



Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg

June 8, 1964 - December 12, 2024

Kathryn "Katie" (Holzhauer) McClurg Kathryn "Katie" McClurg, 60, died on December 12th, 2024, while at the family farm with loved ones.

Born on June 8th, 1964, in Willingboro, NJ, Katie was the daughter of Jack Holzhauer and Betsey (Flint) Holzhauer. The Holzhauer family moved to Spirit Lake, IA when Katie was in 4th grade. She graduated from Spirit Lake High School in 1982, then went on to attend both Mankato State University and the University of Northern Iowa. She studied Communication Disorders, receiving both her BA (1986) and MA (1988) from UNI. She began her career as a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) in the Area Education Agency (AEA)/schools in Cedar Falls, IA and later went on to work for the AEAs in Rockwell, Sheffield, Mason City, Armstrong & Estherville, before officially retiring in 2023.

On August 30th, 1997, Katie married Dan T. McClurg, they lived in Clear Lake, IA for 12 years, with their blended family (Kelli, Michael, Danial, and Steven) along with several cats & dogs. Katie and Dan returned to Spirit Lake in 2009 to live on Dan's family farm.

While working as an SLP, Katie impacted countless students' lives by helping them to communicate more effectively. She loved her many friends & colleagues that she met and worked with across her career. A former principal, that Katie was fortunate to work with, once wrote, "Teaching was just one of Katie's many gifts, and I was blessed to witness it daily. Her positive attitude, grit, determination and sense of humor made her an outstanding

employee and a dear friend”.

What Katie loved more than anything was her family; her husband, 4 children, 7 grandchildren and her whole extended family, both near and far, and spending time with them whenever she could. Katie was an avid scrapbooker, she loved capturing special family moments. She enjoyed photographing the wildlife around the farm, including deer, wild turkeys, and the many birds that would visit their feeders. She learned how to be a pretty good farmer's wife, despite her initial hesitation to rural living and she loved caring for her roughly 50-chicken coop.

Katie was first diagnosed with cancer in 2014 and battled bravely for the last 10 years through surgeries, treatments, and additional diagnosis. Her loving husband was by her side through every step, including the several clinical trials Katie participated in. Despite the pain and discomfort, she was determined to make a difference and hoped that the trials would someday help other families who are affected by cancer. Katie showed incredible strength and courage throughout her fight and felt so much love and support over the years through the many fundraisers, prayers, messages and visits. She is survived by Dan, her husband, marbles partner and love of her life for 29 years; daughter, Kelli (Collin) Elphic of Greensboro, NC, step-sons Michael McClurg of Spirit Lake and Danial (Liz) McClurg of Sheffield, IA, and adopted son, Steven Craig of Maricopa, AZ; grandchildren Bryce, Kayla, Phoebe, Owen, Kaiya, Austin & Peyton; her loving mother, Betsey of Spirit Lake, sisters Pat Moore of Spirit Lake and Anne Strayer of Algona, IA, sisters-in-law Susan (Todd) Lynn of Spirit Lake and Sandra McClurg of Estherville, IA, and brother-in-law Kevin Sebastian of Everly, IA, 14 nieces & nephews, as well as 10 great-nieces & nephews, and many cousins, aunts & uncles.

Katie was preceded in death by her father, Jack, an infant brother, David, an infant nephew, Matthew, mother-in-law, Karen McClurg, father-in-law, Ed McClurg and sister-in-law, Melissa Sebastian.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, December 21, 2024, with a visitation held one hour prior at the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit

Lake. Burial will take place in the Lake View Gardens Cemetery in Okoboji.

Online condolences may be left at www.spiritlekefuneralhome.com

Memorial contributions can be made in Katie's honor to the Mayo Clinic Oncology Department, Abben Cancer Center (Spencer), or the World Wildlife Organization (for Katie's lifelong love of pandas).

Cemetery Details

Lake View Gardens

Okoboji, IA 51355

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 21. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Robinson Funeral Home
2317 32nd Street
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
robinson@spiritlekefuneralhome.com
<http://www.spiritlekefuneralhome.com>

Service

DEC 21. 2:00 PM (CT)

Robinson Funeral Home
2317 32nd Street
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
robinson@spiritlekefuneralhome.com
<http://www.spiritlekefuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Robinson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg*



Robinson Funeral Home - December 19, 2024 at 04:24 PM

MB

“ *Melanie Bundy lit a candle in memory of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg*



Melanie Bundy - December 23, 2024 at 09:12 AM

MB

Sending my prayers and condolences to the entire family.

Melanie Bundy - December 23, 2024 at 09:13 AM

RH

“ *I am so sorry for your loss.*



Renee Hoffman - December 21, 2024 at 04:19 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg.



December 21, 2024 at 12:01 AM



“ Dan and family,
Katie was always my biggest supporter and confidant, especially during my own cancer journey. Her friendship and our venting sessions will be missed so much each and every day. She was truly the strongest and bravest woman I have ever had the privilege of knowing. My love to you all.

Jill Heinen - December 18, 2024 at 12:57 PM



“ Dan,

Thoughts and prayers with you all during this difficult time!



Abby (Cook) VandeHoef - December 16, 2024 at 12:34 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg.



December 16, 2024 at 12:11 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg.

December 16, 2024 at 12:11 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg.



December 15, 2024 at 10:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg.

December 15, 2024 at 10:14 PM



“ Aimee Nielsen purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg.



Aimee Nielsen - December 14, 2024 at 09:01 PM

MV

“ *Mary L Vermeer lit a candle in memory of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg*



Mary L Vermeer - December 14, 2024 at 04:22 PM

BH

“ *Brittney & Kyle Hoffman purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg.*



Brittney & Kyle Hoffman - December 14, 2024 at 02:57 PM

MV

“ *Dan and Family,
I had been thinking about Katie a lot these past few days. I know why now.
Treasure every memory and the true love you had for each other.
I know a special Angel above that will watch out for "your Katie" 🙏
Sending hugs 🤍🙏🤍*

Mary L Vermeer - December 14, 2024 at 01:43 PM

B(

“ *Becca Hardenburger & Robin Nielsen (Duus) purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg.*



Becca Hardenburger & Robin Nielsen (Duus) - December 14, 2024 at 12:29 PM

LF

“ Love, Susan, Todd & families purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg.



Love, Susan, Todd & families - December 14, 2024 at 11:36 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg.



December 14, 2024 at 08:39 AM

BE

“ Bob And Mary Emgarten lit a candle in memory of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg



Bob and Mary Emgarten - December 13, 2024 at 08:24 PM

SM

“ Sandra M. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg.



Sandra M. - December 13, 2024 at 07:19 PM

MM

“ To all of Katie’s family - My sincere sympathy to all of you. Katie was kind and so dedicated to her job. She loved all of her kids. Katie was so strong and fought hard to beat cancer. She has no more pain and is at peace. Take care.



Mary McClurg

Mary McClurg - December 13, 2024 at 06:46 PM

PR

“ I am so saddened to read about Katie's passing. She was a special girl when she came to 6th grade. I always knew she would touch thousands of lives. She will continue to do this through all of her trials. Bless the family.



Peggy Rick - December 13, 2024 at 01:08 PM

BD

“ Katie was such a wonderful and beautiful soul. She helped my daughter find her voice through many years of speech therapy with Katie. That is a gift I was not sure I would ever receive, hearing my daughter tell me she loves me. My family owes so much to Katie. May she rest in peace.

Brittney Drinovsky - December 13, 2024 at 11:18 AM

LA

“ Dan, thinking of you and your family. She fought for a very long time. She is pain free now!



Laureen Andersen - December 13, 2024 at 10:39 AM

BS

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Katie was such a brave and loving woman. The whole world shares your loss. Bill and Lorna Schutz



Bill and Lorna Schutz - December 13, 2024 at 10:28 AM

DG

“ Denise D Gilmore lit a candle in memory of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg



Denise D Gilmore - December 13, 2024 at 10:15 AM

DG

My deepest sympathy for your loss. She fought a long hard battle. She's pain free now. Thoughts and prayers for The whole family.

Denise D Gilmore - December 13, 2024 at 10:16 AM

AD

“ Prayers for you all.



Ann Devall - December 13, 2024 at 09:47 AM

MW

“ My Condolences And Hugs To All !! May Katie Soar On Angel's Wings And Watch Over Each Of You !!



Mike Wallace - December 12, 2024 at 09:43 PM

JC

“ Jeff & Linda Christoffer lit a candle in memory of Kathryn "Katie" L. McClurg



Jeff & Linda Christoffer - December 12, 2024 at 09:02 PM

JC

Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers 🙏

Jeff & Linda Christoffer - December 12, 2024 at 09:02 PM