



## Kirsten Marie Pepperney

September 12, 1973 - February 19, 2021

Kirsten Marie Leetch Pepperney, at the age of 47 years old, passed away peacefully in her home on Friday evening, February 19, 2021, surrounded by her loving family, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Kirsten was born on September 12, 1973 in Youngstown, Ohio, the daughter of David and Karen (Freeze) Leetch. She married the love of her life, Jeff Pepperney, on July 18, 1998, and together, they raised two beautiful sons, Luke and Mark. Kirsten was a wonderful and beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend. She lived her life full of energy and optimism, and kindness and compassion, and she made a positive impact on every person she ever met.

Kirsten attended St. Dominic Grade School, and then graduated from Cardinal Mooney High School in 1991. In 1996, she graduated from The University of Toledo with her bachelor's degree in Education. Kirsten began her professional career as an Eleventh Grade English Teacher at Trinity Catholic High School in Cleveland, Ohio. She then became a pharmaceutical sales representative, first with Parke-Davis, and then with Pfizer. Ever the gifted educator, she also used to grade standardized tests. Kirsten ultimately left her professional career to fulfill her greatest calling and her proudest accomplishment, which was becoming a mother and raising her two amazing sons with her husband.

Throughout her life, Kirsten loved. She loved her family; she loved her friends;

she loved her dog; she loved to take long walks; she loved to chat (a lot); and, she loved to travel. Her travels took her many places, and some of her favorite trips were to the Florida Keys, Mexico and Iceland. She was also consistently interested in keeping in touch and catching up. She was never too busy for anyone in her life and anyone who crossed her path. She was always more interested in hearing how her friends were doing and finding out what was new, whether it be with their personal lives or with their latest cute shoe purchase, than ever speaking about herself. She wanted to be involved, to help, and to laugh with her friends and family. Kirsten did not let living a few hours away stop her from knowing every single thing that was happening in the lives of the females in her life, as she would call her mom, sister and girlfriends every day during her daily walks. If someone did not pick up the phone, she did not let that stop her either, as she would simply keep calling until they answered. She kept everyone in contact, and she brought so many smiles and so much joy.

Kirsten was also immensely lovable, and people were automatically drawn to her. She garnered many loving nicknames along her way, such as “Kirst”, “Aunt Kirchoo”, “Stein” and “Witz”, all which made her smile. She had, and steadfastly maintained, many friendships, from her high school friends, to college friends, to work friends, to friends from every neighborhood in which she ever lived. She was famous among all who knew her for her beautiful creativity, which was reflected in everything she touched. Her Halloween costumes and “white elephant” gifts went unmatched, and her cooking and baking skills were incredible. Her energy, combined with that creativity, allowed Kirsten to quickly become an expert at everything she tried.

Above all else, the most special, important times to Kirsten were the times she spent with her wonderful husband and sons, from cheering the boys on during their baseball and soccer games and golf matches, to simply all being together as a family. She loved to play games, especially Euchre, with them,

and they all loved watching (and playing) “Jeopardy!” with each other. She especially loved when they all would travel to Youngstown to visit “Grandma and Bubba Pepperney” and “Grammy and Papa Leetch” (and every single other family member or friend with whom Kirsten could possibly work in a visit). Inevitably, Jeff and the boys knew they would have to account for at least one (or more) pit stops each way for Kirsten, as she could never make it a solid three-hour car ride. Also, even throughout everything she had been through with her illness, she never stopped mothering. At her sons’ current ages of 16 and 19 years old, she would still continuously “remind” them to “brush your teeth!” There are countless of these sweet little “mom moments” that will be so greatly missed, but are forever etched in our hearts and will always be remembered with smiles and warmth and love.

Kirsten leaves to cherish her memory, her loving husband of 22 years, Jeff Pepperney, and their two wonderful sons, Luke (19) and Mark (16), all of Powell; her paternal grandfather, Albert “Jack” Leetch of New Middletown; her maternal grandfather, Robert “Bob” Freeze of Boardman; her parents, David and Karen Leetch of Canfield; her sister, Mary Pat (Bo) Pelini of Canfield; her brother, Ryan Leetch (Travis Larchuk) of Brooklyn, New York; her and father-and mother-in-law, Jim and Jeanne Pepperney of Canfield; her in-laws, Jimmy (Christy) Pepperney of Poland, and Jennifer (John) Matyasovsky of New Wilmington, Pennsylvania; her nieces and nephews whom she adored, Patrick, Kate and Caralyn Pelini, Lauren, A.J. and Jack Pepperney, and Mary and Will Matyasovsky; her beloved pup, Wrigley; and, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, other family members and friends.

Kirsten will be forever missed and remembered as she was the light, the joy and the inspiration to all who knew her.

The family would like to thank the dedicated doctors, nurses and support staff

at The Ohio State James Cancer Center, The Martha Morehouse and Ohio Health Hospice for their loving care and support. The family will be forever grateful to the kindness you showed Kirsten during her illness.

Memorial contributions may be made in Kirsten's memory to Golden Endings Golden Retriever Rescue at [www.goldenendingsrescue.com](http://www.goldenendingsrescue.com) or to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network at [pancan.org](http://pancan.org).

Professional arrangements were handled by the Rutherford Funeral Home and private family services were held in Kirsten's memory.

\*\*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul, and the souls of all of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen\*\*

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kirsten Marie Pepperney*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Dave, Karen, Jeff and Family,*

*Anna Jeanne and I are very sorry to learn of your loss. How many ways can we express our sympathy. We will say that we grieve with you. Kristen and all of you are in our prayers. We believe that she is now resting in peace with God. May God bless her soul and may God bless you and your family.*

*Sorrowfully,*

*Marty and Anna Jeanne Conti*

Martin A. Conti - February 26, 2021 at 12:16 PM



“ *Karen and Dave, you have been on my mind ever since you shared with me that Kirsten was losing her battle with cancer. Soon after, Bobby sent me a message that she had passed away. As I mentioned to Bobby, I cannot imagine how anyone bears the loss of their child. Our hearts ache for you. Her obituary truly painted a picture of the wonderful and loving young lady who will be missed by so, so many people who were blessed to know her. Taking all that was written about your sweet daughter to heart should bring you comfort. I pray you find that comfort in your faith in God's promise. Wishing that the two of you, and Kirsten's husband and sons find the strength to get you through this difficult time in your lives. Cathy & Cliff Lewis*

Cathy & Cliff Lewis - February 24, 2021 at 09:02 PM

TN

“ Jeff & family,  
Sending our deepest sympathy to your family at this terrible time.  
What a beautiful young woman! Keeping you in our thoughts &  
prayers.  
God bless,  
Gus & Theresa Nemenz

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**Theresa Nemenz** - February 23, 2021 at 07:57 PM

LN

“ Dear Karen and Dave,  
  
We are so sorry for your loss; so sorry for this heartache. May fond  
memories of Kirsten be a source of comfort during this sorryful time.  
May the angels welcome Kirsten and have Our Lord mercy on her  
soul.

With deepest sympathies,

The Nuzzie Family

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**Lewis Nuzzie** - February 23, 2021 at 06:28 PM

KG

“ Sounds like a wonderful lady! Prayers to all the family!

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**kimberly Gammon** - February 23, 2021 at 02:09 PM

LI

Sorry for your loss

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**Linda** - February 23, 2021 at 04:39 PM

BA

*Dave & Karen  
There are no words....  
Prayers  
Bill & Sue*

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**Bill Ahlswede** - February 23, 2021 at 09:14 PM

BA

*There are no words....  
Prayers*

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**Bill Ahlswede** - February 23, 2021 at 09:15 PM


CN

“ *I was so sorry to hear about Kirsten passing. My heart breaks for all of you. I will keep you all in my prayers. Colleen Needham*

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**Colleen Needham** - February 23, 2021 at 08:55 AM

SB

“ *Kirsten was one of a kind!  
She will be missed* 

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**Sharon Baker** - February 23, 2021 at 08:20 AM

LM

“ *Dave and Karen, there are no words to say how very sorry I am for your loss of your beautiful daughter. Every time I was around Kirsten she was always so sweet and lovely. God bless your family, I'll keep you in my prayers. Love Linda Jones masi*

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**linda masi** - February 22, 2021 at 09:31 PM

RE

“ Jeff, Luke, Mark and family, I'm heartbroken over the loss of Kirsten. We met years ago when Luke and Aiden played sports together, bonding over our shared love of books and our dogs. We both loved taking long walks and we'd talk usually on the phone throughout our walks about what we were reading or wanted to read, how crazy we were about our dogs and of course our boys. I will never forget the times Kirsten called and said I HAD to read a certain book and she was dropping it off at my house asap:) I'll forever miss her, sending hugs to you all.

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**renee** - February 22, 2021 at 05:58 PM

DZ

“ I will always remember her from the St. Doms, Mooney school days. That warm smile! My deepest sympathy to all of you. My love and prayers. Darlene Zordich

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**darlene zordich** - February 22, 2021 at 04:29 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kirsten Marie Pepperney.



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February 22, 2021 at 03:28 PM

JD

“ *Jeff and family. My heart breaks after hearing this. Kirsten was such a caring and loving person. I am lost for words, but want you all to know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Sending you all my deepest condolences.*

*Jay Dobkowski*

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**Jay Dobkowski** - February 22, 2021 at 02:07 PM