



Kathleen Plocher

February 14, 1948 - November 27, 2013

Kathleen Louise Plocher

Myrtle Beach

Kathleen Louise Plocher, better known as Kate, was called home Wednesday, November 27, 2013 at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina of natural causes. She slipped away peacefully surrounded by her daughters, son-in-law and grandchildren. A Valentine baby, Kate was born in Philadelphia PA, on February 14, 1948. She moved to NJ during childhood and graduated from Woodstown High School in 1966. She was employed as a factory worker but a back injury in her early 20's left her physically disabled. Most of her adult life she lived in Millville NJ, but in March of this year, Kate moved to Myrtle Beach, SC with her daughter to close the miles separating her daughters and grandchildren from her. She loved to swim and spent many summer days at the lake with her nephew Keith. A tradition she continued later in life with his daughter Ashley, her great niece. Playing board games like Scrabble, Scattagories Monopoly, and many others, with her great niece Megan was a favorite pastime for Kate. She was an avid animal lover, especially cats, often taking in strays and nursing them back to health. She had a wonderful sense of humor that could always make you laugh. Even sometimes when it may not have been appropriate, but that was just her way. She could drive a person crazy, argue a point to beyond death, make you

scream and pull your hair out, but, at the same time, she'd come through for you in a pinch, always have your back and make you feel truly loved. She will be truly missed.

Kate is reuniting in heaven with her father, Louis Joseph Plocher Sr., her mother, Lorraine Murray Plocher, her twin sister Lorraine Iona Grillo and her step-sister, Carol Ann Shields.

She is survived by her daughters, Lea Norton and husband Jonathan of Lake City FL, Bernadette Ballard and husband Jamie of Myrtle Beach SC, Three grandsons, Jonathan Norton of Yakima WA, Douglas Norton and wife Katherine of Myrtle Beach SC, Dylan Ballard of Myrtle Beach SC, one great granddaughter, Leah Marie Norton, her two sisters, Maureen Franzoi and husband Joe of NJ, Helen Beisman and husband Randy of MO, one brother Louis Plocher Jr. of NJ, numerous nieces and nephews and honorary granddaughters Christina Stevens and daughter Shaynia Stevens.

Kate believed whole heartedly that a family was made up of love and respect, not just blood! Nothing meant more to her than her family! We will always remember "Grandmom's words of wisdom". For example, "Anything worth doing is worth doing right", and "Judge a person by the size of their heart and the strength of their character". I think her words we will remember the most are, "I love you, forever and a day"!

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

CF

“ *Rip grandma Kate! Sorry for your lost! Prays for your family! I will remember what you used to tell me " I LOVE YOU, FOREVER AND A DAY" adopted grandson Cody J Fisler Tulsa, OK*

cody j fisler - January 10, 2014 at 05:30 AM

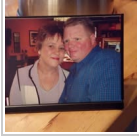
“Its interesting to note how our perspective changes as we age. I can remember as a child sitting on the deck on many occasion in the hot summer sun drinking an ice cold frosty beverage listening to my grandmother spewing her words of "wisdom". What I find so queer at this stage in my life, is that even though I liked to laugh at the time, and even though I used to think that the words she used to give were little more than the crooning of an old woman, I was wrong. I look back now and realize how amazing, if not beautiful, a person Kathleen is, was. The day is now the twenty-seventh of November, two-thousand and thirteen and I'm in the middle of my training writing my grandmother's second chapter on my laptop, after she has passed on. Her passing is all too much a reminder of lifes' mortality, its meaning and importance, and most of all, how precious a gift it is. This moment truly gives credence to the old adage that "Yesterday's the past and tomorrow's the future. Today is a gift; which is why they call it the present."

I look back now at the things that I have already written about her, memories and moments, and all I can think is that even though those were the events of the time, they are in no way a factual, let alone accurate, representation of the kind of person Kathleen was. Despite all her problems, her stubbornness and the multitude of other words that I shall spare for the moment, she has always been a permanent fixture in my life. Her passing is yet another sound reminder for me of how cruel it is to be human, what it means to know, to be truly cognizant of all things, and today I now know what it means to have loved, what it truly means to feel. I wish that I could tell her how much she meant to me, I wish that I could tell her all the things that I never said, all the things we never had the time for, or that I pretended not to have time for. So in honor of my grandmother, Kathleen Louise Plocher, I am devoting the next pages to her memory. I can only hope that in these pages I can express her greatest gift to me; how she taught me to not only feel again, but to stop and smell the roses.

My first memories of my grandmother like all others, and I can only assume that, like myself, it is much the same for everyone else, are foggy. Most of what I remember of those early years was just her

big toothy grin, and as I grew older I slowly began to harness the ability to lift the haze of infant memory into more concrete recollections. My first semi-accurate memory goes a little something like this. I'm probably about age ten and its around Christmas time, that time of year when all the family gets together and puts their differences aside for the sake of a better cause. She had this candy dish in her small but nice apartment in South Carolina, it's one of those type dishes that stands on a single leg much like a wine glass but more of a goblet in size. Its many faceted faces gleamed in the dim fluorescent lighting much like an oversized diamond, which for a young child, simply put, was captivating. To be more precise, it was what was contained within that grabbed my attention more so than that shining dish o'plenty. It was the delightfully crunchy ribbon candy in the dish that truly held my attention for more than just a moment. No matter how often I crunched, and no matter how hard I tried, the dish never emptied. It was like magic. Each time I devoured one of those sweet crunchy confections the dish managed to fill itself back to its brim. It was certainly beyond my comprehension. My grandmother was a smart 'cookie' with her two A plusses from high school, she had managed to outsmart a fifth grader by filling the jar silently behind my back and then making the bag from which the candy came disappear without a trace. Needless to say I was impressed with her better than parlor trick skill. I think it was more the wonder behind what she did that made the jar so meaningful. It wasn't just the jar as a simple abject desire of a ten year old, but the desire to make me happy. So when she gave me 'the' jar as a grad

Douglas Norton - December 08, 2013 at 12:54 AM



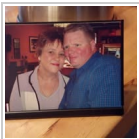
“ *Kate was an amazing woman whom made everyone she met feel like family. After 20+ years her passing is truly like loosing a family member of my own. She always treated my son Josh like he was one of her grandchildren and me well it's hard to explain but always with respect, compassion and love. Heaven has another Angel and her daughters and grands a guardian to watch over them. Bless all who's life has been touch by her.*

Kimberly Sersland - December 07, 2013 at 03:10 PM

BB

Thank you Kim. Mom adored you and Josh both, and had so much respect and admiration for Terry as well. She would have been happy to know her affection was returned. :)

Bernadette Ballard - December 09, 2013 at 06:32 AM



“ *Kimberly Sersland lit a candle in memory of Kathleen Plocher*



Kimberly Sersland - December 07, 2013 at 02:57 PM

DS

“ *I'll miss you grandmom.*



Dylan Stevens - December 05, 2013 at 05:04 PM

 Jo
Fiman

“ I, like Cathy Ellinger met Kate on facebook. You could tell just by interacting with her, without ever meeting her in person, she must have been a Wonderful person to have in your everyday life, always thoughtful and quick to respond to requests..I have missed her for awhile now, but had no idea what was going on. Sending love and prayers to her family, I am sure you all have a light in the family chandelier that will never be replaced..God Bless..

Jo Fiman - December 05, 2013 at 12:10 PM

BB

Thank you Jo and Cathy. As my sister, Lea said, it's nice to know others thought enough about our Mom to take time and remember her. Your words mean more than you could imagine!

Bernadette Ballard - December 05, 2013 at 04:51 PM

 Cathy
Ellinger

“ I met Kate on facebook. She joined our farmville group of players and was a pleasure to know. We worked together on our farms and chatted as we played. She always was joyful, helpful and never complained. She loved to play. I will miss her greatly since she was a great helpmate to me during dark and trying times. My sister Mary Smith and I send our prayers, love and gigantic hugs to her family. Thank you for sharing her with us!! <3 <3 <3



Cathy Ellinger - December 05, 2013 at 01:41 AM



Thank you Cathy. You are still a most amazing friend and human being. I appreciate your taking the time to remember my Mom in this way.

Lea (Holly) Norton

Holly Norton - December 05, 2013 at 09:17 AM

JB

“ Kate was like a second mom to me. It didn't matter that I was her son in law. she treated me like her son. before she quit smoking she would always tell me I could get a ciggy from her and I didn't ever haft to ask. Although I always would. I miss her witty since of humor. our talks we would have, and the stories she would tell about days gone past. I'm gonna miss u " mom". love u always and a day. Jamie.



Jamie Ballard - December 01, 2013 at 03:12 PM



“ There was a time I was over spending the night with you and you sat there and told me that nights like this will end soon, soon I'd fall in love and start a family of my own I told you that you were crazy I'd always have time for you. Well years went on and sure enough those nights stopped I got a boyfriend had a baby experienced my first major heartbreak and you were there for me to talk to. I found love again and another baby then you told me you were moving away I was heartbroken but I stopped to visit once a week after the baby was born up until you left Adam grew quiet fond of his aunt cake.....ill never forget our movie dates and our trips to friendlys I love you and I regret not being able to visit before you passed but just know you are always in my heart I love you more then I can say.....

Roxy Smith - November 30, 2013 at 07:43 PM

BB

Leaving you and the boys was hard for her to do, Ash. Thank you for being there for her when I couldn't be. You know how much your Aunt Kate loved you!!

Bernadette Ballard - November 30, 2013 at 09:12 PM



“ *What started out as a friendship became one of the most important relationships of my life when Kate took me into her heart and adopted me into her family more than 20 years ago. For me, she was a Mom; the only one I ever really had and certainly the only one that counted. She was a Grandmother to my sons, Ross & Douglas, filling a gap in their lives as well. As children, they adored her - looking forward to her visits and hanging onto her every word. We spent countless hours together talking, laughing, and sharing our daily trials and victories. She was so much fun, so easy going and easy to love - and she gave that love back freely to those she cared for.*



Thank you Mom. For giving me a sister, for taking me into your heart, for making us a family. Thank you for always supporting me, for being so very proud of me, for always letting me know that you were. You will never be forgotten and will forever be missed.

I love you more.

Lea Norton - November 30, 2013 at 05:05 PM

BB

“ *Bernadette Ballard lit a candle in memory of Kathleen Plocher*



Bernadette Ballard - November 30, 2013 at 02:54 PM

BB

“ I thought I was prepared for this because of all the scares and close calls she's had, but guess what, I wasn't! I can't describe this emotional roller coaster I'm riding every minute of every day. One minute I'm crying for all the obvious reasons, next I'm angry for all too many reasons, then I'm laughing, for the most important reason- that's what Mom would have wanted! She wouldn't want anyone to grieve or be in pain over her. I'm trying, it's just easier SAID than done most of the time. But if you knew Kate at all, then you have some memory to laugh at. She was always making jokes and clowning around. Please share them. That way, when that coaster feels like it's about to run off the tracks, or is speeding out of control, over time, your memories may make laughing easier DONE than said. I'm sure my sister, Lea, would agree with me on this. Thank you to everyone for all your thoughts and prayers, now I ask for your memories. Thanks, Dette

Bernadette Ballard - November 30, 2013 at 02:53 PM