



## Heidi Steitz

April 17, 1958 - March 4, 2019

Heidi Ann (Walton) Steitz, 60, of Powell passed away peacefully at home on March 4th surrounded by her family after a courageous 17-year battle with breast cancer.

From the very beginning of the fight, she was determined to raise her children to adulthood. Her daughter Mackenzie is now 20 and her son Ben turned 18 only three days after her death. She was also determined that cancer would not become her identity. She carried her burden as privately as possible, with tremendous bravery and grace. She was a wonderful mother, wife, and friend, and she was put on this earth to be a wonderful teacher.

With her students, she was skilled in teaching math, English or social studies, but her real gift was making every student feel special. She was a master at building self-esteem and confidence helping students navigate the challenging middle school years. She saw the potential in every student and did her best to help each student be their best.

With her friends and family, she taught us how to love and to have fun. She always had time for everyone. She loved people and she loved to “chat”. She never met a stranger, and she had a wonderful gift of feeling comfortable around people no matter their station in life.

Heidi was born April 17, 1958 in Greenville, Michigan to Donald Harrison

Walton and Paula Ann (Molter) Walton. She was the middle child of the family, which included older brother Mike and younger sister Lee Ann. After several work related moves (Heidi's dad was an executive at agricultural equipment manufacturer, Massey Ferguson, and his early career required a number of relocations.), the family returned to its Ohio roots and settled in the Buckeye Valley School District, where Heidi attended school from kindergarten through high school.

She is preceded in death by her beloved mother, Paula Walton; her father-in-law, Carl Steitz; grandparents, Harrison and Fern Walton, and Ralph and Beulah Bame.

She is survived by her adoring husband, Timothy C. Steitz, daughter Mackenzie Ann Steitz and son Benjamin T. Steitz, all at home, her father, Donald (Maxine) Walton of Greenville, South Carolina, mother-in-law Janis Ann Steitz of Lisbon, brother Michael (Teri) Walton of Sunbury and sister Lee Ann (David) Hogan of Ashley, sister-in-law Cassie Steitz of Lisbon, aunt Peggy Gooding of Tiffin, aunt Caroline Kelly of Canfield, and aunt and uncle Diane and Lee Dull of Lisbon. Also surviving are nieces and nephews: Michele Walton of Sunbury, Nicole (Michael) de Bear of Hilliard, Allyssa (Adam) Stewart of Cardington, Tim Hogan of Washington, D.C.; Brendan Hogan and Lillian Hogan of Ashley, Lindsay (Bradley Chandler) Bosel of Lisbon, Carlie (Alec) Beech of Salem, and Chad Bosel, serving in the United States Air Force, currently stationed in Okinawa, Japan; and grand nieces and nephews: McKayla de Bear, Kennedy de Bear, Joseph de Bear and Joe Stewart, as well as many dear cousins and many, many dear friends. Her two dogs will especially miss her – Max (“The best and smartest dog I ever had.”) and Tucker (“Oh well, at least he is cute.”).

Heidi graduated from Buckeye Valley High School in 1976. She began pursuing her passion to become a teacher by attending the Ohio State

University where she received a bachelor degree in education in 1981. Her determination and persistence became evident in her college years. She held two jobs and carried a full load of classes. She was forced to drop out of college to take care of her sick mother who also lost her battle to cancer when Heidi was 21. After returning to school and graduating, she landed a teaching position in the Cardington-Lincoln Local School District. She absolutely loved her students at Cardington and talked of the experience often. Her favorite stories included selling homemade buckeye necklaces to raise money for a field trip to the Ohio Theater in Columbus, and advising the cheerleaders. She stayed at Cardington for 6 years and enjoyed every minute.

Heidi then took a teaching position in the Olentangy Local School District. When she arrived, there was just one building for grades K-12. But the district experienced enormous growth over the span of her Olentangy career from 1987 to 2014. It now has 27 buildings and 4 distinct high schools. She was proud to be a part of such a vibrant, growing community. She continued her own education to make herself an even better teacher. In her early years at Olentangy, she earned a master degree from Ashland University majoring in guidance and curriculum.

She moved to Olentangy Liberty Middle School when it opened and remained there until her retirement. Both her kids attended Wyandot Run Elementary School, next door to OLMS, and the Olentangy Liberty Middle School, so she enjoyed years of close contact with her kids as they grew. She was named the 2008-2009 Liberty Middle School Teacher of the year. But her greatest accomplishment, as always, was her connection to the kids. She endured the testing and the curriculum de jour. She always said there was no sense complaining because it would all change back in a few years. But the one thing that did not change was her love for her students. She was dedicated to them and helping them to be successful. That is why she loved one-on-one

tutoring. It seems like there was always a kid sitting at the family dining table in the evenings and on weekends, all the way up to mid-2018 when she became too sick to do it any longer. She was lucky enough to do what she loved to do her entire life – teach.

She was a member of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, which she attended with her family for the past 20+ years. She grew up in the Methodist Church and had a strong faith in God. She was the faith driver of the family. You did not miss church, you had to be ready early because the “bus” left the house a half hour before Mass, you were expected to dress up (don’t even think about wearing jeans), and you better not mumble during the Profession of Faith, or leave early.

She loved her kids “to the moon and back”. She loved spending time with her friends and family. She loved spending money on shopping trips, but she was a very disciplined, smart shopper. She loved deals. She had an exquisite fashion sense, helped by her experience working at Lazarus/Macys during her college years. She loved beach vacations, the pool, and her boat. She loved to work in the garden and decorate her house (She also had superb taste in decorating her home.). She loved “Fixer Upper” so much on TV that she did a fixer upper property in real life. She enjoyed a cold beer and drank a glass of red wine for “medicinal purposes” every night before bed. Her favorite saying, which was passed on to her from her mother was, “Life is too short.” - too short to waste time, too short to be mad, too short to hold grudges, too short not to buy the shoes, and too short not to eat the cake.

The family will receive friends at the Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell, 450 W. Olentangy St., Friday, March 15 from 2:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm. A Funeral Mass will be said at 10:00 am Saturday, March 16 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Powell. Burial will follow at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Heidi Walton Steitz Education Foundation, <https://walcom.com/HeidiSteitz> which will be used to support educational programs and scholarships at the schools with which Heidi had a connection.

Special thanks to the many healthcare professionals who helped make Heidi a cancer survivor for the past 17 years. Thanks to the dedicated staff at Ohio Health and the Bing Cancer Center, The James Cancer Hospital, Mount Carmel St. Ann's Hospital, The Zangmeister Cancer Center, and Mount Carmel Hospice. Very special thanks to Dr. Timothy Moore, her oncologist, neighbor and friend. He fought almost as hard as she did. Also special thanks to Teri Walton, Heidi's sister-in-law and "private nurse". Her tireless effort and skills allowed Heidi to be at home most of the last seven months.

Arrangements by Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell, 450 W. Olentangy Street, Powell, Ohio 43065. Please send condolences to [www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 15. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell  
450 West Olentangy Street  
Powell, OH 43065  
(614) 792-1471  
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

## Visitation

MAR 15. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell  
450 West Olentangy Street  
Powell, OH 43065  
(614) 792-1471  
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

## Memorial Mass

MAR 16. 10:00 AM (ET)

St Joan of Arc  
10700 Liberty Rd  
Powell, OH 43065-7681  
(614) 761-0905

# Tribute Wall



“ Heidi Steitz

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ I just found this picture in a box at my parents house and had so many wonderful memories of Mrs. Steitz flood back that I decided to look her up. I'm sorry to hear of her passing. She was one of a kind.

*I'm a 6th grade experiential educator now and she was absolutely influential in getting me here. Blessings to your family.*

*Jenna Grayson  
Olentangy Liberty '06*



Jenna Grayson - April 23, 2021 at 09:09 AM



“ Heidi was one of the first teachers that befriended me when I came to teach at OLMS in 2007. Such a wonderful person and it is reflected in Kenzie and Ben. No doubt it was also reflected by many students she taught. Heidi did brighten the room when she entered. The day got a bit or a lot better. God blessed me with her as a friend, as for many others. We will not forget her and the way she affected us.

Mark Krieger - March 15, 2019 at 11:52 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Heidi Steitz.



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March 14, 2019 at 09:56 PM



“ Cheryl Brenner Hiffman lit a candle in memory of Heidi Steitz



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**Cheryl Brenner Hiffman** - March 14, 2019 at 09:22 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Heidi's passing. I went to school with Heidi at Ostrander and Buckeye Valley. She had a beautiful smile and a wonderful sense of humor. Sending prayers to the family for strength at this time.  
Debbie Barger McCurdy  
B.V. "75" Graduate



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**Deb Barger McCurdy** - March 14, 2019 at 08:49 AM

TD

“ I met Heidi when she was 19 and I was 20, she was so easy to become friends with. There are so many special occasions, vacations and dining out. Heidi was the heart and soul that surrounded all who knew her. Through out the years I had the pleasure of meeting a lot of Heidi’s wonderful family and friends. I was so proud of my friend, when she found the love of her life with Tim and they started their family. Tim, Kenzie and Ben, my heart goes out to all of you. Also to all the Walton, Hogan and Steitz family members. Heidi was a beautiful wife, mom, sister, daughter, aunt and friend. She will always have a special place in my heart. My prayers and thoughts are with you.

With love

Toni (Rieser) Dougherty

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**Toni Dougherty** - March 13, 2019 at 04:13 PM

JD

“ I remember Heidi when she was just a little girl - she lived down the street from my grandparents and then later my mom, sister and I on Thompson Lane. I think I even babysat for her and her sister since her brother was older and doing things at school...beautiful family. Her mom was always so nice to me. She was in my sister’s, Tonja Scott, class and they were good friends. I remember when their dad bought a VW box (box that the VWs came in when shipped to the U. S.) and he made a playhouse out of it - such good childhood memories. She will be missed!

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**JEANENNE (Scott) DICKERSON** - March 13, 2019 at 11:13 AM

O1

“ *Olentangy High School Class of 1995 purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Heidi Steitz.*



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**Olentangy High School Class of 1995** - March 12, 2019 at 10:21 PM

JN

“ *Joe, Lisa, Lauren, Tyler, and Katelyn Nichols purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Heidi Steitz.*



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**Joe, Lisa, Lauren, Tyler, and Katelyn Nichols** - March 12, 2019 at 09:06 PM

SJ

“ *I went to school with Heidi since kindergarten. I remember sleep overs and her wonderful smile. Her family always made you feel welcomed. Last time I saw Heidi was at the last class reunion that I attended and she was still just as beautiful as ever. Her family is in our hearts and prayers. I know she will be missed.*

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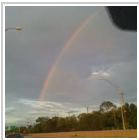
**Sandy Jolliff** - March 12, 2019 at 08:53 PM

KS

“ I just wanted you all to know the joy that Heidi always brought to me. I enjoyed her so much. She was always willing to listen and give advice. She was so funny. I loved seeing her at the pool every summer even when her kids were too old to go. I will miss her dearly. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. She will be greatly missed.

Mrs. Sachtleben

Kelly Sachtleben - March 12, 2019 at 10:28 AM



“ Tonja Cruse lit a candle in memory of Heidi Steitz



Tonja Cruse - March 12, 2019 at 10:12 AM



My sister, Jeanenne and I have known the Walton family for years. What a lovely family. Heidi was a childhood friend. To the Steitz family, I am so very sorry you have to go through this. Thoughts and prayers to you all.

Tonja Cruse - March 12, 2019 at 10:16 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Heidi Steitz.



March 10, 2019 at 09:06 PM

JM

“ *What a beautiful soul. What a wonderful gift. How blessed were we to receive it?* ”

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**Jon Mermann** - March 08, 2019 at 04:43 PM

TM

“ *Love and prayers continue for the family. Heidi's smile was a light to all that knew her.* ”



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**Tammy Mannasmith** - March 08, 2019 at 07:28 AM

ML

“ *I worked with Heidi for many years and every day, no matter the mood I was in when I entered the building, I always felt better after spending time with Heidi. She was just an awesome, positive person and I am grateful to have had the privilege to have been her friend.* ”

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**Matt Longley** - March 07, 2019 at 08:13 AM

CH

“ *Cheryl Brenner Hoffman lit a candle in memory of Heidi Steitz* ”



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**Cheryl Brenner Hoffman** - March 06, 2019 at 08:48 PM

LC

“ We are so unbelievably saddened by the loss of such a wonderful woman who was revered by all who knew her. Heidi touched our family with her gift of education to both our boys. Her spirit was infectious and I can't imagine the world without it. The Cummins family sends our deepest condolences to Tim, Kenzie, and Ben, as well as the rest of her family. We are praying for you all. Much love ... Liz, Bob, Weston and Kevin Cummins

Liz Cummins - March 06, 2019 at 07:02 PM

BP

“ Bev Phillian lit a candle in memory of Heidi Steitz



Bev Phillian - March 06, 2019 at 07:00 PM

DH

“ Deb Curtis Harris lit a candle in memory of Heidi Steitz



Deb Curtis Harris - March 06, 2019 at 05:28 PM

SG

“ It is with heavy heart and tears hearing of Heidi's passing. She was such a fun and energetic lady. We always had such fun when we talked or was together. My heart breaks for Tim, Ben and Kenzie. Sending my love and prayers. - Sheila Geiling.

Sheila Geiling - March 06, 2019 at 04:32 PM

DB

“ *Deb Mc Lead Brenner lit a candle in memory of Heidi Steitz*



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**Deb Mc Lead Brenner** - March 06, 2019 at 03:45 PM

B(

“ *Barbara Ann (Spillman) lit a candle in memory of Heidi Steitz*



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**Barbara Ann (Spillman)** - March 06, 2019 at 01:49 PM

MH

“ *Mrs. Steitz was one of my daughter’s math teachers at Liberty Middle School. She later tutored my daughter in math for several summers and school years. Mrs. Steitz not only helped my daughter to understand math, but helped her to gain confidence in her mathematical abilities. Mrs. Steitz was a wonderful teacher and person. She was such a positive and sweet influence in my daughter’s life. We will always remember Mrs. Steitz with much love.*

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**Marjorie Harris** - March 06, 2019 at 01:48 PM

LJ

“ Heidi was *The Bosse's Daughter that Everyone admired as we shared many laughs and good times together through the years. Being older than Heidi but always enjoyed her smile, her humor, her jokes and her ever lasting beauty, You Were Never Be Forgotten ~ R.I.P. Heidi Walton Steitz*  
*Larry Johnson*

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**Larry Johnson** - March 06, 2019 at 01:30 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Heidi Steitz.*



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March 06, 2019 at 12:45 PM

PD

“ *Heidi and I went to high school together and she was my first roommate! There are a lot of fun memories from being snowed in our apartment in the blizzard of 1978 to all the fun parties and late-night talks. She will be missed by all of us. Been praying for her and her family for a few months now and will continue to pray for her family to get through this hard time.*

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**Pam D'Angelo** - March 06, 2019 at 09:34 AM

SM

*Heidi, Pam and I were roommates for years and had so much fun!! After Heidi and I graduated from college we both lived in condos that shared back yards and I have so many wonderful memories. We went on countless vacations together throughout the years and spoke to each other every day until I moved and we both got married. Heidi's personality was bigger than life and I will always cherish every minute we spent together. She will be so missed. My prayers have been up for her and her family for months and will continue through this incredibly hard time. ❤️❤️*

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**Sherry McCarthy** - March 06, 2019 at 04:43 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Heidi Steitz.*



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March 06, 2019 at 09:27 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Heidi Steitz.*



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March 06, 2019 at 08:29 AM



“ Heidi and I have been friends for 45 years. A true friend in good times and bad, there are so many memories it is hard to pick just one. Fun parties when we were young, dinners and long visits in the last few years and Heidi always worrying that I was okay. Fly high sweet friend. I feel better knowing you are watching over us all. Prayers to Tim, Kenzie & Ben as well as Mike & Teri and family and David & Lee Ann & family.



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**Margi Gundelfinger** - March 05, 2019 at 06:59 PM