



Mary "Kathy" Katherine Capawana

October 27, 1943 - September 10, 2023

Mary K. "Kathy" Capawana passed away peacefully on Sunday, September 10, 2023, at her daughter's home. She lived life to the fullest for her 79 years and leaves behind a legacy of laughter and joy passed on to those who knew her. "Having too much fun" wasn't an option so "Lung cancer" is listed as the cause of death.

She grew up in Ferguson Missouri and was the oldest of six children. Before you ask... she went to St. John & James Middle School and graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas in 1961. She cherished her childhood friendships, attending reunions and their active email group.

She married Richard "Dick" E. Smith in 1964 and for the next 20 years they built a fun, loving, nurturing home for their children; a home that welcomed friends and family for holidays, special occasions or just a simple card party. Kathy was a great cook and the kind of hostess who made sure everyone was having a good time. You never left hungry and always wanted to come back.

In 1985, Kathy started her career with Price-Waterhouse. She was so proud that while she did not have the opportunity to go to college, she was able to manage multi-million-dollar budgets and did financial accounting for one of the top consulting firms in the country. While building her professional resume, she also grew her social network in Soulard as one of the founding crew of the

now famous Mardi Gras and Bastille Days celebrations.

Kathy's career took her to Tarpon Springs Florida where she met her soul mate and love of her life, Anthony "Cappy" Capawana. They were the epitome of joy. They went on no less than 50 cruises and found beauty in every corner of the world. They never let things like lost luggage or bad weather diminish their fun. When they weren't on a cruise, Cappy was planning their next one and mom was happy to sit and watch the birds, listen to music, lead her favorite ladies in water aerobics and enjoy the simple pleasures of life.

Kathy and Cappy moved back to St. Louis in 2017 where Kathy spent her final years caring for Cappy then being cared for by her family. She loved living at Laclede Groves where she charmed her neighbors, her friends, and the staff there with her smile, her stories, and her strength.

Through it all, Kathy was a rock and never wavered in her love and commitment to her family. She is survived by her children; Patrick (Denise) Smith, Joann (Brian) Donelon; grandchildren, Jessica (Serxhio) Hoxha, Malorie Smith, Tricia Smith, and Thomas Donelon; great grandchild Eleanor Mary Hoxha with her second great grandchild, baby Hoxha, arriving soon.

Kathy was preceded in death by her beloved Cappy, her parents, Joseph and Helen Kulage and her amazing baby brother, Joe Kulage. She is survived by her siblings Margaret "Peggy" (Mike Salavouris) Brockmann, Theresa "Terry" (Bill) Barto, Tim (Joanie) Kulage, and Noreen Smith. She was dearly loved Aunt Kath to a dozen nieces, nephews and had about 30 cousins who she treasured.

Services include visitation at Chapel Hill Mortuary on Friday 9/22 from 4-7pm and a Memorial Service at the Chapel at Laclede Groves on Saturday 9/23 at 10am.

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it is about learning to dance in the rain.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **22**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (cst)

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

Memorial Service

SEP **23**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (cst)

The Chapel at Laclede Groves
723 s. Laclede Station Rd
St Louis, MO 63119

Tribute Wall



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mary "Kathy" Katherine Capawana.*



September 22, 2023 at 09:51 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary "Kathy" Katherine Capawana.

September 22, 2023 at 09:51 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary "Kathy" Katherine Capawana.*



September 21, 2023 at 10:47 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mary "Kathy" Katherine Capawana.*



September 18, 2023 at 08:37 PM

TC

“ My condolences to Kathy’s family. She was a lovely woman, caring of those around her. Always made delicious holiday and special occasion meals that the family enjoyed. Her memory will live on and she will be missed.

Cordially from, Toni Capawana (mother of Michael)

Toni Capawana - September 16, 2023 at 10:52 AM

MI

“ We will miss our late-night conversations with you and laughing so hard we couldn't breathe. You always took such great care of us, and we will miss you terribly. Love you always and forever, Kathy.
- Mike and Tanya C.

Mike - September 16, 2023 at 10:42 AM

MC

“ Michael C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary "Kathy" Katherine Capawana.

Michael C. - September 16, 2023 at 10:35 AM

PD

“ Peggy & Mike, the Brockmanns, and Deebas purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Mary "Kathy" Katherine Capawana.



Peggy & Mike, the Brockmanns, and Deebas - September 15, 2023 at 03:47 PM

PD

“ Peggy & Mike, the Brockmanns, and Deebas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary "Kathy" Katherine Capawana.

Peggy & Mike, the Brockmanns, and Deebas - September 15, 2023 at 03:47 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary "Kathy" Katherine Capawana.



September 15, 2023 at 02:08 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary "Kathy" Katherine Capawana.

September 15, 2023 at 02:08 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary "Kathy" Katherine Capawana.



September 14, 2023 at 09:59 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary "Kathy" Katherine Capawana.*



September 14, 2023 at 07:19 PM



“ *Kathy was a strong woman in so many ways, she stood up for what was right and did not back down. She never let illness or problems stop her from doing what was needed. Her strength helped me be a better person and husband,. She was loved..*

Richard Smith - September 14, 2023 at 12:58 PM



Kathy and I were friends from grade school on. We reconnected when she moved back here. I talked to her sometime back and she was going shopping for a swim suit for a coming trip. RIP.

JUDIE WISE - September 15, 2023 at 09:10 AM



Kay, as I knew her a long time ago, was always so much fun. Another of the Aquinas Alumni gone too soon. Joyce Obremski Stephens

Joyce Stephens - September 15, 2023 at 12:17 PM