



Melanie S. Walker

June 17, 1959 - July 31, 2021

Melanie S. Walker, of Bloomington, passed away unexpectedly on July 31, 2021, at age 62. The daughter of Richard and Ruth Walker, she was born in Ithaca NY, attended Ithaca area schools, and earned a Bachelor of Science in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University in 1985.

Until her passing, Melanie was CEO of the North American group of companies of Japan-based Tsuchiya Co. In 1994, at age 34, she was the first woman to be named president of a Japanese owned American manufacturing company.

Melanie's generosity of spirit shone through the countless national, state and local boards and committees she served on, as well as the time, talent and resources she devoted to many organizations and individuals. She was named to the board of Indiana University Trustees in 2016, and was involved in numerous organizations at the university. Among her many other professional and civic roles, Melanie was an active member of the boards for the Indiana Economic Development Corp., the Indiana University Credit Union, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and Susie's Place Child Advocacy Center. She had a love for children and participated in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Melanie has been described as a servant leader, role model and touchstone for her family and friends. As the leader of an international company, she worked to build understanding and collaboration across cultures. As a friend and colleague, she was incredibly down-to-earth, with kind words of

encouragement to share with those around her. As a mother, grandmother, sister and aunt, she delighted in the youngsters in her family, especially her late son, Landon and grandson, Cash. She was dearly loved and appreciated by her immediate and extended family.

In her private life, Melanie enjoyed making her house a home. From interior decoration and art collecting to cooking and gardening, her love for beauty shone through. Her home was her sanctuary, and she was passionate about making it comfortable for the many she entertained.

Melanie is survived by her daughter, Stormy Walker; grandson, Cash Grigsby; mother, Ruth Walker; brother, Nathan Walker; sisters, Dixie Walker (Eric Mueller) and Lisa Walker, and a broad extended family. She was preceded in death by her son, Landon Hart, and father, Richard Walker.

A celebration of life ceremony will be held at the Indiana University Auditorium in Bloomington, IN, at 4:30 pm on Monday, August 9, 2021, with a private burial service in Ithaca NY to follow.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Susie's Place, New Hope and Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana.

Tribute Wall

CM

“ It is difficult to find words to express our sadness on the passing of our beloved colleague and leader, Melanie Walker, mother – grandmother - daughter – sister – mentor – friend – unwavering and enthusiastic servant and President and CEO of TASUS Corporation/Tsuchiya Group North America.

Melanie began her career with the Tsuchiya company of Nagoya in 1989 and, in 1994, became President of TASUS, its first North American subsidiary, based in Bloomington. Through her leadership, Tsuchiya Group North America has grown to five manufacturing facilities in North America. Melanie was the first female president of a Japanese-owned manufacturing company in North America. A few years back in an interview with Plastics News, Melanie acknowledged Yasuyuki Ohara, Chairman of Tsuchiya as her mentor, who taught her so many valuable lessons. We can only imagine the profound loss the Tsuchiya family is feeling today.

Melanie was active in the Japan-America Society of Indiana for nearly thirty years and served as President of the Board from 2015 to 2018, which included overseeing JASI's capital campaign to create the JASI Japan Culture Center in Union Station. Even with all of her commitments – to TASUS, to her non-profit work, to family and friends - she always ensured her time devoted to JASI included thoughtful inquiry, collaboration and mentoring. She was one of our most dedicated JASI leaders, a frequent speaker, and received JASI's Bridge of Friendship Award in 2019. We have appreciated Melanie's friendship, guidance, and dedication. Her impact was beyond measure.

Our deepest condolences to the Walker Family and to the employees of Tsuchiya/TASUS.

From the Japan-America Society of Indiana Board of Directors, staff and members.

Cindy Madrick - August 09, 2021 at 02:12 PM

KC

“ Ken Iwama, Chancellor purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Melanie S. Walker.



Ken Iwama, Chancellor - August 09, 2021 at 10:12 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Melanie S. Walker.



August 09, 2021 at 09:42 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Melanie S. Walker.



August 09, 2021 at 09:19 AM

NU

“ Norikazu Ikeda, Nittsushoji U.S.A.,Inc purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Melanie S. Walker.



Norikazu Ikeda, Nittsushoji U.S.A.,Inc - August 09, 2021 at 08:58 AM



“ *Rose Tribute was purchased for the family of Melanie S. Walker.*



August 07, 2021 at 02:09 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Melanie S. Walker.*



August 06, 2021 at 02:37 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Melanie S. Walker.*



August 06, 2021 at 11:02 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Melanie S. Walker.*



August 06, 2021 at 02:21 AM