



## Emilee Elizabeth Rivera

April 30, 1995 - July 28, 2024

Rivera, Emilee Elizabeth (nee Smith), of Kirkwood, Missouri, was born April 30, 1995 in Magnolia, Arkansas to Douglas and Kandi (nee Hitt) Smith and entered into rest Sunday, July 28, 2024 in St. Louis, Missouri at the age of 29 years.

She is survived by her loving husband; Rodolfo “Rudy” Rivera, her two (2) children; Luca Rivera and Posie Rivera, her parents; Doug and Kandi (nee Hitt) Smith, and her two (2) siblings; Bennett (Elizabeth) Smith and Olivia Smith, along with numerous other extended family and friends.

Emilee was a loving wife, devoted mother, beloved daughter and sister. She cherished her family deeply. She so dearly loved her two children, Luca and Posie who were her entire world. She was the best mother spending every waking moment caring for them, making sure that they had every need met. And that love was equally returned by her children.

A woman full of life, Emilee was known for her positivity and infectious smile. Independent and strong, she and her husband shared a beautiful love story as college sweethearts. Emilee was a member of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority and maintained close bonds with her sorority sisters long after their college days.

Emilee’s passions were many and varied. She loved music and movies, was

an enthusiastic foodie, and had an insatiable love for travel. Her passion for travel became her career as a travel consultant, where she helped others experience the joy of exploring new places.

She found joy in the simple pleasures of life, like rainy days, taking walks, going to the park, ice cream, and a good fountain soda. She always saw the bright side, finding beauty in every moment.

Her memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew her and loved her. She will be deeply missed but forever remembered for the light she brought into the world.

Visitation will be held on Monday, August 5, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at CHAPEL HILL MORTUARY, 10301 Big Bend Road, Kirkwood, Missouri 63122. Funeral Ceremony will be held on Monday, August 5, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at Chapel Hill Mortuary in Kirkwood, Missouri. Interment will immediately follow at Oak Hill Cemetery in Kirkwood, Missouri.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made on behalf of Emilee Rivera to Autism Speaks at <https://act.autismspeaks.org/>.

Family and friends can review and share stories, photos and condolences online at [www.stlfuneral.com](http://www.stlfuneral.com) and follow details of this event and others in the community at [www.facebook.com/stlchapelhill](http://www.facebook.com/stlchapelhill).

# Cemetery Details

## Chapel Hill Mortuary - Kirkwood

10301 Big Bend Road  
Kirkwood, MO 63122  
(314) 965-8228  
info@stlfuneral.com  
<https://www.stlfuneral.com>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 5. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Chapel Hill Mortuary - Kirkwood  
10301 Big Bend Road  
Kirkwood, MO 63122  
(314) 965-8228  
info@stlfuneral.com  
<https://www.stlfuneral.com>

## Funeral Service

AUG 5. 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM (CT)

Chapel Hill Mortuary - Kirkwood  
10301 Big Bend Road  
Kirkwood, MO 63122  
(314) 965-8228  
info@stlfuneral.com  
<https://www.stlfuneral.com>

## Graveside Service

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AUG 5. 2:45 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Chapel Hill Mortuary - Kirkwood  
10301 Big Bend Road  
Kirkwood, MO 63122  
(314) 965-8228  
info@stlfuneral.com  
<https://www.stlfuneral.com>

# Tribute Wall

MT

“ Mady, Allie, Chelsey, Katie, The Twins purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Emilee Elizabeth Rivera.



Mady, Allie, Chelsey, Katie, The Twins - August 05, 2024 at 01:33 AM

MT

“ Mady, Allie, Chelsey, Katie, The Twins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Emilee Elizabeth Rivera.

Mady, Allie, Chelsey, Katie, The Twins - August 05, 2024 at 01:33 AM

A'

“ Alpha Xi Delta Pledge Class '16 purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Emilee Elizabeth Rivera.



Alpha Xi Delta Pledge Class '16 - August 04, 2024 at 12:11 PM

KQ

“ Maria, Rudy, Rudy, Jr., Diego my heart is so heavy with sorrow for the ending of such a sweet and wonderful mother. We will see you on Monday. Remember our hearts will be always with you.

Karen Quinones-Aponte - August 03, 2024 at 12:20 PM



“ Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Emilee Elizabeth Rivera.



August 03, 2024 at 11:47 AM



“ Amanda, Candi, Jodie, and Jennie purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Emilee Elizabeth Rivera.



Amanda, Candi, Jodie, and Jennie - August 02, 2024 at 08:48 PM



“ Bruce & Tami Underwood Matthew & Amanda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Emilee Elizabeth Rivera.

Bruce & Tami Underwood Matthew & Amanda - August 02, 2024 at 04:05 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Emilee Elizabeth Rivera.



August 02, 2024 at 04:05 PM

BR

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Brenda Rhodes** - August 02, 2024 at 03:31 PM

BR

“ Sweet smiling Emilee.

*You have always been a bright shining star  
and a delight to all that knew you!*

*I remember one Christmas, I had said something to your Poppy and  
called him J.L. He didn't pay attention and you yelled J.L. - Aunt  
Bee is talking to you!*

*You are an angel now, fly high!*

*I Love You!*



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**Brenda Rhodes** - August 02, 2024 at 02:38 PM

NR

“ *I am absolutely heartbroken of Emilee's passing. Rest in peace in  
God's loving arms sweet angel. Condolances to her family and  
friends.*

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**Neysa E. Rosario** - August 02, 2024 at 01:39 PM

NR

“ *Neysa Rosario and Tony & Joyce Rosario purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Emilee Elizabeth Rivera.*



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**Neysa Rosario and Tony & Joyce Rosario** - August 02, 2024  
at 01:14 PM



“ *Emmy was such a bright light in this world. I'll always remember playing dolls when we were little and how even then it was so obvious she was born to be a mama. Seeing her live her life to the fullest was such an inspiration. That thousand watt smile of hers stood out in every photo and room she was in. It's just not fair that such a beautiful soul inside and out was taken far too soon. I'll remember her kind, gentle spirit everywhere I go, for it is so rare to find people with such a pure heart with nothing but love to give. She will be so missed. Rest easy Emmy, we love you.*



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**Stephanie Rhodes** - August 02, 2024 at 12:48 PM

BH

“ *Doug and Kandi: So, so sorry. I cannot imagine the pain you are experiencing right now. My sympathy and prayers will be with you through this difficult time.*  
*God bless you both. Bob Hency*

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**Bob Hency** - August 02, 2024 at 11:13 AM

UF

“ USA Mortgage friends and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Emilee Elizabeth Rivera.

USA Mortgage friends and Family - August 02, 2024 at 11:02 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Emilee Elizabeth Rivera.



August 02, 2024 at 11:02 AM

PB

“ Paige Bruce planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Emilee Elizabeth Rivera.

Paige Bruce - August 02, 2024 at 10:03 AM



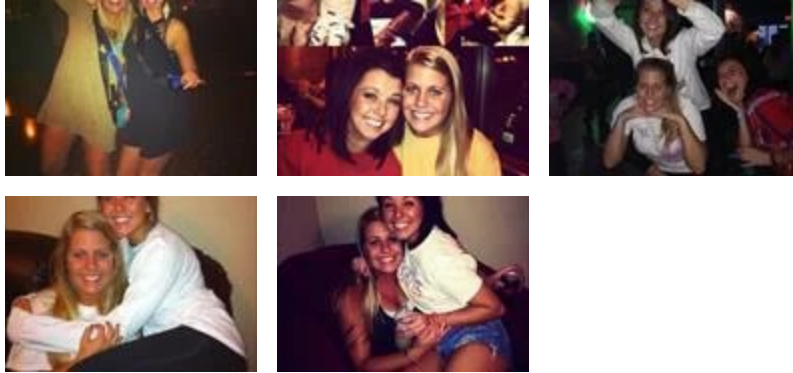
“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Emilee Elizabeth Rivera.



August 02, 2024 at 10:03 AM

JP

“ *Emilee was my shining light at SEMO. We were inseparable. She was my person through my college years & for that I’m forever thankful. I’ll hold these memories close to my heart for the rest of my life. I am praying so hard & sending all the strength I have to Rudy & her sweet kids, her family, Kendal, Carolyn & the rest of the Ellis girls. A piece of my heart will forever be broken.* ”



jena preiss - August 02, 2024 at 08:24 AM

ED

“ *Another of my favorites.* ”



Emily Davidson - August 02, 2024 at 07:58 AM

ED

“ ”



Emily Davidson - August 01, 2024 at 11:14 PM

ED

“ *Em—you were always smiling. I don’t have many words, but that is something you have had an impact upon everyone you’ve encountered. Your smile. It truly could light up the entire room. I love you.* □



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**Emily Davidson** - August 01, 2024 at 11:12 PM

ES

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Emma Snyder** - August 01, 2024 at 10:55 PM

ES

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Emma Snyder** - August 01, 2024 at 10:41 PM

BT

“ Brenna, Ellen, Karly, Nicole, and Taylor purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Emilee Elizabeth Rivera.



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**Brenna, Ellen, Karly, Nicole, and Taylor** - August 01, 2024 at 10:40 PM

BP

“ Emmy you had the ability to make everyone feel like they were your best friend. The relationship you and Rudy have with Meg has been so wonderful to witness. I will miss the text messages we exchange about redesigning fireplaces and throwing parties. You had an eye for beauty and a kindness that was infectious. Your sweetness will forever live on in your babies!



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**becky parson** - August 01, 2024 at 10:39 PM

MP

“ *Em, the sweetest alpha xi and sister. You were truly loved by everyone. I will never forget your laugh and the way you lit up every room with joy. Some of my favorite memories were you crashing in our pres suite with Kendal. TFJ sister*💙💛☀️



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Missy P. - August 01, 2024 at 10:32 PM

BM

“ Em..

*I'm at a loss for words. I've felt sick to my stomach since hearing the news. You and I were close throughout our childhood and high school. That friendship carried on when I transferred from Mizzou to SEMO. You welcomed me with open arms and showed me the ropes. You were such a positive energy and I could always count on you having that big bright smile on your face. I'll never forget how hard Rudy worked to FINALLY make you his girlfriend. Truth be told I knew you all were perfect for each other from the start. This is not fair. Life is not fair. I don't understand why bad things happen to such good people and you, Emilee, were the best of people. Your family, your friends, and your children will forever love and miss you. Until we meet again..*



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**Braxton McDowell** - August 01, 2024 at 10:02 PM



“ All of my favorite high school memories have Emy in them. She locked us out of the apartment every time I came over. I wish I had a video of the cheer stunt we did once to lift me through the window to get back in. At every sleep over, we ended the night with a heart to heart. One of her favorite things to do ☐



Makenna Lambert - August 01, 2024 at 09:22 PM

AK

“ Ahna and Alex Kasper purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Emilee Elizabeth Rivera.



Ahna and Alex Kasper - August 01, 2024 at 09:15 PM

EA

“ She was one of the most beautiful souls I ever knew. Prayers and condolences to her family. I was lucky to briefly work with her at Maritz, but she will always be remembered for her beautiful spirit and contagious positive attitude.

Ellie Aboussie - August 01, 2024 at 08:55 PM

AT

*She was a sweet person and mother. We will miss her. Hope God will help the family with healing the big lost and guide Rudy to continue raise the kids with a lot of love as she loved her family*

**Any Tolentino** - August 01, 2024 at 09:56 PM

AS

“*Emilee & I were best friends throughout jr high & high school. Her smile seriously lit up a room. I’ve been thinking of Rudy, her two beautiful children, Kandi & Doug, and all of her close friends now. My heart is shattered for all that loved her.*”



**Adelyn Schlegel** - August 01, 2024 at 08:18 PM



“*I met Emilee our freshman year at SEMO when we joined Alpha Xi. She was the sweetest friend and a bright light to anyone that knew her. Emilee will always hold a special place in my heart!* □

**Nicole Perreault** - August 01, 2024 at 08:18 PM

KH

“ Since neither had a driver’s license.... They would take the keys and just SIT and listen to music. Couldn’t leave the driveway!☐😂  
Oh, and there was the time I’m sitting in the living room and I see Kandi pull up to a screeching HALT, jump out and runs across my yard??? Then she comes running back, dragging the garden hose to spray down her brand new car because Emilee, world’s most car sick kid, had initiated Kandi’s new Ford!!! Em was so much fun to have around our house..... stories of her put a smile on my face.



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**Krisie Hartzog** - August 01, 2024 at 08:12 PM

BB

“ Baley Wanless & Jill Boyer purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Emilee Elizabeth Rivera.



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**Baley Wanless & Jill Boyer** - August 01, 2024 at 06:51 PM