



Julie Francis Vandewalle-Way

January 22, 1960 - January 29, 2021

Cohoes, NY

Julie Francis Vandewalle Way (Julie Bird)

My beloved Julie died this morning, January 29th, 2021. I just left the funeral home where I gave her one last kiss and hug.

I have been posting pictures of her on my page for the last few weeks as she was in the final stages.

Her birthday was January 22, 1960 and was born in South Bend, Indiana. She is survived by her 94 year old mother and 9 siblings, and many nieces and nephews. Two older sisters, Helen and Mary, have already passed due to complications from MS. We have identical twin boys, Elliot and Taylor, born in 1992 who have grown to become loving men.

Julie enriched the lives of everyone she met.

Everyone, and I mean everyone, loved Julie with her infectious smile and playful spirit.

I met her in a ski club in the Fall of 1984, and although she had just learned to

ski she wanted to ski the double black diamonds (the hardest trails) with me; I fell in love with her on the Wildfire trail at Killington VT on our first day together. We skied every weekend nearby in Vermont and New York, and took ski trips to Colorado, Utah (ah Snowbird/Alta), Wyoming, and honeymooned skiing in Austria – St Anton and Kitzbuhel - for two weeks. We married on March 12, 1988.

She was fearless and jumped onto my rocket called a Hobie Cat sailboat. Screaming reaches - with me having both of my feet on the rudder casting and her having one foot between mine also on the rudder. We were a good team with her calling the tacks and gybe, with me overruling only for tactical reasons with other boats nearby. We sailed all over the east coast from Virginia Beach to Maine, NY finger lakes and Lake Michigan.

I am extremely proud that she was one of the first female telephone linemen at Verizon. She loved working outside with her own bucket truck and watching the wildlife below her.

Julie trained as an artist and she made many wonderful pieces that grace our home. In her later years she made a lot of rock art.

She developed, inspired, and directed 23 Hobie Costume theme parties at at our home on Lake Ontario, Our house grew to 15 bedrooms and 7 baths to accommodate our guests. Many attendees have commented that these were the best days of their lives, I was constantly amazed that she was able to get our Hobie guests to do some of the wild activities involved at the theme parties.

We also hosted her large family for a week at our Lake compound each summer and we have wonderful memories of watching all her nieces and nephews grow up. Many of them I taught to sail. Our personal fleet grew to 4

Hobbies. 3 sunfishes, 4 canoes, 2 kayaks and an F-27 Corsair and dingy.

She was a prankster and loved to make people smile.

We loved our Lake House and thought we would be there forever. Nearly every night we toured our 2.5 acres to see the new activity in all our gardens with a glass of red wine.

We were able to enjoy 2 barefoot charters on large sailing catamarans in the Caribbean with our friends and returned to Austria/Salzburg on our 18 wedding anniversary with our sons, and during that trip visited Venice for a few days. My sons just loved torturing their Mom in her wheelchair on the cobblestones in Innsbruck.

Julie needed to retire in 1997, but that allowed her to spend the summers at the lake with our sons. They combed the nearly mile long sandy beach for treasures.

We needed to sell our beautiful home to be nearer medical services in 2017. By then we had more than 400 photographs on our walls from all the parties. Now they are preserved in several volumes.

Despite the progression of MS Julie was fighter and never complained. She mowed our 2.5 acres at the Lake House until she just couldn't anymore. I even jacked the tractor up and hoisted her onto the machine.

We will have a memorial for her at Kim and Mary Roberts Lake Home on Duane Lake in late May or early June. I plan to play "Angel Eyes by Jeff Healey" if I can handle the emotion. I played for her nearly every night in the later years when she was bed bound.

Finally, I am incredibly grateful she chose me as her partner.

Donations in her honor can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Tribute Wall

MP

“ Bruce I am so sorry for your loss. I grew up many years ago across the street from Julie’s grandparents house on Elmer Street.
Mary Csenar Pluta

Mary Csenar Pluta - May 05, 2021 at 09:56 AM

BW

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Bruce B Way - February 06, 2021 at 06:16 PM

AG

“ Bruce, I am so sorry for the loss of your beloved Julie. I had the pleasure of meeting Julie many years ago when we both began our career at the phone company. We had many good times outside of work. Julie was always upbeat, happy and always smiling. Whenever I saw you with Julie I just knew you both were each other's soulmates, best friends and loving partners. Keep all those loving memories close to your heart.

Ann Gilhooly - February 06, 2021 at 01:24 PM

BW

Thank you Ann. I do remember we went to an Oktoberfest together and some drag racing on the streets of downtown Albany.

Bruce B Way - February 06, 2021 at 06:08 PM

GG


“ Bruce, I'm so sorry for your loss. You've written a beautiful love letter of your life with Julie. Wishing you and your family strength and peace.

Gail Garrison - February 05, 2021 at 09:47 AM

BW

thank you Gail. You sang at our wedding!

Bruce B Way - February 06, 2021 at 06:09 PM

 Donna Capodicasa

“ Julie was a great friend, I already missed her as her struggle became worse. She always talked of her husband Bruce how much she loved him and how wonderful he was to her. Her sons and how she loved them. Sharing jokes, music and memories. I am sorry for your loss Bruce and grateful that she had such a wonderful husband to stand by her. Donna CapoDiCasa

Donna Capodicasa - February 02, 2021 at 11:11 AM

BW

Thaanks Donna

Bruce B Way - February 06, 2021 at 06:28 PM

JZ

“ A 'true love' story. (Could be a movie.)
Soo sorry for your loss Bruce and family. Julie certainly was a very special person In many ways.
- Jeanne and Ray Zanta.

Jeanne Meier Zanta - January 31, 2021 at 07:58 PM

BW

Thanks Jeanne!

Bruce B Way - February 06, 2021 at 06:27 PM

ME

“ We will always remember Julie's vivacious spirit and joy. She will be missed! Wishing you comfort in the days ahead! Love, Marti and Jim

Martha Eddy - January 31, 2021 at 02:26 PM

BW

thanks Cousin!

Bruce B Way - February 06, 2021 at 06:30 PM

DW

“ Beautiful tribute and beautiful photos of beautiful Julie. Sending all our love and support. Wishing you peace. ~Denise & George

Denise & George Way - January 31, 2021 at 09:48 AM

BW

See you in March i hope

Bruce B Way - February 06, 2021 at 06:29 PM

BW

thanks for the comment brother and sil

Bruce B Way - February 06, 2021 at 06:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Marra Funeral Home - January 30, 2021 at 07:33 PM



“ 10 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Marra Funeral Home - January 30, 2021 at 01:37 PM

TM

Teevan just told me of Julie's passing. She was a bright light and a beautiful person! I know that she was much loved on earth just as she will be in heaven.

Terry McManus - February 03, 2021 at 04:38 PM

BW

Thank you Terry. Was so nice to meet you at Teevans wedding.

Bruce B Way - February 06, 2021 at 06:11 PM