



Kristin Ann Huerta

January 25, 1951 - November 2, 2016

Kristin Ann (Clifton) Huerta.

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Born in Gary, Indiana to Paul and Margaret (Maruchnic) Clifton, Kristin passed away after a

brief battle with cancer. She passed peacefully while enjoying one of her final wishes, watching one of her garden videos as her husband sat at her side.

She was a 1969 graduate of Gary Horace Mann High School where she was a member of the

Spanish club and enjoyed a study abroad trip to Mexico to further her knowledge of the Spanish

language. She was also a member of the band and played the flute. She briefly attended Indiana

University in Bloomington. She studied art history and archaeology. She was employed by

Indiana University for over 30 years first in the Halls of Residence Food Service Division and

retiring from the Office of the Registrar, Records Processing Group.

Kristin enjoyed her hobby of gardening. Immediately after her retirement she attended classes

and became a Certified Master Gardener Intern. She collected a large amount of daylilies,

hostas and grasses. She maintained seven flower beds, numerous potted

plants on her deck and countless plants inside of her home. She started her annual flower garden plans during the winter months. Each year she selected color themes and plant varieties. In early spring she started over 700 plants from seed, transplanted them into four packs and then set them out in her flower beds. You can view some of her garden videos on youtube by searching user huerta4245.

She also enjoyed photography and editing her pictures with photo editing software. She brightened others with her monthly calendars in which she featured one of her photos that she had edited. Her favorite holiday was Halloween and she celebrated it by carving at least four pumpkins every year and passing out candy to the trick-or-treaters.

Along with her husband, Kristin made garden videos in which she narrated tours of her flower beds and selected the music to accompany slide shows of the pictures she had taken during the year. She also help her husband produce DVD videos which included slide shows of numerous

IU student organization productions including the Asian American Association's "Taste of Asia" and "Fashion Show". She also helped produce DVDs for the Asian Student Union's "Mr. And Ms. Asia". Kristin enjoyed taking pictures at the events and then selecting the pictures and accompanying audio for the slide shows.

From her husband's gardens, Kristin daily ate at least ½ pint of blueberries during the growing

season; a cucumber and tomato salad; her favorite green beans; and freezing the other

vegetables for use during the winter months.

She liked to take trips to local state parks; the National Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH;

Native American Mounds in IL, OH, and IN; or just down to the lake to have a picnic.

Nashville, IN was a place she visited at least three times a year. For several years she wanted to

go to the County Fair and just watch the 4H'ers show off their horses. Of course she took a

picnic lunch and her camera.

Kristin fell in love with Muffy VanDerBear and eventually wound up with four Muffys' and one

Hoppy. She enjoyed her trips to Nashville where there was a store that sold clothes for her

Muffys and Hoppy. Kristin acquired a large collection of clothes for her girls. She changed

clothes for the girls monthly and had outfits for all the big holidays and vacation trips. Such as,

the sailor outfits the girls wore to go rowboating or the cheerleader outfit for the Colts game.

Kristin enjoyed the arts and entertainment. She enjoyed going to the local art fairs and making

purchases from her favorite artists. She was a life long fan of musicals and had a special place

for the "Big Band Era" movies. Her favorite couple was Fred and Ginger. She acquired most of

their movies and a large collection of their books. She also collected Mickey Rooney and Judy

Garland movies. She also liked action movies. She collected James Bond movies. Her favorite Bond was Sean Connery.

When Kristin was looking for a home to purchase she fell immediately in love with her new home and made an offer before the house was even listed on the market. She oversaw remodeling projects which included the master bath where she had tile work done in the shape of cattails; a deck which included a jacuzzi and a roof; a shed which she had constructed after searching magazines; and her downstairs TV viewing area where she had her favorite leather couch and gas fireplace. She spent most of her time either on her deck or in her TV room.

Kristin liked to cook. Although she was always a little shy, when her husband was a mentor for the Minority Achiever's Program at IU, Kristin took it upon herself to cook a Sunday dinner once a month and a big Thanksgiving dinner for all of Michael's mentees. There were times when she fed over a dozen hungry students at a sitting. It also gave her the chance to try some new recipes. She enjoyed listening to the students talk during the meals and some stayed in contact with her long after they graduated.

Kristin was a avid fan of the Colts. She watched all the games and especially enjoyed Super Bowl XLI when her Colts beat her husband's Bears. She was kind enough not to rub it in.

Kristin is survived by her husband of 42 years, Michael Huerta of

Bloomington, IN; sister Kathy (Clifton) McFate, and Rich of Buffalo Grove, IL; sister Laura (Clifton) Hormuth of Indianapolis; niece Elizabeth (Hormuth) Oliver and Doug of Fishers; nephew David and Jamie Hormuth of Austin, TX; nephew CJ McFate of Chicago, IL; great nephew Theodore Hormuth of Austin, TX; step-mother Barbara Clifton of Munster. She was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Margaret Clifton.

Kristin and Michael wish to thank the staff at IU Health Bloomington, notably the critical care unit, the staff at 4 East, the staff at Hospice House, and the nurses and aides of Hospice Home

Services for taking care of her in her illness. Thank you.

In lieu of flowers, Kristin asked that you consider a donation in her name to your favorite charity. There will be neither visitation nor ceremony. You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to Kristin's family at www.allencares.com.

Tribute Wall

PW

“*Michael, I was very sorry to learn of Kris's passing. I was her senior supervisor at the Registrar's Office for 25 years. The extraordinary knowledge, skill and efficiency with which she did her work was often hidden from others by her quietness. Once, when she needed to take a two week leave at a busy time, I found it took me and one other staff member nearly all day just to open, read, understand and sort her voluminous incoming mail. We hadn't even processed it, just stacked it for later (her!) action. How extremely important were her contributions.*

Her quietness also belied her vibrant and creative personality. Reading your beautiful obituary brought back memories, among them the amazing carved pumpkins she brought to the office to light up for us, Muffy appearing in various new outfits, and Kris describing to me the beautiful original tile work she had in her house. Often, her garden flowers, or ones she had exchanged with other staff, would be on her desk. A more personal memory is that she and I shared an interest in archaeology and would sometimes talk about a particular interest or article I had come upon.

I was very pleased to see her a few months ago when she came to the Registrar retirees luncheon. It saddens me now to think she is no longer with us.

My deepest sympathy for your loss.

---Pat Wheeler

Patricia Wheeler - November 14, 2016 at 12:02 AM



Thanks Pat. She really enjoyed her job for over 30 years. She was lucky to have such a great group of people to work with. Including the lunch break soap opera club. I appreciate your comments.

Michael Huerta - November 14, 2016 at 09:33 AM

PB

“ I was so sorry to hear of Kristin's passing. Her spectacular flower gardens and the masterfully-carved pumpkins transformed our neighborhood, providing pockets of beauty. Watching her on my daily walks around the neighborhood as she gardened with a quiet focus made me pay more attention to my surroundings: the brilliant colors of her flowers, the green of your grass, the weeping cherry tree in the front yard, and the gray or blue sky. Each spring, I waited with anticipation to see the magic that would emerge from your kitchen table greenhouse. Thanks to both of you too for the videos that you produced for Bloomington High School North students and student organizations at IU. Kristin enriched our lives with her creations, and she will be missed in our neighborhood and on campus.

Purnima Bose

Purnima Bose - November 12, 2016 at 06:39 PM



Thanks Purnima. It is nice to hear that other people appreciated Kristin's many talents. She sure made things beautiful.

Michael Huerta - November 14, 2016 at 02:41 AM

EK

“ Michael, Very sorry to read Kristin's obituary in the Post Tribune today. You, me and Dean Rothschild shared a house in Bloomington for a semester during our college days. As an avid gardener myself, I enjoyed some of your garden videos on You Tube. Sincere sympathies to you and your family.
Ed Kozlowski

ED KOZLOWSKI - November 09, 2016 at 08:27 PM



Thanks Ed. And thanks for looking at the garden videos. She and I enjoyed making those.

Michael Huerta - November 10, 2016 at 08:09 AM

AH

“ I so enjoyed working with Kris for many years in the Registrar's Office. She was quiet most of the time but when you least expected it she'd burst out with something whimsical or just funny. When I left the office in 1999 she gifted me with a Muffy, which was so sweet of her. We didn't stay in touch after I moved on, but I still have my Muffy and think of her with affection whenever I look at it. To Michael & her family, I am very sorry for your loss; there is certainly nobody else like her.
-Anne Haines

Anne Haines - November 09, 2016 at 12:34 PM



Thanks Anne. Kristin did have a sense of humor. When she was in the hospital she said..."guess we'll find out how Medicare works!". With her impish smile that she had. Made me laugh.

Michael Huerta - November 10, 2016 at 08:08 AM

FS

“ Kristin was my personal shopper here at Omaha steaks for so many years its a great lose for me! She was just a customer we were friends always sure a joy to visit she will be missed by me and all of us at Omaha Steaks



Frances stewart - November 07, 2016 at 06:06 PM



Thanks Frances. I wish you could have seen how animated she would get when answering your telephone calls. She really enjoyed ordering and eating her Omaha Steaks products.

Michael Huerta - November 10, 2016 at 08:07 AM

ES

“ Kristin has been our backdoor neighbor for over 15 years and I saw her nearly everyday sitting on her back porch enjoying the view. Her flower beds are amazing and I am privileged to see them every day. Anytime that I had a question about plants or needed a particular plant for a flower bed she was all too happy to help. Of course, her willingness to help people was not just limited to plants. Her quiet demeanor and gentle voice were a staple of her wonderful personality. She was a very giving person and my family was often on the receiving end, and for that we are tremendously thankful. Our community has lost a loving and gifted person who made all of our lives better. She will be missed! -- Eric Starks

Eric Starks - November 07, 2016 at 06:17 AM



Thanks Eric. Kristin was very quiet and private. I didn't know that she gave you gardening advice. News to me.

Michael Huerta - November 10, 2016 at 08:05 AM

DR

“ Dear Michael, Kathy and Laura,
I was so sorry to hear of your loss. The beauty Kris found in nature, flowers, plants, the arts and photography etc. certainly demonstrates how she must have celebrated each day with joy from the gifts those things bring. Some people go through life not even being aware or taking the time to take part in the world in that way. Although Kris was shy and quiet she was in touch with life more than most. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this time. Your Cousin, Donna Romeu

Donna Romeu - November 07, 2016 at 12:48 AM



Thank you Donna.

Michael Huerta - November 10, 2016 at 08:04 AM

EE

“ I have lot of good memories of Kris. Her generosity with her beautiful daylillies and Michael's blueberries, which she shared. She was also my partner in answering the trivial questions on my calendars each day. It seemed to be a good way to start our work day which I missed when she retired. I loved seeing her pumpkins she carved and the enjoyment she got from planning and carving them. I also loved her pictures on her monthly calendar pages. She will be missed.

Michael, I am very sorry for your loss, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Rest on peavce Kris.

Earla Eskew

Earla Eskew - November 06, 2016 at 09:53 PM



Thanks Earla. You were her best friend. She always talked about her pal Earla. And she loved the daylillies you gave her. Please get ahold of me next summer. She would like you to take some of her daylillies.

Michael Huerta - November 10, 2016 at 08:03 AM

HF

*“ I have a lot of warm memories of Kristen, we went to the same church & youth activities.
I remember how good she was at Spanish Dancing, but I mostly remember her quiet, gentle smile.
So very sorry for your loss.
Helen I (Curtis) foster
Class of 69 classmate*

helen curtis foster - November 06, 2016 at 03:16 PM



Thanks Helen. I forgot all about her Spanish Dancing when we did the obituary. She once appeared at the White Sox Park, didn't she?

Michael Huerta - November 10, 2016 at 08:02 AM

TW

“ Kristin was dynamic, talented and beautiful.--Teri Wade

Teri Wade - November 06, 2016 at 07:22 AM



Thanks. And thanks for all of you guys for taking such good care of Kristin. I appreciated the tender care you provided her.

Michael Huerta - November 10, 2016 at 08:01 AM

JG

“ I am so sorry for your lose Michael. I feel your lose after losing my husband. Hope you get back to your routine at the gym. Take care. Blessings to you and your family. Judy Griffith

Judy Griffith - November 05, 2016 at 10:46 AM



Thanks Judy. I have started to get back to the Y. See you there.

Michael Huerta - November 10, 2016 at 08:00 AM

LG

“ Kris, as we called her in the Office of the Registrar at Indiana University, and I worked together for over 20 years. One of the fond memories from the early days is around Halloween. She carved beautiful designs on pumpkins long before it was popular. She would match the designs to the shape of the pumpkins. Then right before Halloween she would bring them all in, set them up in our administrator's office, light them up (candles, of course), turn out the lights and invite everyone to come in and see them. That's only one fond memory, there are many, many more. Rest in peace, Kris. You'll be missed more than you ever knew.

Linda Gales - November 05, 2016 at 09:25 AM



Thanks for sharing that. I had forgotten that she used to take her pumpkins into the office. She really enjoyed carving those pumpkins.

Michael Huerta - November 10, 2016 at 08:00 AM