Argentina and countries in Europe. In recent years Heather derived great satisfaction teaching swimming and water aerobics.

When her parents could no longer live independently Heather took them into her home and together with her sister worked to ensure their happiness and well-being.

Heather had many creative gifts that included making elaborate Halloween costumes, gingerbread houses, cakes, cookies and tarts. She loved cooking, cooking shows, particularly The Pioneer Woman, movies, music and dancing. Halloween was her favorite holiday and green was her favorite color.

Adversity touched her life a few times and Heather came through it stronger every time. A fighter to the end, throughout her illness she amazed us all with her tenacity and her determination to get better. With the loving support of her family she worked incredibly hard to rebuild her strength time and time again.

Heather was an extraordinarily thoughtful and supportive friend to many, who cherished her for her sense of humor, and willingness to try just about

anything and go just about anywhere. Spending time with family and friends was one of her greatest pleasures. Heather wanted nothing more than to be helpful and supportive and to see her children thrive. She will be greatly missed, and always treasured by those of us whose lives she touched.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 2. 1:00 PM (CT)

St Michael & St George
6345 Wydown Blvd
ST Louis, MO 63105

Tribute Wall

PS

“ She was my favorite person in the whole world. I remember how she loved music, taking me, my siblings, and cousins to the circus, she loved her animals, I remember her always wanting to bake something with me, and sparked my interest for Halloween with all of the amazing Halloween parties she would throw yearly.

Miss you Gigi, even to this day I still miss you.

Rest in Peace

-Love, Paige



Paige R. Starr - April 19, 2024 at 02:25 AM

“ I don't even know where to begin to express the place Heather had in my life and in my family's life. I am the daughter of Bee and Myron Goldberg - and I think I can safely say that Myron was considered one of Jack Donnell's best friends - they knew each other since they were children...and so did Heather and I. More nights than I can count we spent upstairs at our respective homes while our parents played bridge into the wee hours...summer days spent at her backyard pool - it always felt so exotic to me with the big smooth house and mossy pathways and full foliage all around the deck. Heather was a much better swimmer than I but she always made sure I was having a good time. Those nights upstairs, we played games, and made up stories and laughed, and snuck downstairs to the kitchen, and looked over our parents shoulders at their cards...we were very stealthy!

And always, on Christmas day, the first thing we did after our own family time was done was go to the Donnell's to spend time with them - our other family. Listen to Jack tell stories, drink sweet drinks, watch the train circle round the base of the tree. And they always had as a pet the biggest dogs I had ever seen !

Heather and I were nearly the same age - which makes it even harder to think that she is gone already. I no longer live in St. Louis, but we stayed in touch over the years and I am grateful to have had a lovely afternoon BBQ at her place 3 years ago - everyone but Sonny was there and it was a very special chance to re-connect and enjoy each other again.

Heather will always live in my heart and soul ~ I cherish our history together and send my love to Gloria, Susie, Sonny, Talbot, David, Thomas, her grandchildren and other family members. Peace Heather.

Paula Goldberg

DC

“*Heather was a great person and a lot of fun. She was very devoted and serious about teaching water aerobics. It was a pleasure to know her and I learned a lot about discipline with her teaching me. Our whole class has missed her since she could no longer teach us. May she rest in peace. My condolences to her family. Sincerely,
Dick Chappuis*

Dick Chappuis - December 02, 2015 at 11:37 AM

MH

“*Heather had such unique life experiences that she could bring to any conversation. I don't think I will know anyone else like her. All who knew her loved her. She was kind, good and generous. There will be an empty spot in our group of friends that no one else can fill. I will miss going to the lake with her, staying up talking and giggling, trying not to wake the other girls, shopping, playing mah Jong, listening to all the new music she would introduce us to, and most of all having a great friend to help me in life. Love you!
Maureen*

maureen hartmann - December 02, 2015 at 08:07 AM

TM

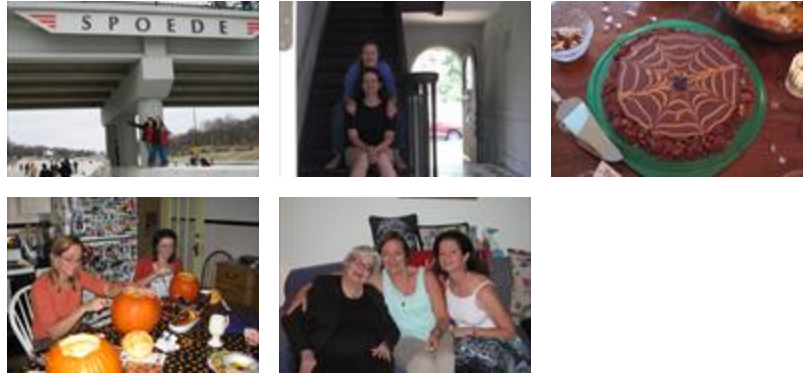
Heather was a friend and companion for many years. During hard times filled with anxiety about the future of our kids, her optimism and laughter kept us looking forward to gained wisdom and trusting God in life's journey. As she believed from the start, our children moved on with confidence while acquiring a wise mind. Rest in peace my dear friend. Your inner light guided us then and will be a beacon of peace for the many you impacted with your beautiful smile and warm personality. Love you Heather Starr!

Tony & Maria Maldonado

Tony & Maria Maldonado - December 02, 2015 at 11:20 AM

ZO

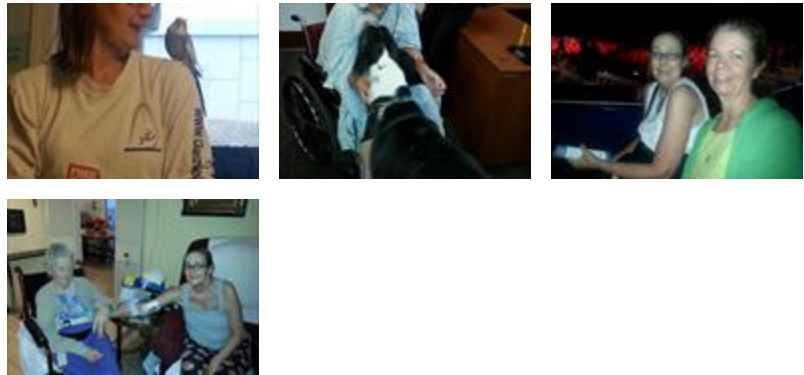
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Zoë - November 30, 2015 at 08:53 PM

Michelle
Vogelsang
Schrempf

“ Heather loved her family, friends, and animals and let's not forget Jeeves



Michelle Vogelsang-Schrempf - November 30, 2015 at 05:50 PM



“ *Heather was a wonderful woman full of life and love. She sacrificed so much to help others and loved her children and grandchildren unconditionally. We had so many good times at the lake with shopping, playing games, listening to music (that she always brought with her), crying and just talking. Heather you will be missed by the moms. We love you. RIP*

Debbie D.

Debbie Drummond - November 30, 2015 at 11:25 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Heather D. Starr.*



November 30, 2015 at 12:51 AM



“ *Heather you will be missed by many. I will cherish our friendship forever. Watching the Pieanenr Woman will not be the same. Miss you my friend. I will care for Jeeves like he is my own. Love you. Xoxo*

Michelle Schrempf - November 29, 2015 at 02:40 PM

MG

“*Heather was rich with adventure and wisdom in many subjects. She truly cared for people and a compassion for animals. Through her time of medical set backs and pain she carried herself with grace and set a beacon for us all. I have a vision of her splashing her feet in a pool as she pets several dogs around her. Go in peace my friend.*

Mike Guill

Michael Guill - November 29, 2015 at 09:53 AM

JN

“*RIP Heather, your gentle demeanor and care will be missed in this world.*

Jacky N.

Jacky Nace - November 29, 2015 at 09:16 AM

DS

“*Heather was loved and will be missed by so many. I will always remember her passion for life. She was so wise and had a fantastic memory of her many travels as a child. She adored animals, music, photography, flowers and loved to swim. She liked to be on the move, whether driving or flying or riding motorcycles! Heather was a great and true friend and she was devoted to her parents and family. But I believe she loved her children and grandchildren above all else. They were truly the joy of her life! Heather I love you and will miss you so much. Rest in peace and serenity.*

Diana S. - November 29, 2015 at 09:10 AM