



Dawn H. Burke

December 6, 2018

Dawn H. Burke, 64, beloved wife and The Sunshine of Leonard K. Burke's Life passed away suddenly from complications related to her courageous fight against Pancreatic Cancer on Thursday, December 6, 2018 at Yale-New Haven Smilow Cancer Hospital. She maintained her positive attitude and infectious sense of humor that lifted up all of us during her challenging journey battling this disease. Dawn was born October 5, 1954 in Hamden, Connecticut. Devoted daughter of Rita C. Hutchinson and the late Walter F. Hutchinson. Dawn grew up in Hamden and excelled in academics and athletics at Hamden High. She attended Boston College where she met Lenny on the first day of school in September 1972 and graduated Class of 1976 with a BS in Marketing. After college she embarked on a business career that included several varied positions prior to her marriage, including Osco Drug-Assistant Store Manager, Anheuser Busch Companies-Marketing Rep and Charette Co-Sales Rep. After Dawn's marriage to Lenny in May 1980, her full-time commitment to building a family presented a break in company employment but allowed her to embark on building the job that was most enriching and rewarding – the work that she was most proud of – being a phenomenal Mom and Life Partner Wife. Once the kids were well on their way in school, she reengaged the business career working for CVS Pharmacy managing the Hallmark Cards sections, The Children's Museum in West Hartford as Director of Development, Bristol Hospital as Director of Development, Easterseals as Director of Development and most recently as

the Director of Development at Bristol Boys and Girls Club. Dawn lived and raised her family in West Hartford for 34 years and most recently lived in Avon, CT. She was a dedicated, loving and cherished mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunt and friend. She spent much of her time giving of herself to do good works which most often improved other peoples trajectory in life. Dawn had announced her retirement in January 2018 to be effective on June 29, 2018 to play a lot of golf and spend time with her family and precious grandchild, Shea. Unfortunately, she learned of her diagnosis on June 16, 2018. Dawn is survived by her adoring husband of 38 years, Leonard K. Burke of Avon, CT; her dedicated and cherished mother, Rita C. Hutchinson of Cheshire, CT; her four loving children and their families; Kevin Burke of Farmington, CT; Kelly and Sebastian Burzacchi and their daughter Shea of Scottsdale, AZ; Matthew Burke of Avon, CT and Molly Burke of Boston, MA; her devoted brother, Dr. Gordon Hutchinson and his wife Margrit of Branford, CT and their children, Dr. Christoph Hutchinson and Maya Hutchinson; her loving brother, Brian Hutchinson and his wife Carmen of Beacon Falls, CT. The Burke family would like to express their deepest appreciation to the medical professionals at St. Francis Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale-New Haven Smilow Cancer Hospital. Dawn was The Sunshine of Everyone's Lives that she touched, particularly her children and loyal husband, her best friend. She found joy in giving to others, volunteering and cherishing every single moment that she had with her family and so many friends. She will be forever remembered for her "light up the room" personality, energized conversation, riveting storytelling, wit, charm, kindness, integrity, strength, infectious smile, punctuating laughter, loving energy and uplifting spirit that she brought to every aspect of her life. We are all honored and better people for having her as the center of our lives. She will be sorely missed but we know that she will be present in our hearts, minds and souls. Calling hours will be Tuesday (Dec. 11th) from 4-7 p.m. at the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday (Dec. 12th) at 10:00 a.m. at St. Peter Claver Church, 47 Pleasant St., West Hartford.

Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford. Donations in Dawn's memory may be made www.projectpurple.org to support pancreatic cancer research and patient support. Please note the contribution is being made in memory of Dawn H. Burke. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery West Hartford

200 Whitman Ave.
West Hartford, CT

Previous Events

Calling Hours

DEC 11. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Celebration of Life

DEC 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter Claver Church
47 Pleasant St
West Hartford, CT

Tribute Wall

CS

“ We would like to offer our deepest sympathies to Lennie and the entire Burke family in Dawn's passing. She was so welcoming to Connie and I when I played with Lennie in the band. She was a remarkable spirit, a true spit-fire, and will be remembered well by those who met her.

So sorry , sincerely
Connie and Rick Smith

Connie and Rick Smith - December 20, 2018 at 08:20 PM

 John
Amanda
Costello

“ I want to express my sincere condolences to the family. My heart swells with overwhelming compassion for you all. I pray you will be comforted and strengthened by your family, friends and the scriptures (Isa 25:8; Rev 21:3,4; Ps 37:10,11 & 29). Please know your family is in my prayers.

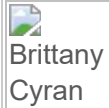
John Amanda Costello - December 20, 2018 at 11:07 AM

MC

“ My sincere condolences go out to the Burke Family. I have had the opportunity to work with Dawn and Lenny on decorating their beautiful home. Dawn was always full of laughter and positive energy. I truly enjoyed our conversations we had together. She will be greatly missed.
Sincerely, Michael Curulla



Michael Curulla - December 12, 2018 at 03:47 PM



Brittany
Cyran

“ My deepest sympathies go out to the Burke family. I have had the pleasure of working with Dawn's daughter, Molly, for 4 years and although I never had the honor of meeting her mother, I could tell that she was a special woman. Molly is one of the kindest, most charismatic people I know, and I know she learned that from her beautiful mother. Sending love, peace, and healing to the entire Burke Family. Love, Brittany Cyran

Brittany Cyran - December 11, 2018 at 08:14 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dawn H. Burke.



December 11, 2018 at 01:29 PM



“ Bristol Hospital Development Foundation purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dawn H. Burke.



Bristol Hospital Development Foundation - December 11, 2018 at 10:13 AM

JF

“ *John, Jeanne & Lynch Family purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Dawn H. Burke.*



John, Jeanne & Lynch Family - December 11, 2018 at 09:16 AM

BJ

“ *Brian and Susan Jones purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dawn H. Burke.*



Brian and Susan Jones - December 11, 2018 at 08:25 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dawn H. Burke.*



December 10, 2018 at 05:42 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dawn H. Burke.*



December 10, 2018 at 04:07 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dawn H. Burke.



December 10, 2018 at 01:26 PM



“ I met Dawn at Molly's 30th birthday party last March. Right away Dawn exuded so much energy, life, warmth, and joy. She was making me laugh with her stories, and her smile was contagious. Being a fellow BC Eagle, I knew that Dawn was someone whom could have a fun time, and she was definitely having fun that night. My encounter, though brief, left an impression on me, as her spirit and energy were so bright and beautiful, which is why I know she will live on forever in this way. Our sincerest sympathies and condolences go out to the Burke family. We are sending lots of love and prayers, especially to our amazing and beautiful friend Molly. We love you and are always here for you. Love, Annie and Alex Harrison

Annie Harrison - December 10, 2018 at 01:08 PM



“ On behalf of President and Head of School, Christian Cashman, I offer my deepest sympathy on the passing of Dawn Burke. Dawn along with her husband, Leonard Burke '72, is a valued member of the Northwest Catholic community, so we mourn her loss along with all who love her. Please know that we will remember Dawn and her entire family in a special way at our next school-wide Mass. We are very sorry for your loss. ~ Jane Leary, Director of Constituent Relations, Northwest Catholic High School.

Jane Leary - December 10, 2018 at 11:09 AM

SH

“ From the class of '72 Hamden High School we send our deepest sympathy in hearing of the passing of Dawn Susan Howarth Huff

Susan Howarth Huff - December 10, 2018 at 08:56 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Dawn H. Burke.



December 09, 2018 at 07:52 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Dawn H. Burke.



December 09, 2018 at 05:47 PM

SB

“ My heartfelt sympathy goes out to all of you. I am so very sorry and I pray for strength and peace for you. Sharon

Sharon Burke - December 09, 2018 at 01:28 PM

SB

“ *Sharon Burke lit a candle in memory of Dawn H. Burke*



Sharon Burke - December 09, 2018 at 01:24 PM

EF

“ *Dawn was the most special, most capable, most creative, and most fun colleague I ever had the pleasure and honor of working with. She always had a unique and insightful approach to addressing the myriad of issues that arise in a work environment. She was a skilled negotiator and a gifted problem solver. I never met anyone more honorable. Being in her company was always a great delight -- a bright, joyful spirit. She lifted up the mood and outlook of everyone in her presence.*

In recent years, we would get together from time to time to catch up on each other's lives. I will sorely miss those times. Debra and I offer our deepest condolences to dear Lenny and their family. Dawn and her gift for celebrating life will never be forgotten.

Love, Ed Forand

Edward Forand - December 09, 2018 at 11:11 AM

JA

“ When I think of Dawn I remember her laugh. She laughed with her whole body. She would stomp the ground with her leg and bend her body in surrender only to rise up again releasing a total expression of joy and appreciation. That was Dawn. She didn't just react, she reacted enthusiastically, wholeheartedly, and lovingly to all those in her world. I loved Dawn Burke. She was a true and loyal friend; someone you could always count on regardless of the circumstances. She was genuine, honest, caring, brave, and fun with a capital “F”. The world needs more Dawn Burkes. I will miss my good and loyal friend. I will miss her generosity, her honesty, her humor, her strength of character, and I will forever miss her laugh. My deepest condolences to the entire Burke family.
Much love, Joanne Amenta

joanne Amenta - December 09, 2018 at 10:42 AM

MS

“ Much Love, Cousin Sally purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Dawn H. Burke.



Much Love, Cousin Sally - December 08, 2018 at 11:26 PM

GS

“ Gina Swenton



Gina Swenton - December 08, 2018 at 08:02 PM

PP

“ Our world has lost a very special person who will never be forgotten by her amazing smile and being that lit up every room she entered. Our deepest sympathies to Lenny and family.

Patti & Bob Pulito

Patti J Pulito - December 08, 2018 at 04:40 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose* was purchased for the family of Dawn H. Burke.



December 08, 2018 at 03:41 PM

LM

“ *Love Missy & Bobby McCarthy* purchased the *Enchanted Cottage* for the family of Dawn H. Burke.



Love Missy & Bobby McCarthy - December 08, 2018 at 01:31 PM

LN

“ *Love to you all, Rick, Annie, Nadia and Nancy* purchased the *Sacred Garden Spray* for the family of Dawn H. Burke.



Love to you all, Rick, Annie, Nadia and Nancy - December 08, 2018 at 11:56 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dawn H. Burke.*



December 08, 2018 at 10:36 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dawn H. Burke.*



December 08, 2018 at 09:08 AM