



Susan M. Shapek

October 5, 2023

Susan Mary Shapek of Bellvue, Colorado, passed away in her beautiful mountain home on Thursday, October 5, 2023.

Susan was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on March 29, 1963 to Fred and Shirley Kubes. As a young child, her family moved around the country, where she was able to see many wondrous parts of the west. In 1972, the Kubes family planted their roots and settled on a beautiful spread of 40 acres, where they built a log home in the Ninemile Valley (Huson, Montana). It was there that they raised cattle, horses, pigs, rabbits and put up hay. Susan would later say that growing up out there made her a strong and determined woman, which she was!

As a young girl, Susan developed a true passion for horses! She loved to ride around their place and up to Kreis Pond, where she enjoyed swimming with her horse. Loving the thrill and the wind in her hair, she turned her passion into a sport, competing in local O-Mok-See/gymkhana competitions with her beloved bay horse Slipper. When she pulled up with her horse trailer, the competitors knew the competition had officially arrived and she had boxes of ribbons to show for it.

Susan went on to nursing school, attending Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana and finished her degree at Dominican University of

California- located in San Rafael. Upon graduation, she took her first nursing (RN) position at Children's Hospital, where she worked in the NICU/PICU (Neonatal/Pediatric Intensive Care Unit). In her 30+ years as a Registered Nurse, she wore many hats; Labor & Delivery Nurse, Nurse Manager, House Supervisor, and even worked at the Denver County Jail. Susan was a very bright woman and a true leader, with the ability to think on her feet- she was admired by many in her profession.

She had an adventurous spirit and a zest for life, which led her to have a wide variety of hobbies over her lifetime; gymkhana, sky diving, scuba diving, ballroom dancing, downhill skiing, golfing, dirt bike riding at the track, rollercoaster enthusiast and world-traveler to name a few. As a person with a true passion for cooking and entertaining throughout her life, she especially loved Christmas and everything it encompassed. She looked forward to the big, beautiful tree with all of the special ornaments that were collected through the years-she was very sentimental. On Christmas Eve, she always set out relish trays containing olives, pickles, brie cheese and crackers, along with mugs of mulled cider, festive cocktails and Christmas cookies for all to enjoy. Both the Roger Whittaker and Manheim Steamroller Christmas Albums would be playing on repeat and she believed Jingle Bells should be a song sung year-round- which she did!

Susan had a generous heart, a beautiful smile and a contagious laugh. She was deeply loved and will be greatly missed.

"Go rest high on that mountain
Your work on earth is done
Go to heaven a-shoutin'
Love for the Father and the Son" -Vince Gill

Susan is survived by her husband, Tony Shapek, daughters Misty Davis,

Micayla Cryer, her son James Cryer; granddaughter Sidney Davis; mother Shirley Magstadt; sisters Dawn Corey (Clark), Terry Wylie (Roger) and Jackie Murphy (Doug).

She was preceded in death by son Andrew Cryer, father Fred Kubes and stepfather Robert Magstadt.

Tribute Wall



“ *I loved working with Susan. She was so kind, intelligent and always seemed so joyful. I am shocked to hear of her passing.*

Ruth Lee - December 12, 2023 at 06:27 PM



Marsha
Coulter

“ *Susan was a wonderful nurse to work with and really enjoyed talking to her when I could.*

Marsha Coulter - December 04, 2023 at 04:41 PM



“ *Susan was a true original. She was my best friend for 20 years. We had grand adventures both in and out of the hospital. She always made me laugh. Her passing was a great shock to me. I had been texting with just days before her death. There is now a huge hole in my heart and my life that was Susan. She will be remembered always.*

Val Hobbs - November 28, 2023 at 03:05 PM



“ Still hard to believe you are gone, mom. 🍷 So many great memories of road trips- singing along with the Garth Brooks Greatest Hits CD, getting on every rollercoaster in the park, trips to Disney Land, skiing the slopes of Steamboat Springs...all the endless adventures down the coast of California and even working together at Doctors' Hospital in Texas. Your passing has flooded my mind with 39 years of memories. You were so loved and will be forever missed.



Misty Davis - October 20, 2023 at 03:14 PM

JC

“ She was my biggest supporter in my motocross and paintball competitions. We had a lot of incredible family dinners where we would challenge ourselves; always trying to beat the last meal. She was able to learn BBQ like no one I've ever known.



James Cryer - October 14, 2023 at 11:54 PM

JM

I only go to know Susan through online work with UCH. We connected with shared work highs and lows. I had said lets get together you are one of my people, she laughed, said I have not left being up at my home for however long it had been ! I long to discuss Montana with her, I having lived for a brief amount of time near Kalispell, rode horses as a kid. My condolences to her family, she was a wonderful spirit .

Jenifer Boise Matthews - October 17, 2023 at 09:13 AM

PM

I had the pleasure of working with Susan at West Pines. I can attest to her BBQ skills and was sometimes a Guinee Pig for her test runs... I never complained! Her BBQ seasoning rub creations, the chex mix secret seasoning.. all of it. She was a master of her craft in whatever she did! Saddened to hear about her passing and I know how close she was with her family and friends, my condolences. Susan was so different than myself but the admiration and opportunity she gave me to learn from her is something I think I'll always carry with me. Susan was a special person and I was lucky to have the chance to work with her.

Patrick Minaghan - November 29, 2023 at 07:18 PM