



Shelly Leonard

February 14, 1973 - February 11, 2012

Shelly Jean (Johnson) Leonard, 38, of Safety Harbor, FL died on Saturday, February 11th, 2012 at Suncoast Hospice House Brookside in Palm Harbor, FL after a hard-fought second battle with cancer.

Shelly was born on February 14th, 1973 to Gerald and Nancy Johnson of Merriman, MI. She graduated from Kingsford High School in 1991 and from Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She was most recently employed by Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services of Clearwater, FL as a social worker. In the fall of 2010, Shelly was a candidate for the Florida State House. Among her accomplishments, she received a citation from the State Police of Texas for her help in capturing a dangerous criminal, and she worked with President Bill Clinton to secure funding for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center in Clearwater, FL.

Shelly enjoyed rehabilitating wildlife, writing, reading, and art. She was an advocate for those who needed one and a great lover of all animals.

She is survived by two sons, Quinn and Nathan Leonard of Racine, WI; her parents, Gerald and Nancy Johnson of Merriman, MI; her sister, Pastor Corinne Johnson of Wallace, MI; her maternal grandmother, Jeanette Granquist of Iron Mountain, MI; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins; and her

best friend, Joseph Davis of Safety Harbor, FL.

She was preceded in death by both grandfathers, her paternal grandmother, an uncle, and a cousin.

The visitation will be held on Thursday from 9:30 to 11:00 am at the First Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain. The funeral services will follow at 11:00 am at the church with the Reverend James Lindgren officiating. Burial will be in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

The family would like to thank Mike and Vivian Passmore and Joseph Davis for their love, care, and compassion. Matthew 25:40.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Shelly Leonard online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted Erickson Rochon and Nash Funeral Homes with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **23**. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Lutheran Church
1210 S. Stephenson Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Funeral Service

FEB **23**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Lutheran Church
1210 S. Stephenson Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Tribute Wall

GC

“ I met Shelly in Olympia when our mutual friend Helen introduced us. Helen and I took care of her through her first bout of oral cancer, including the difficult surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. We sat up at night and watched "Invader Zim" when she was in too much pain to sleep. She had a fierce determination to live that I've rarely seen in anyone.

She came back into my life about two years before she passed. Her uncommon wit, ability to advocate for others and deep passion to understand the world were a joy-as were her karaoke nights at a local bar. My favourite memory is of her falling asleep on the couch in my living room while reading a book, listening to Baby Snooks and watching a documentary.

She lived Tikkun Olam-making the world a better place.

Gordon Cooper - September 06, 2021 at 04:56 PM

CS

“ Our family would sincerely like to thank all of those who have left truly touching messages on Shelly's memory book. It is helpful to all of us in this difficult time.

As her sister, I have far too many memories to write here -- everything from when we were little girls playing out in the yard to gabbing on the phone about men later in life. And I remember how we each drove the same car as our first car. And that car was Small, and just like a fickle, unreliable Really Old Van that leaves you stranded and does nothing but cause problems for you and your family. So many memories shared by her family and friends.

We are so thankful for each person who has shown kindness to our family during this difficult time.

Corinne Johnson - Wallace, MI - Sister - March 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ ... i was honored to be called "Friend" by this amazing, vibrant, electric human...
... this former Marine shares your loss...

moon Hawk-Watches - Edmonds, WA - friend - March 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ All the memories posted here so far highlight Shelly twenty or thirty years ago. I knew Shelly in the last five years of her life.

She was an inspiration to many of us, and challenged us to "feel the outrage" that our society is so dismissive of the concerns of the least among us. For those who center themselves on the messages of Christ, rest assured that Shelly followed His principles every day, and worked to see those principles realized in our society.

She was so much more than you might remember from her days in high school or college. I am certain her family aches for her loss, but they should be proud of the person who continued to grow after she moved to Florida. Ours is a better state because of her life here.

And blessings to Van, who was at her side through every difficult step of her last journey.

Everyone needs to know that, even in her passing, Shelly asked us to contribute to a cause--the reopening of the MLK Center in the Greenwood section of Clearwater, FL.

Beth Fountain - St Petersburg, FL - Friend - February 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ Dear Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and Cori,

Shelly was a kind and considerate person who had the love of many she touched. My thoughts are with you and your family at this sad time. Sending you my deepest condolences and love.

Perhaps they are not the stars, but rather openings in Heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know that are happy.

Brad Gussert

Brad Gussert - Hampton, TN - February 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *Sending our deepest sympathy. We are so sorry for your loss. Know that our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. May the love and support of family and friends comfort you.*

*Gods peace be with you,
Debbie and Mike*

Mike and Debbie Oberdorfer - Kingsford, MI - February 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Jerry & Nancy and family,

There is nothing we can say that will diminish the pain of losing your beautiful daughter at such a young age nor can we understand it. Our thoughts and prayers, therefore, are for a strong faith for you to comfort and sustain you ---please accept our condolences and know that we are thinking of you.

Merle and Betty

J Merle and Betty Parsons - Iron Mountain , MI - friend - February 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *May the love and joy you knew throughout Shelly's life, comfort and guide you in the days and weeks to come. May your hearts be filled with peace knowing that her suffering is over.*

The world is a poorer place without her presence.

Susan Smalley - MI - friend - February 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Linda Wanhala - February 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *Mr and Mrs Johnson and Cori,*

Wow, it is hard to even think I am writing you today about Shelly's passing. It's even harder to know that I no longer have my friend in our world. From coming home with her on the bus to work on projects, reports or just to hang out in Middle school to high school all the way to college as we saw each other on campus. I am still in denial, as I am sure you all are, that she's gone. I still remember our Spanish practice sessions on the phone where my mom would get so mad as she never knew what she and I were talking about. (hard to have seen back then that those sessions would make me appreciate what I do now today with my interpretation skills) I can truly say that our world is missing a wonderful and amazing person and my heart aches for you all. I wish I could be there but please know that I am there in spirit with you all.

*Love you,
Jenny Johnson-Gonzales*

Jennifer Johnson-Gonzales - St Johns, MI - friend - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *Dear Cori and Family,*

With my deepest condolences on the loss of your beloved Shelly. May she rest in peace, and rise with Him in glory.

Rev. Ryan Mills

Rev. Ryan Mills - New Haven, CT - Friend of the Family - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM