



Mrs. Melissa Long Sanders

November 10, 1961 - March 20, 2021

Mrs. Melissa Long Sanders, age 59, of Shelbyville, passed away Saturday, March 20, 2021, at her home, under the loving care and comfort of her family and Alive Hospice.

A Celebration of Life may be held at a later date.

Melissa Long Sanders was born on November 10th, 1961 in Oklahoma City, OK. She was preceded in death by her Daddy Jim Edward Long.

She is survived by her husband Jeff Sanders, three children, step son Jeffrey (Cassie), Shelby, Austin, her mother Mary Ellen Long (Clarke), a sister Jennifer Long, and a brother Scott Long (Trish) and many more relatives and friends.

She was a graduate of Bethel High School in 1980 and began her career right away as a civil servant at Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City, OK. Missy married Jeffrey Lee Sanders in 1985, and they spent their first 8 years of marriage enjoying life together (including many weekends on the lake) before deciding to have a daughter, Shelby Lyn in 1993, and a son, Austin Cooper, in 1996. Missy was able to take a deferred retirement in 2001 which allowed her to spend more time with her children as they grew up, and she was truly an exemplary mother not only to her own children, but to many of their

classmates as she volunteered her time at the school. Missy also enjoyed spending weekends watching NASCAR races with her family, and it is worth noting that there could not have ever been a bigger Dale Earnhardt fan than her. After a short time living in Florida in 2008, the family moved to Tennessee in 2009, where Missy began to cultivate her love of decorating, fixing up old furniture, and attending various art classes to sharpen her skills. Many of Missy's creations adorn her home and the homes of her family and friends. Her frequent use of bright colors symbolize the light that her unfailing kindness brought to everyone she knew. Missy LOVED traveling, especially to the beach, and recently returned to her family's roots on a trip to Sweetwater Station to visit Uncle Phil and Aunt Amy Clarke. Missy was always thinking of others. She was a volunteer at the hospital where she made friends with many people and helped them during their loved ones sicknesses and loss. She also had a Color Street Nails business. She didn't do the nails to make money. The majority of them were bundled up and sent to The Blessing Box project that assists women recovering from breast cancer. Missy said it was important for women to feel pretty during recovery and pretty fingernails helped. She radiated positivity and encouraged everyone she knew and loved to be their very best and she made the world a better place just by being in it. It goes without saying our whole family will miss her guidance and love. Her final lap around the race track is only eased by knowing her Daddy was waiting on her at the finish line.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Melissa Long Sanders.*



March 26, 2021 at 02:26 PM



“ *Hello, I would like to offer my condolences to the family and friends of Mrs. Melissa Long Sanders. I didn't know her personally, but I ride my bicycle past her house every day on my 18-mile bicycle ride. I spoke with one of her neighbors and he told me of her passing. Last summer, I saw her at her mailbox tending some Cone Flowers, and I was quickly moved by God to give her two gallon containers of Shasta Cone Flowers. I simply put them by her mailbox and when I rode by the next day, they were planted. Now, when I ride by her house, I will see the flowers come up, and they will remind me of her. She was very friendly and always answered my "hello" with a wave of her hands. May she rest in peace, and may her family and friends be comforted during this time of sadness. May God bless you all.*

*George McCall
Chief Petty Officer
United States Coast Guard (Ret.)*

George McCall - March 25, 2021 at 12:14 AM



Shelby Sanders

Thank you Mr. McCall, it is so nice to put a name to a face, I am Melissa's daughter and I saw you out riding every day when I was back home last week. Thank you SO much for sharing this, my mother LOVED working on her flowers and I wonder if she knew those coneflowers came from you! Just wanted you to know that you sharing this sweet note made my day.

Shelby Sanders - March 25, 2021 at 02:53 PM



George McCall

Dear Shelby, Your mom and I never had a conversation, but we fellow nature lovers don't need to say anything to each other. When I saw your mom tending to her cone flowers last summer, God spoke to my heart, and as soon as I finished my ride, I promptly went and got her two containers of Shasta Cone Flowers. These cone flowers differ from the common variety in that they produce flowers in red, orange, pink, yellow, and purple-all on one plant. Shelby, I know what you are going through because I lost my mom 17 years ago. I still miss her greatly, but it gets easier with time and with family and friends to help you through. The Bible states that this life we live on earth is but a "vapor" and then we are gone. God also promises that we who accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, SHALL see our loved ones again. God cannot lie. Please accept my condolences to you, your brother and Dad and to all your family and friends. May God keep you and your family at this time in your life. God bless you.

George McCall - March 26, 2021 at 11:45 PM

KW

“ou said it best: Her frequent use of bright colors symbolize the light that her unfailing kindness brought to everyone she knew.. she was a light. When my daughter moved to Nashville, I didn't hesitate to call her up to “take care of my baby if an emergency”.. And she didn't hesitate to provide us her number and I had no doubt she meant it - and I slept better knowing she was there. She lived her life caring and was loved in return. I am sorry for your loss and pray your family will heal.

Kim Whitman - March 23, 2021 at 03:49 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Melissa Long Sanders.*



March 23, 2021 at 12:27 PM



“ *I remember fondly of a visit to Shawnee when Missy and Jenny taught me who Rod Stewart was with his song “Don’t you think I’m sexy”...so much fun to see them dancing around and being very pretty teenagers. Another memory was when the whole long crew came to visit in Chadron when their Uncle Phil graduated from college. My girls were little then and Missy was the best babysitter anyone could have asked for...my girls adored that she played with them. Much Love and Sincerest condolences for the Long/Sanders family from Aunt Janice in Washington.*

Janice Clarke - March 22, 2021 at 05:55 PM



“ *My favorite memory of Aunt Missy was when my family came to visit her, uncle Jeff, and my cousins Shelby and Austin. I slept on the couch at the end of her bed every night and every morning she started the bubble bath for me! I will miss her delicious monkey bread and smile.*

Audrey - March 22, 2021 at 04:36 PM



I remember Missy from school. Always was so kind and nice. Once I was going to mow Gene Wellman’s lawn. Gene was in the hospital. Of course my mower wouldn’t work. And Missy and her parents stopped by and mowed Gene’s lawn

Greg Shaw - March 22, 2021 at 04:48 PM

DP

I'm so sorry for your family and your loss Jenny. Your in my prayers. What a coincidence that I live in OKC where my mother is from and my father is from Tennessee and worked at Tinker until he returned to Shelbyville after my parents divorce. Your sister was an amazing woman I wish I could have met. God bless you 🙏

Debbie Pannell - March 23, 2021 at 12:16 AM

 Kim
Harris

*God looked around his garden and found an empty place
He then looked down upon the Earth and saw your tired face
He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest
With the help of his angels, they flew you to your heavenly place.*

I'm sorry for your loss Jenny God bless each of you!

Kim Harris - March 23, 2021 at 02:14 PM

KW

You said it best: Her frequent use of bright colors symbolize the light that her unfailing kindness brought to everyone she knew.. she was a light. When my daughter moved to Nashville, I didn't hesitate to call her up to "take care of my baby if an emergency".. And she didn't hesitate to provide us her number and I had no doubt she meant it - and I slept better knowing she was there. She lived her life caring and was loved in return. I am sorry for your loss and pray your family will heal.

Kim Whitman - March 23, 2021 at 03:42 PM