



Kelley Lynne Carter

January 27, 1964 - July 8, 2021

Kelley Lynne Carter, 57, of Bothell, Washington, passed away unexpectedly on July 8, 2021, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Kelley was born January 27, 1964, in Athens, Ohio, to James B. Knaus and Gail Klima. She was preceded in death by her aunt Nancy Rybak, her cousin Jimmy Koran, and her best friend Tony Waid.

In life, Kelley earned her master's degree in education, and taught at Normandy High School in Ohio for many years. While there she coached boys and girls swimming plus other sports. She was a competitive synchronized swimmer as a youth and masters teams. She loved working with children and teaching others how to swim. Kelley was a kind person who touched many people's lives through her caring personality, and through her love for cooking.

She is survived by a large and loving family, including her devoted husband Chris Carter; her father James Knaus (Linda Knaus) and her mother Gail Klima-Knaus; her brother James Scott Knaus; her sister-in-law Shari Lundberg (Kjell); her parents-in-law Harold and Carolyn Carter; her step-siblings Carla Ward and Christopher Ward (Shelly); her nieces and nephews Elin Lundberg, Jered Ward, Zachary Ward, Matthew Ward and Danielle Knaus, aunt Joyce Flaherty; her best friend Michelle Chase, and extended family and friends.

A celebration of Life for Kelley will be held on Friday, July 16, 2021, at 8:00 AM on the beach in front of "A Place at the Beach IV". In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Kelley's memory to: Homeward Pet Adoption Center in Woodinville, WA (<https://www.homewardpet.org/>) or to the Special Olympics (<https://www.specialolympics.org/get-involved/donate>).

Eulogy - From Husband Chris Carter

Thank you all for coming. We really appreciate the effort you took to be here, traveling short and long distances. It means a lot.

Kelley left our world on Thursday morning July 8th. We were fortunate enough to have shared 17 years of marriage, and I would do anything to spend more time with her.

We met at, you guessed it... the pool, at Ohio University. She truly loved pools and the smell of chlorine. She even liked it when I smelled of chlorine. The pool was one of the ways she connected with people, and it was the magnet that brought us together. Wherever we traveled, from the west coast to the east coast to the Dominican Republic, she knew where the public pool was in every town so we could swim laps together. It was at those pools where she taught, inspired, and cared for the young and the old. The high schoolers thought of her as a great coach, and the best aunt they all wish they had. The ladies in her water aerobics class in Washington called her their "mother hen".

Kelley was a very talented synchronized swimmer as a youth and recently at masters level for many years. She coached a synchronized swimmer from 5th to 11th grade, and reconnected with her when she went to Ohio University. She taught older Dominican kids how to teach swimming so that they could in turn teach their younger classmates.

She was a devoted teacher in and out of the water. If we saw an educational booth on a walk, you know we were stopping to look.

She especially loved teaching children. She gave her time to nieces and nephews and beyond. One of the kids she nannied wrote her recently saying “Thankyou for making me learn young – it’s made all the difference for me growing up!”

Now, if you aren’t a child or a swimmer, that’s ok because then you probably got to taste her cooking. If you were lucky enough to get to enjoy her food, then you know how passionate she was, and how much she liked to learn new dishes. Seafood boils, fish, fish sauces,... and her sausage gravy was the best. She loved creating stock from the scraps of one meal to make the next meal that much better. You had to save your cobs and crabshells for her.

She loved going out to eat too – little hole in the wall places to fine dining, as long as the food was good. There were countless dinners here at Bimini’s and memorable times at Bliss in Cabarette.

Kelley had a big love for animals whom I owe to her both Lilly and Lucky who will miss her loving and caring for them.

Kelley had a big heart. Rarely would a day go by at our house without an episode of Andy Griffith or Little House on the Prairie on our TV. She was a loving wife, and a good friend to have on your side.

I was special enough to have a special clause in our marriage: any time the wind was blowing I had a free pass to get out of any commitments. How cool is that?

And she was fun. From diving in Bora Bora to pet sharks and eels, to crazy walks home after an evening out, including a tumble in the ocean that we laughed about for weeks after. We laughed a lot.

In closing, simply put, I miss my wacky, funny, sentimental, lover and cheery friend.

Tribute Wall

JM

“ I am so saddened to hear of Kelley’s passing. Kelly and I were part of a group of friends at Shiloh junior high. In eighth grade we had art class together and were table mates. It is there where I was able to experience Kelly’s fun and loving personality. Attached is a picture of Kelley and I at my 16th Birthday party. From what I can remember I was telling a crazy story that centered around Kelley. Chris I am truly sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you and your family.

Jeff Mueller



Jeff Mueller - September 18, 2021 at 12:10 AM

RF

Kelley was great. I had been a very long time...but so sorry she left us so soon.

Rob Fulop - July 20, 2022 at 07:31 PM

JH

“ Kelley taught me how to be a lifeguard. That's just one of those things one will never forget. She was so fun yet, so professional as a teacher and a swim coach. I have been feeling so much appreciation for her this summer especially. She will live on forever in my memory and the memories I have shared with my children. Thank you so much Kelley.

Jared Harston - August 14, 2021 at 04:06 PM

CJ

“ I can't believe this! She was my swim coach all through high school, she was the reason I liked high school, she made me love swimming even more than I already did, she made me a great swimmer! I'm heart broken! RIP!

Colleen Hurley Jozwiak - August 11, 2021 at 09:45 AM

JD

“ Knaus was my swim team coach at Normandy High School, and I was also a Lifeguard for classes she taught in the district (swim lessons and water aerobics) beyond high school. We had so much fun joking around with the older ladies! I have many wonderful memories of her helping others, including me, and how hilarious she was. I'm so happy to read about the wonderful life she had and has shared with others. I'm so sad to hear about her passing. ❤️

Jennifer Dohy - August 10, 2021 at 10:42 PM



“ Kelley was my high school swim coach from 1998-2002 at Normandy High School. I often think of her and the amazing role model and person she was. We had many fun times and she was always on our side. We had the best time when she would jump in the water and show us her synchronized swimming moves. I'll never forget you. RIP.

Mary Bigrigg (Herout)

Mary Herout Bigrigg - August 10, 2021 at 09:21 PM

KL

“ Having a Mass said for Kelley at 8am this morning at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Plain City, Ohio. May Our Lord wrap Kelley and your entire family in His Loving Arms on this Feast of the Transfiguration ❤️. Janet Rummel and Family

Kathleen LaTour - August 06, 2021 at 08:00 AM

MW

“ Kelley is my God child. I am sorry I lost contact with her over the years. I am so sad to hear that she passed away. She was such a sweetheart and a beautiful young lady. I am lost for words. She will remain in my heart forever. Marge Walter

Marge Walter - August 03, 2021 at 07:58 PM

KB

“ I was never fortunate enough to meet Kelley but felt like I knew her a little bit from all the stories Chris would tell at work. She always seemed this larger than life, adventurous, accomplished and kind woman. Someone that impressive through stories alone must have been a true force of nature in person. Chris- I am truly sorry and there really aren't words. Thank you for sharing your life and adventures with Kelley. My heart goes out to all of you, her friends and family.

Kelly Bauer - July 28, 2021 at 04:08 PM

CC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Chris Carter - July 19, 2021 at 04:24 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kelley Lynne Carter.*



July 17, 2021 at 11:06 AM



“ *We are so deeply saddened by the sudden loss of our dear friend Kelley! Our friendship started as neighbors and we quickly became great friends with Kelley and Chris over many shared dinners and lots of walks with our dogs in the neighborhood. Kelley always brightened our day with her welcoming smile, infectious love of life and sense of humor! She never missed an opportunity to make us feel special and to bless us with her genuine spirit! She was a real inspiration to live life to its fullest and to be the best we can be. Few people in life have the ability to connect with others in the way Kelley did. Kelley made our lives special and we will miss so much about her. Kelley is a gem! How lucky are all of us that she will greet us again on the other side?*

Condolences to all of Kelley Carter's family, friends and sweet pups!

Kelly & Christy Johnson

Kelly & Christy Johnson - July 16, 2021 at 11:54 PM

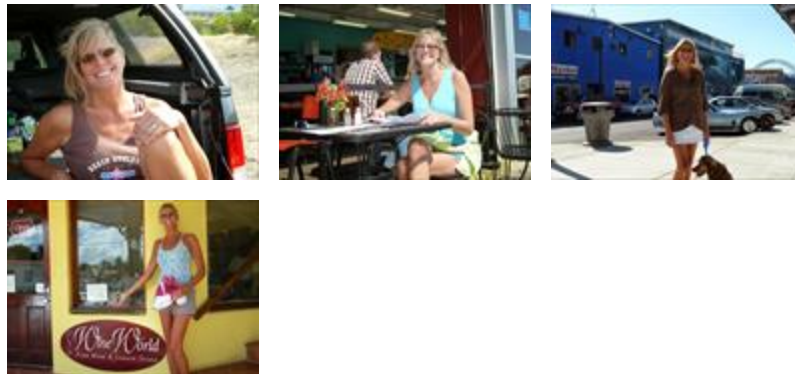
BE

“ *My sincere condolences to the Knaus and Carter families for this devastating loss. Kelley was an incredible soul who’s warmth and love touched all who crossed paths with her. We were blessed to have shared her enormous heart and kindness. Her brilliant light and smile will be missed by all. God bless you Kelley Lynne, Rest In Peace. Bernie*

Bernie - July 15, 2021 at 09:37 AM

CH

“ *4 files added to the album Memories Album*



Chris - July 15, 2021 at 09:27 AM

CH

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Chris - July 15, 2021 at 09:27 AM

TG

“ Kelley was a great friend from 7th grade all through high school. A mutual friend informed me of her untimely death. My sincere condolences to you Scott, and to the rest of the family. I will always remember her with the fondest memories.

Tom George

Tom George - July 15, 2021 at 08:54 AM

DS

“ Deep sadness consumes
A beautiful light extinguished
Forever in our memories

D. Stewart - July 14, 2021 at 02:26 PM



“ Dear Chris, our condolences to you and family. we are so sorry to hear this sad news. Kelley was such a welcoming and giving person, always so friendly and with such a big heart. we send our love and prayers to you and family as you go through this difficult time. you're in our heart. Ronen and family.

Ronen Yacobi - July 14, 2021 at 01:20 PM

AG

“ Kelly was the mother hen to all of us in her water aerobics classes at the Mercer Island pool. She'll be missed desperately. All our love and support to Chris. Ann Gerner



Ann Gerner - July 14, 2021 at 12:44 PM

JT

“ Dear Linda and Jim. Words are not enough during this time!! Knowing and trusting in Gods mercy will carry you through! We dont know the whys-just that Kelley was helping her wonderful family!! I am certain there is a special place in heaven for her!!!! All of my love and respect to all of you in these challenging time!!!
Respectfully- Jon Thostenson

jJon Thostenson - July 14, 2021 at 12:44 PM

PD

“ So very sad and shocking to lose Kelley suddenly. Kelley was a caring and capable person, always ready to help someone else. She taught my two daughters to swim. She was a loving nanny for family friends and connected closely with them. So much fun to get together with Kelley and enjoy her good food! RIP Kelley, you touched many lives (both young and old) and will be missed by many. Sincere condolences to Chris Carter and family. Pat, Barb, Kaitlin, and Rileigh Daniels Sammamish, WA.

Patrick Daniels - July 14, 2021 at 09:49 AM

JO

“ Kelley was my synchronized swim coach from 5th grade until my junior year in high school and she was AMAZING! The memories she created for her swim team are never ending...she was everyone's "cool aunt" they always wanted to have. She was full of life and we loved being around her fun and loving spirit. Also was able to enjoy her after the swimming years when she would come visit in Athens. She will be missed so much. May her family and friends find peace through the many, many wonderful memories she made for us all.

Jessie Tesauro-O'Maley

Jessie O'Maley - July 13, 2021 at 09:40 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kelley Lynne Carter.*



July 13, 2021 at 04:53 PM



“ *Kelley was a very special friend. She was kind, funny and one of our favorite people to vacation and party with! We will miss her beautiful spirit, we will miss her wisdom and most of all we will miss her cooking! Kelley inspired us to be kind to creatures, she inspired us to be a better athletes and she inspired us to be better humans. We will miss her very much!!! Love and condolences go out to all of her family and friends. Sean and Betsy Bold*

sean bold - July 13, 2021 at 11:40 AM



“ *Such sad news, she was a great person!❤️*

dawn vencill - July 12, 2021 at 06:59 PM



I'm so sorry to hear of Kelley's passing. May she Rest In Peace and let perpetual light shine upon her. May God give faith and strength to the family and friends today and all the days ahead. Keep Kelley's smile and kindness in your heart and may you go forth spreading her love. Respectfully, Karen Korte (friend of Shelly Ward)

karen Korte - July 12, 2021 at 11:13 PM

KK

May God bless the family and friends of Kelly by giving them the faith and strength they need today and all the days ahead. May Kelley Rest In Peace and let perpetual light shine upon her. Always cherish Kelly's beautiful smile and let us live by her acts of kindness and love for others. Karen Korte (friend of Shelly)

karen Korte - July 12, 2021 at 11:19 PM

LS

*“ Kelly Carter was such unique beautiful lady
When you were around her you laughed or smiled a lot. She will be missed by the Krecic family. Rest In Peace dear lady 🙏🙏🙏🙏*

Linda and Joe Stoker - July 12, 2021 at 02:30 PM

KW

Dear Jim Linda Chris & family....Bert & I were so saddened & shocked by the news of Kelley's passing. We hope all the wonderful happy memories you have of her help you all through this very difficult time. Our thought & prayers are with you💕

Kathy & Bert (Myrtle Beach)

Kathy Wallenberg - July 13, 2021 at 11:58 AM

ME

Heartbreaking news, so sorry for the loss of Beautiful Kelley. She was amazing, sweet and had the best smile and laugh. She will be missed. Thoughts and prayers to Chris and all of the Knaus family.

Melinda - July 14, 2021 at 12:41 PM

JT

I remember Kelly as a great swimmer and on the Cuyahoga Heights swim team with my own children. Kelly was a beautiful person. My prayers go out to her parents and Scot whom I remember also. Will keep her in my prayers.

Jean Trusso - July 14, 2021 at 07:43 PM

SM

Chris, our hearts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.



Susan, Tony & Maizie

Susan, Tony & Maizie - July 15, 2021 at 11:39 AM