



Sandra Hau

February 17, 1960 - July 4, 2009

Sandra Nora Kobelt Hau, age 49 of Fort Collins, CO passed peacefully on July 4th, at home, surrounded by her family, after a courageous fight with adrenal cancer. A memorial service will be held on July 12th, at two o'clock, at the Drake Centre, 802 West Drake Road, in Fort Collins, CO. Born on February 17, 1960 in Scarsdale, New York, Sandy was the third of four children of Werner and Nora Kobelt. As a child, her profound love for animals quickly translated into a passion for horses. An accomplished equestrian jumper, Sandy thrived in the horse world, a natural place for her to share her boundless supply of love and compassion. Graduating from Scarsdale High School in 1978, she followed her interest in the animal kingdom to Colorado State University in Fort Collins. There, she excelled in the esteemed pre-veterinary medicine program, pursuing a large animal veterinary medical career. Ultimately, however, her calling was to be found in motherhood. She married Craig Hau on May 29, 1982 in Larchmont, NY, and together they built a family of five children. She was a naturally gifted mother and homemaker, the paragon of love, kindness, dedication, and devotion to her children. Raising three boys and two girls all within six years of each other was a Herculean task that could not have been bestowed on a more gracious and welcoming recipient. As her children grew up in the Fort Collins community, Sandy emerged as one of the leading supporters of youth sports—high school basketball, field hockey, soccer, and softball, and, in particular, the youth hockey programs. Sandy was recently recognized and celebrated at the Budweiser Center for her ongoing commitment and contributions to youth hockey in Colorado. She proudly dropped the ceremonial first puck in the presence of nearly 5,000 adoring fans and family, including the boys, who were representing the CSU hockey team. Sandy's volunteerism did not stop at the ice arena. Her elaborate themes for high school prom, decorations for sporting events, and her endless hours of fundraising made her an integral part of the Fort Collins community. She was always the first one to raise her hand when a job needed to be done. Her example of how to be a true citizen has been an inspiration to all of us. Sandy was not only a spectator of sports, but an avid participant. She loved skiing the mountains of Colorado, golfing the city courses, and competing in her weekly tennis group. Sandy's love of children and animals also extended into nature-- in her gardens, the mountains, and the oceans. Her home is well known and admired for her extensive gardens, the

inviting waterfalls teeming with birds-- a neighborhood sanctuary where friends and family gathered for meals, often times outnumbered by family dogs. One of Sandy's very favorite places was on the Atlantic Ocean and the timeless beaches of Cape Cod. Her home is filled with paintings of rustic lighthouses, flocks of sea gulls chasing fishing trawlers, and harbor seals bobbing effortlessly in the ocean swells. Sandy faced her recent challenges with courage, pride, dignity, and a stoic perseverance that is rare. Specifically, she traveled to India to help impoverished children with her Aunt Hanny, as well as hiked Long's Peak with her son AJ, all while remaining fiercely determined to provide a loving and welcoming home to her children. Her strength and grace under adversity will remain with all who loved her. Sandy is survived by her five children, Chris, Heather, A.J., Brad, and Brittany, all of Fort Collins; her mother and father, Werner and Nora Kobelt of White Plains, NY; her brother Arnold Kobelt (and family) of Rye, NY; her sister Brenda Rice (and family) of Winchester, MA; and her brother Peter Kobelt (and family) of Whitefish, MT. She is also survived by 13 adoring nieces and nephews, as well as 6 great nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Sandra Kobelt Hau Memorial Foundation. The foundation will be committed to enhancing the lives of others in the spirit of Sandy's passion for youth sports on both the local and state levels, as well as her love of the arts. (The Sandra Kobelt Hau Memorial Foundation, c/o Brownstein Hyatt Farber Sehreck LLC, Attn: Timothy J. Gilmore, 410 17th St., Ste 2200, Denver, CO 80202).

Comments



“ To all who have been touched by my sister's life - we appreciate your stories and kind words. She will remain in our hearts forever and her spirit is within our reach. I miss her terribly but always gain strength when I look up and can sense what she would say to me during these dark times. I love her always.

Brenda Kobelt Rice - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Sandra and I became friends in 3rd grade. She, Alison and I were inseparable from age 8 until 13.
I wanted her long silky hair - mine was curly and un-silky. We took dance at Steffi Nossan, had sleepovers most weekends, and laughed and laughed.
I didn't even know that Sandra was sick and that makes me sad. I would have liked to have reconnected.
Our lives took us to different parts of the country, we never met each others children or husbands, but it sounds like we ultimately had much in common - sports, the outdoors - hockey and skiing and coming west.
My heart goes out to Nora and Werner, Brenda, Arnold (she said "Ornold"), Wiggles, her husband and children. She was very strong - I bet you are too.

Karen (Weiner) Rich - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Sandra and I were inseparable from the time we were in kindergarten through our second year of high school when we drifted away a bit but always remained friendly.

All of my childhood memories surround my best friend and partner in crime. More interested in horses than boys, we'd dress our barbies up in pants and find whatever toy horses were around to have our dolls ride them and pretend they were in horse shows. Sandra was the first sleep over my parents let me have and I remember not sleeping a wink but staying up and talking all night about horses and riding and things little girls dream of.

I can see Sandra's room so clearly in my mind's eye, where we'd play for hours and hours and spy on Brenda whose room was attached by a shared bathroom. times. I remember her nick name for her "little brother" Peter was Wiggles and having a huge crush on the shy but handsome Arnold. I spent so much time at the Kobalt home, Nora had me join Sandra in chores.

I remember the breakfasts and my discovery of the first lazy Susan at their kitchen table. Nora and Sandra taught me to ice skate and I have tons of memories of our skating together at the rink they created at Cross Roads Field, always hand in hand with our long braids lapping behind our backs.

I could go on and on and perhaps will again visit this tribute page--but I am in such shock at having just moments ago learned of this news from a former Quaker Ridge school mate and childhood friend.

I will see if I can find old photos of us as kids to send to the Hau family.

I am so grateful to have connected with Sandra at our 20th HS reunion and had no idea of her illness.

I am so sorry for her loss and am not at all surprised to have read about what an amazing woman, mother, wife, community leader, volunteer and activist she was...she embodied a lot of those traits when we were young.

Holding the family and friends in my prayers and heart.

Alison Roth

Alison Roth - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To Sandy’s family,
I remember growing up with Sandy in Scarsdale, at the very beginning, it around first or second grade in Quaker Ridge School, and we were neighbors. Back then, QRS was unique in town as we were all together from K-through-8th grade, where as others went to (then) Junior High School. As a result, the bond among us all, was always, and still is, something stronger than typical. I always liked Sandra Kobelt, and we were friends as kids.

Your mom, and wife, as a child was always one of the kindest, nicest girls I remember. Even though we all went our separate ways in Scarsdale High School, in search of our own identities to be, Sandy was always centered, and confident in herself, without having to prove anything to anyone.

When she returned for our re-union, maybe it was our 25th, and told me she had a wonderful loving family of five children in Colorado, she was so blessed with love inside. Some come to these things seeking affirmation for recognition of some external achievement, but, for Sandy, it was internal, in her heart, from the fulfillment she felt, and the love she gave and received from her family.

I am sure there was never a day that went by that she did not do something special for her family that shared that love. And to her children, always carry that love of your mom in your heart; that would be the greatest tribute you can make to your memory of her every day of your lives.

Michael Iver - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Sorry for your loss, Sandy will be missed. Our prayers are with all of you. God bless.

Rick & Penny Wilcox - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Kobelt Family,
I send my deepest sympathy on the loss of your beloved daughter and sister. She sounds like she grew up to be an incredible human being full of warmth, generosity and a lot of energy. I only knew her through Brenda but remember that she was tall and gorgeous as an eleven year old. My heart breaks for all of you and for her husband and children. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and them during this difficult time. I know how much you will miss her.

Lovingly,
Diane

Diane Durning Wolinsky - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I knew Sandy through life insurance business and also our sons were in the same class at Kruse. I was impressed how a mother of 5 could budget her time to help out so much with her children's school social functions. My last keen recollection was one summer evening when she explained to my wife and me her landscaping plans for the front yard. I knew- privately-that Sandy had serious cancer and marvelled that this lady could contemplate a project like this with such a dark cloud overhead her life. The results are beautiful and I will always associate Sandy with that lovely first impression of her home of many years. I am sure she leaves many similar positive impressions on all who know and miss her. Harland

July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Sandy Hau was an amazing person and it was an honor to have been able to meet her. Her death is a great loss to all the people she has touched with her strength and wonderful personality. Sandy we will miss you, your smile and how you keep everyone organized.

Craig, Heather, Chris, AJ, Brad & Brittany our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Brian Sutton & Family - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Chris, Heather, Brad, AJ, and Brittany,
We are so sad to hear of the loss of your mother Sandy. We remember Sandy being full of energy and compassion and always smiling. Sandy was the most organized person I ever knew which was a plus for those of us helping to plan for the hockey teams' many events and trips. She was always someone you could count on to raise her hand and volunteer for that task no one else wanted. Sandy had such a positive perspective that I found myself making many trips to Breakwater when I would get terribly discouraged during my stint as "team Mom" when things were not going well. After a talk with Sandy I left energized and ready to go again.
Sandy was definitely the heartbeat of the Hau home. She could keep everything organized from her little desk in the kitchen and could give you any information you needed in an instant. She managed ALL the activities of the Hau kids (and that was a lot!) with an ease that I envied. She was willing and so capable to be on the planning and organizational end of all those activities and make them happen and she enjoyed every minute of it.
Sandy found pure joy in her life with her family and is so much responsible for the wonderful young people that you are today. What better reward in life but to be the very best at whatever we choose to be. Sandy was just that, the very best mother making a wonderful homelife for her children.
We will all miss her. We loved her too!

Kreykes Family - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I don't know what I can say for Sandy and her wonderful family. She was a mother to 5 amazing children who are as busy as anyone I've ever known. She was always the mom that was at every game, every event, and still had the time to have everyone over at the house after. Sandy was not only a mom, but managed the entire hockey team. She adopted 20 guys as her own and I think that everyone would agree that Sandy was everyone's other mom. She was a wonderful woman, and will be dearly missed. My prayers are with you.

Todd Kreykes - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I was privileged to go on a hockey trip to Canada many years ago with A.J. & Brad and get to know them. I later worked briefly with Sandy while scheduling for the HPHL. She was a wonderful woman. The Colorado hockey community mourns her loss. My personal condolences to her children.

Brenda Rawal - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Words can never describe what a special person Sandy was. Her dedication to her family and to youth hockey was second to none. She always had a smile and was such a positive influence on every person she came in contact with.

My thoughts and prayers are with the whole family. To the kids, please celebrate what a terrific person your mother was and how she made everyone feel important.

God Bless!
Angelo

Angelo Ricci - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Chris, Heather, AJ, Brad, and Brittany,
Your mom was truly a gift to all of us and we were honored to have spent time with her. She knew exactly how to make people feel welcome with her smile that never ended. I've never met a more gracious giver or someone that was so eager to volunteer. There was never a job too big for Sandy. She was a special person that took everyone under her wing. We will miss her smiling face and that team spirit she brought to every CSU hockey game.
Sandy Hau will always be remembered as the "Ultimate Team Mom"
Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

The McQuinn Family - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ We are so sorry to hear of Sandy's passing. It was remarkable how she carried on and supported not just her boys, but an entire team throughout her illness. It was our privilege to have known her. Our prayers will go out to your family in this difficult time.

Martin Cella - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Sandra will be remembered for her courage to live life to the fullest despite her imperfect health. She has left a legacy of five wonderful children.

Anne & Alec Forbes - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I was one of the lucky ones who played on a tennis team with SANDY. If not I would never have known this beautiful woman. I am so sad for her family and our community. A picture I will remember is seeing her at Outback for a family birthday surrounded by children and the joy on her face. She left too soon. She gave so

much . How many like Sandy are taken away too early. My thoughts and prayers are with her loved ones.

Paula Sacks - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To a wonderful family that I grew up with and shared many warm memories. Our hearts go out to you all in this time of loss. Losing a mother, sibling or daughter hurts to the core. Surround yourselves with the memories and love that I know everyone has for you.

Always think about you, Brenda.

Love,

Maryann and family

Maryann fink Gilwit - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Hau Family, Words hardly seem adequate to express how truly wonderful your mom was. When we think of Sandy we think of her fun-loving spirit, compassion, athletic ability, kindness, charitable personality, charisma, style, and charm. But we believe the best word that comes to mind is grace. No matter what she was doing, whether setting up for the After Prom or helping with a softball dinner she did it with grace. She was always devoted to every project she was working on and you could see the jubilation in her face as she worked.

It seemed like she always had a smile on her face. She made people feel like they were more than just acquaintances but good friends - even if they had only known her for a short period of time.

Her adoration for her children was evident in everything she did. The joy in her eyes glimmered with pride when she spoke of her family. We know that you will remember many special things about your mom and the great lessons she has taught you. We just wish your time had not been cut short but know that you kids are a testament of what a lovely lady Sandy was. For the rest of us she is the person we try to measure up to. She set the bar high for us as a parent, spouse, sibling, neighbor or friend. We feel truly blessed to have known such a wonderful friend. God bless you all. Love,
Shawna, Tim, Katie & Abby Smeltzer

Shawna & Tim Smeltzer - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Chris, Heather, AJ, Brad, and Brittany,

My deepest sympathy goes to you and each member of your family in this time of terrible sorrow. I admired your Mother more than I could ever express. I am hopeful

that while your family grows closer into itself, you'll realize that your Mother's spirit will help sustain all of you as you move forward with your lives. Your Mother was so special to our family. She was also a favorite with everyone in the local hockey community with whom she came in contact. I will always hold onto the greatest memories of being around your Mother at EPIC and on the countless number of road trips that we shared. She was quite simply "the best of the best."

Eric Sunness - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Our Family will miss Sandy in so many ways but know that the legacy she has left in five great children will carry on in legendary tradition as it should. We were part of the hockey community that Sandy helped nurture and grow not just in Fort Collins but in Colorado and across the country. We were always amazed at how many folks knew and loved Sandy at hockey tournaments in Indiana, Michigan, New York, Nebraska, California - everywhere. Her love of the game and everyone who was associated with it with help it continue to grow and thrive. The community of Fort Collins and the State of Colorado thanks Sandy and her family for all they have done for youth sports and the arts. She was one of a kind!

With much love to the family and many fond memories,
The Gilmore Family - BJ, Tim, Erin, Sean and Brian

The Gilmore Family - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I met Sandy 9 years ago, shortly after I moved here. Sara grew up at the Rink the boys played at. For the past several years Sara and I have scorekept many hockey games in which the boys have played in. Sandy gave the impression to me, and I think this can be confirmed by all who knew her, that watching her children do something they loved to do was her favorite past time. Every time I saw her at the rink she had a smile that could light up the world. We'd chit chat, and inevitably she would have to cut the conversation short so she could get to Brad's hockey game, or AJ's. Or she would be going to watch Heather and Brittany. I would see her at the rink on weekday nights to watch Chris play adult league...She loved and continues to love her children. But to stop here would just not do Sandy justice....Sandy's family extended well beyond her 5 children. When you met Sandy and got to know her, you became part of her family, and she became part of yours. I was talking to a friend last night about Sandy and he told me something very profound and true that his son said about her. He said that Sandy, whether its been days, weeks, months, years, or even hours since you last saw her, she'd give you that warm, genuine smile and make you feel like she hadn't seen you in ages. I'm not a religious person by any means but I believe that, if there is a god, his hockey team needed a hockey mom, so he found the only suitable candidate for the job. Sandy, Sara and I love you and will miss you dearly. To Chris, Heather, AJ, Brad, Brittany: Thank you for sharing your mother with the world. We are all truly blessed to have know such a wonderful, loving, passionate person. I look at you all and see so much of your mother. To the rest of Sandy's vast "extended family": Live every day, cuz you don't know when the

ride will stop. We Love You.

Sara & Jeremy Dawson - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Chris, Heather, AJ, Brad and Brittany. Your mom was an amazing lady and our sports-minded kids and ourselves benefitted from you Mother's energy and charity. She always had a smile on her face and a project to work.

One of my favorite stories which I retell often is when Sandy and I became human torches as a result of a botched effort by a waiter to make Cherries Jubilee. It turned out "Sandy and Mark flambe'. She had a great capacity to laugh and she loved you as kids and young men and women. You are in our prayers. Mark and Jenny

Mark and Jenny Soukup - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Hau Family,
We enjoyed your mother in our community.
We will miss seeing her and Heather taking a canoe boat ride on Warren Lake. She always had a smile and enthusiasm for life. We enjoyed hearing about Heather (Adam's age) and her new life goals; soccer playing, schooling and jobs. We watched her beautiful flower garden in her front yard take on life. We always enjoyed the flags coming out during the Olympic Tournaments. We loved seeing her in her new sports car and playing golf; enjoying life. We will miss Sandra's beautiful smile , her information re: her children (her life's greatest work), and the energy she gave to make Fort Collins, CO a better place to live.
Much love,
Sharyn, Larry, and Adam Salmen-neighbors

Sharyn & Larry Salmen - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Brittany, Heather and Hau Family,

We share in your tremendous sense of loss from your Mom's death. We know she was a fighter until the very end - true to her own athletic abilities, courage and determination - and we are still amazed at how she defied her first bout of cancer many years ago. Her ability to confront this disease was an inspiration to many of us.

We will always remember her as one of the energetic soccer and basketball Moms, and coaches, who supported not only you, but many of your classmates and teammates on the fields and courts in Fort Collins. Her legacy lives on everytime one of you or your former teammates participates in an athletic event. As the Rudyard

Kipling poem says, "she filled the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run."

Bill, Sue, Maggie and the Doe Family

The Doe Family - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ So very sorry for your loss.....I will always remember your Mom's smile. Her enthusiasm & energy were contagious especially at hockey games! Cherish your wonderful memories, she will be forever in your hearts. I feel blessed to have known someone so very special, she will never be forgotten.

Pauline M. Morrow - July 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM