



Melinda Ann Mendoza

August 9, 2018

Melinda Ann Schell Mendoza, 46, passed away with her family by her side following a courageous battle with breast cancer on Thursday, August 9, 2018. Born in Phoenixville, PA she was the daughter of the late Richard Harvey Schell (whom she will join in heaven) and Joyce Lillian Custer Schell of Gilbertsville, PA and the wife of Luis Carlos Mendoza for over 22 years as they met and fell in love at Millersville University.

She graduated from Boyertown High School and Millersville University with a bachelor's degree in Communications and as a four-year starter of the Women's Lacrosse team earning her Varsity Letter. She worked with Gold Star members and families for Survivor Outreach Services in the Pennsylvania National Guard. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Lancaster.

Melinda's 8-year battle with breast cancer did not slow her down! She fought valiantly and with stubborn determination to continually enjoy her life. Most of Melinda's happiest times were spent with Luis and their kids' activities: McCaskey soccer with Luis, Prestige Gymnastics with Angelica and cooking for them her famous 'Mindy' Burgers, homemade salsa and wonton noodles.

In addition to her husband, her family includes her son, Luis Carlos Mendoza, II, her daughter, Angelica Samarra Mendoza, two sisters: Yvonne and Scott

Gabel, Barto, PA, Tammy and Peter Bonargo, Sinking Spring, PA, brother, Mark and Megan Schell, West Chester, PA, two aunts: Cheryl and Bob Mysliwy, Lake Placid, FL and Patricia Custer, Spring City, PA, uncle Larry and Jean Schell, Frederick, PA, father and mother-in-law, Luis Mendoza and Aurelia Cañizares Mendoza, Lancaster, PA, brother-in-law, Daniel and Brenda Mendoza, Naples, FL and sister and brother-in-law, Ursula Mendoza-Carrasquillo and Manny Carrasquillo, Lancaster, PA.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to Melinda's Celebration of Life Memorial Gathering at Clipper Magazine Stadium, 650 N. Prince Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 on Monday, August 20, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The family requests picnic casual attire (please do not wear black) in this beautiful outdoor setting (rain or shine). Viewings will be held at The Groffs Family Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange Street (corner of W. Orange & Pine Sts.), Lancaster, PA on Friday, August 17, 2018 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, August 18, 2018 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Melinda's memory may be made to:

1. PA Wounded Warrior, 1117 Country Club Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011
2. Ann B. Barshinger Cancer Institute Fund, Lancaster General Health Foundation, 609 N. Cherry Street, Lancaster, PA 17603
3. McCaskey Boys Soccer Booster c/o Peter Speitel, 62 New Garden Ave, Lancaster, PA 17603.
4. Breast Cancer Research Foundation, 60 E 54th Street, Floor 8, New York, NY 10022
5. Humane League, 2195 Lincoln Hwy E, Lancaster, PA 17602
6. The Refugee Center and Community School at Reynolds Middle School, 605 W. Walnut Street, Lancaster, PA 17604.
7. Millersville University Women's Lacrosse, Millersville University, PO Box 1002, Millersville PA 17551-0302.

Previous Events

Viewing

AUG 17. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Viewing

AUG 18. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Celebration of Life

AUG 20. 5:00 PM - 11:00 PM (ET)

Clipper Magazine Stadium
650 North Prince Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Melinda Ann Mendoza*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - August 16, 2018 at 04:26 PM



“ *Melinda Ann Mendoza*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *My sympathy to Mindy's family. Gladys Turner, employee of Reppert's Candy.*

Gladys Turner - August 29, 2018 at 07:59 PM



“ 139 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - August 16, 2018 at 03:14 PM

JR

“ *Luis,*
I'm deeply sorry to hear of Melinda's passing. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your children. Have faith in God to guide you and your family through these darkest of times.

God bless,
John Roman

John Roman - August 15, 2018 at 05:09 PM



“ 29 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - August 15, 2018 at 02:18 PM

NH

I will always remember Melinda as a beautiful, happy and caring person and a great mom and wife. I will never forget her smiling face. She will be greatly missed.

Nancy Honma - August 15, 2018 at 03:27 PM

SP

“ *Our hearts are broken with the loss of this wonderful lady. Will keep you in our hearts and prayers. May God Bless.*

Dick and Sylvia Powell

Sylvia Powell - August 15, 2018 at 09:38 AM

CL

“ I remember the first time I met her. She was talking to the families of soldiers we were getting ready to send out to Iraq. She was telling her experiences of what it was like for her to go through Luis' deployment. She was brave, direct, encouraging and thoroughly optimistic. She had a great impact on the families there and made a great impression on me. Later, she became a crucial partner for the 1-108th FA as we deployed to Iraq. Melinda was the perfect military spouse -- she supported her husband and her extended military family without question or hesitation. I will miss her energy and caring...but I know she will always be present in the actions of Luis and her children whom I know she loved so very much and taught so very well. God Bless and may her memory be eternal.

Corey Lake - August 15, 2018 at 07:21 AM

 Edwin
Ramos-
Jourdan

“ *Melinda, The Great Warrior...!! We will miss your smile and happy face, your sincere words of support in moments of need. I ask our Mighty GOD, for prayers for peace and strength to the Mendoza Family at this very difficult time...!! Blessings...*

*Edwin Ramos-Jourdán
Puerto Rico SOS Program*

Edwin Ramos-Jourdan - August 14, 2018 at 09:25 AM



“ I am thankful that I met Melinda and got to know her when we were in Florida at a training while we were Family Readiness Assistants (FRA) for Family Programs. We shared great food and a ton of laughs. Melinda was an amazing friend and will be dearly missed. I pray for peace and healing for her husband and children. RIP my dear friend.

*Misti Dauenhauer
East Helena, MT*

Misti Dauenhauer - August 13, 2018 at 08:33 PM



“ She is free. I love you and know she is loved by so many people. She is and was my strength. Love the Ball family.



Leslie Ball - August 12, 2018 at 11:14 AM

MR

“Melinda was in one word, Indomitable! She was an unstoppable Force when she set her mind to something, she was the best friend one could ever hope for and was fiercely protective of those she cared for. Melinda's heart was proudly worn on her sleeve and she shared her love openly. When I think of Melinda, I always laugh, because, Melinda laughed a lot and that was infectious and raised everyone else's spirits. I often expressed my appreciation to Melinda for her leadership style as a supervisor and told her that She was the reason many of us remained in position serving Surviving Families, Melinda was fiercely loyal to her Family and friends and also those she led, she fought for us every day and helped us succeed at our work. Melinda lived a full and exciting life, was very proud of her Son's athletic and Daughter's gymnastics achievements and was the most important supporter of her Husband's military career and service to the nation. We owe our gratitude to Melinda and her Army Family for serving our country as well as serving Surviving Families of our Fallen military Heroes. Luis and the Children will remain in our Family's prayers and we pray they find the peace and strength to keep fighting every day, just like Melinda did. The most dominant and impressive memory I have of Melinda's selfless and courageous leadership is when we were at national training in 2017 in Orlando, Florida when a hurricane was forecasted to be a direct hit on our location and in fact it did directly hit Orlando. While the senior leadership team left town immediately prior to the hurricane hitting, Melinda did not, she said as long as any of her people could not get out of Orlando prior to the storm, she would not leave them, Melinda stayed there with her team who couldn't evacuate and not only watched over them, but, actual was the senior Leader on the ground and led the effort to get folks back home after the hurricane. Melinda was one of a kind and we were blessed to have her in our lives. God bless Melinda, I know that she is home. God bless Luis and the kids, know that you are loved and prayed for. Now you also have one of the best there ever was as your Guardian Angel. My deepest condolences, Martin Rafalko.

Martin Rafalko - August 11, 2018 at 07:17 PM



I send my deepest love and peace to all of you...she clearly lived her truth of love, community and honor and her light shone like a beacon to all where ever she went. Her spirit and energy was incredible and her laugh infectious. Mindy, I will see you again and we will laugh about mermaids...never will I forget how you and Louie so humorously chose to share the exciting news that Angelica was on her way to meet the world! Or "little" Luis's cooter computer! I love you all and my heart is sending peace and love your way.

Brooke McKay - August 12, 2018 at 09:08 AM

SH

I worked with Melinda at Universal Forest Products. She was a great woman. Helpful, friendly, caring, fun and eager to learn the lumber bizz. She introduced me to the Melinda Breakfast Bagel...egg, cheese and mustard. Fond memories of her. Sending prayers to the Mendoza family.

Shelly - August 12, 2018 at 09:47 AM

BH

Prayers for peace and strength to the Mendoza family at this very difficult time! My ♥ hurts so much for all of you. The Heister Family

Barb Heister - August 12, 2018 at 01:32 PM