



## Katrina Kelley Pranger

October 9, 1971 - June 8, 2011

Katrina Kelley Pranger passed away unexpectedly on June 8th, 2011 at Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She was 39.

Katrina was born October 9, 1971, at Mercy Hospital in Cadillac, to Russell and Candice Kelley. Katrina attended and graduated from Cadillac High School in 1989. Katrina attended Grand Valley State University for 1 year, and later received her Cosmetology license from Cadillac Academy of Beauty.

A woman of many talents and unnerving confidence, Katrina enjoyed success in many careers including sales at Henne's Shoes, Airport Animal Clinic, Cellular One and the Cadillac News. At Cellular One she was awarded the Presidents Club and Circle of Excellence every year of her employment. Her current job as Office Manager was at Smiles By Design, a dental office located in Grand Rapids. She was also an active member of the Cadillac community, long-time member of BNI and graduate of the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program.

Katrina's infectious personality and smile had the ability to bring laughter and comfort to any situation. By nature, she welcomed anyone and everyone believing in the best and bringing out the very best in each of them. While she enjoyed bike riding, swimming, tennis and gardening, she enjoyed nothing

more than to just 'hang out' with the people she loved. In 2005 she reunited with a lifetime friend, Shane Pranger. She met her match in humor, wit and tenacity. They married in 2006 and began to live out a love that so many dream of having. Katrina & Shane enjoyed exploring the small towns of Northern and West Michigan like Glen Arbor, Northport, Charlevoix, Grand Haven and South Haven. They also spent much of their time visiting family and loving their dogs. Katrina's favorite role as wife was matched only by her love of being "Aunt Katrina," Mama to her puppies, Keeley and Finley, and being a faithful and encouraging friend to all who knew her.

Unwavering in spirit and kindness, Katrina was a diamond in the rough, a rare gem, not easily found, and never replaceable. Katrina's life motto was, "You never know how strong you are, until being strong is the only choice you have." We honor her today in hopes of embracing that same strength as we continue on this journey without her.

Katrina will be greatly missed by her Husband, Shane Pranger; Parents, Russ & Candy Kelley; Brother, Kasey (Lynn) Kelley; Niece, Teaghan Kelley; Nephews, Klay, Chase and Karson Kelley; Grandfather, Charles R. Kelley; Aunt, Penny Kelley McRae; Uncle Charlie (Cindy) Kelley, and many cousins. Father and Mother in law, Robert & Rosemary Pranger; The Petaja family: Shannon (Jim), Shea, Tec (Chelsea) and McKrai; The Hamlet family; Kelley (Mike), Meaghan, Casper (Jess), Piper (Doug) & Corban; Dr. Rory Pranger (Joyce Kopp); The Suitor family: Shaunne, Teague & Rory; and a very special friend, Denise Hartsell.

On Wednesday morning, Katrina was reunited with her Grandmothers, Blenda Campbell Marsh, who passed away on June 8, 2007 and Norma Kelley, who passed away on Sept. 2, 1989 and her Grandfather, Verdon Campbell, who passed away on June 28 1979.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11:00 AM Monday June 13, 2011 at St. Ann Catholic Church in Cadillac, Michigan with Rev. Fr. Santiago Hoyumpa as celebrant. Her final resting place will be Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac. Visitation will be held at Peterson Funeral Home in Cadillac, Michigan on Sunday, June 12, from 4-7 PM and from 10 AM until services at church on Monday. In her honor of Katrina, donations may be made to: Wexford County Animal Shelter. An online guestbook is available at [www.petersonfh.com](http://www.petersonfh.com).

# Tribute Wall

EW

“ I am a patient at the dental office where Katrina worked. When I went in for my appointment on Wednesday I heard the sad news. I must say that Katrina had such a beautiful, positive energy about her. I was so impressed by her friendly and caring personality that she was actually one of the reasons I chose that particular dentist to go to. I was absolutely shocked to hear this news. My condolences to her family. Although I didn't know her well, it was obvious that she was a great person. Competent, capable, but most of all you could tell that she really cared about others. God bless her family.

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**Elizabeth Winniman** - December 03, 2011 at 11:11 AM

K-

“ My Thoughts and prayers go out to you, the Pranger and Kelly family. I knew Katrina, when she worked at Cellular One. She was a beautiful person inside and out. I could always count on Katrina taking care of her customers, like they were all her friends. She was always wonderful and very helpful. She went out of her way to give you her best deals. The day that I called and she was no longer there took me by surprise. I haven't seen her in years, but often thought of her. I'm sure like everyone says, she is the shining star watching over everyone. She looked out for everyone while she was on earth also. Take Care and May GOD Bless.

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**Karla Rossell -Wright** - June 21, 2011 at 12:22 AM

TG

“ So Sorry to hear of your loss. I know she will be greatly missed. I pray that you may find some comfort in the time ahead.

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**Terry Grames** - June 19, 2011 at 09:17 AM

JP

“ I remember playing softball with Katrina and her joyful spirit. Our thoughts and prayers to the Pranger and Kelly families.

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**Jennifer (Fettig) Pedroza** - June 16, 2011 at 08:00 PM

MC

“ The day after I moved to Chicago is the day I heard about Katrina. I hung up the phone, grabbed my keys, randomly began walking the city streets all while praying and thinking of this bright light. I saw Katrina in 2008 and she had gone through so much. I couldn't believe it. And then she told me she had married Shane Pranger. With this news her smile grew bigger, her eyes were dancing and she was brimming with happiness. This news trumped everything!  
Tá

*As I continued walking I thought of her braveness, gentle spirit, beautiful smile and dancing eyes. And that smile! Whenever you saw her smile you wanted to smile.*Tá

*Mr. and Mrs. Kelly, Kelsey and Shane, I know there is a void, but it should be comforting to know that Katrina touched so many people and that her kindness spread to others. She will be remembered for a lifetime.*Tá

*Love,*

*Maureen Carlson*

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**Maureen Carlson** - June 14, 2011 at 09:48 AM

MJ

“ With deepest sympathy.

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**Matt Jager** - June 14, 2011 at 12:49 AM

HH

“ I knew Katrina from cosmetology school. She was a wonderful person. She will be missed by many. Keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Holly Hamilton** - June 13, 2011 at 11:05 PM

KW

“ Dear Shane,  
With heartfelt condolences - my prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.

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**Kristy Webb** - June 13, 2011 at 03:53 PM

CW

“ To the Kelley and Pranger and families - your loss cannot be imagined. Katrina was a true light in this world and things just won't be the same without a presence and spirit such as hers. Our love and prayers are with you everyday as you face the challenge of living without your special star, Katrina. Blessings to you all.....Connie and Craig Weidner and family.

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**Connie and Craig Weidner** - June 13, 2011 at 03:52 PM

RZ

“ Knowing you for over 20 years in cadillac was some of the best times i had you will always be in my heart until next time.

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**Robert Ziegler** - June 13, 2011 at 03:19 PM

PG

“ Dear Russ and Candy,  
Although I never had the privilege of meeting your daughter, she sounds like a wonderful person who was loved by many...just like her parents.  
I am so sorry for your huge loss.

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**Peggy Carter Gilstad** - June 13, 2011 at 01:03 PM

CM

“ My condolences to the family. Thoughts and prayers are with you .

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**Carla (Doan) Moffit** - June 13, 2011 at 12:55 PM

NW

“ Seeing the love and support at Katrina's visitation last night was a testament to her beautiful spirit. I have so many great memories of our childhood together, specifically playing with dolls, riding bikes in the hood and swimming in the Kelley pool. Katrina was such fun and had the kindest heart. My love to you all; may God surround you with comfort in your grief.

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**Niki Taberski Westrick** - June 13, 2011 at 11:55 AM

DF

“ Words cannot express the sorrow we felt when we heard of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Love you guys.

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**Dave and Jane Ann Fontaine** - June 13, 2011 at 11:54 AM

SH

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the Kelley and Pranger families. I will always remember Katrina as someone with an infectious smile. Her caring and loving personality was something that affected the people she was around. The world is a much better place because of Katrina. Words cannot express how sorry I am for your loss. Please know that you are in my prayers during this difficult time.

Steve Hopkins - June 13, 2011 at 11:43 AM

HH

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Shane, The Kelley and Pranger Families. Katrina was a very kind and wonderful person. She will be dearly missed but never forgotten.

Hope (Thompson) Hiscock - June 13, 2011 at 10:50 AM

LP

“ Lynn/ Kasey,  
I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this extremely difficult time.

Laura Phillippo - June 13, 2011 at 10:39 AM

JG

“ Thoughts and prayers to everyone, family and friends, who mourn your loss. There are no words...

Josh and Beth Gottschall - June 13, 2011 at 10:30 AM

PC

“ When I think of Katrina some of the words that come to mind are beautiful, caring, uplifting, outgoing, gentle, kind - those are just a few. It is hard to describe a woman like Katrina. She touched the hearts of every person she met. I remember being new to CHS our Sophomore year - she was one of the first to welcome me. When Jon Rad passed away she was the first to write me a letter sending condolences as well as lending an ear - she meant it when she said she would " be there for me" . I still have that letter and read it over and over on Wednesday night. She truly is an angel and will never be forgotten. We are all better people just having known you Katrina.

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**Pete & Lisa (Ranville) Chenard** - June 13, 2011 at 10:26 AM

SH

“ Katrina was always the bright spot in my day. I will miss her dearly - she could light up an entire room. I feel blessed that I was able to know her and have her in my life. Sara

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**Sara Parmenter Haskin** - June 13, 2011 at 09:32 AM

BG

“ Shane,

So sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this difficult time.

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**Brian Gard** - June 13, 2011 at 07:44 AM

CS

“ I work with Shane at NHA. I did not know Katrina, but she sounds like a wonderful person who made a difference in many lives. My heart goes out to you Shane and the rest of your family. It is my prayer that the Lord over all life and all circumstances will provide the strength you need in the days ahead.

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**Chad Stabler** - June 13, 2011 at 07:18 AM

DK

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you Russ and Candy. Katrina was a Special person, we were blessed to call her a friend! She will be Greatly Missed...

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**David & Karen Karpicke** - June 12, 2011 at 10:33 PM

TD

“ Russ and Candy, I can't image the loss you must feel. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Tom and Lois Darrow** - June 12, 2011 at 08:36 PM

JS

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Kelley Family. It had been many years since I had seen Katrina. She always had that warm room filling smile. She will be missed by all who knew her.

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**Jack & Peg Speelman** - June 12, 2011 at 07:11 PM

AC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May God continue to give you strength and peace.

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**Ann and Larry Chappel** - June 12, 2011 at 03:19 PM

KH

“ Kasey,Lynn and family. We didn't personally know Katrina, but neither one of us can imagine the hole it will leave in your lives to have lost a sister! We both have one and the loss to our families would be huge. Please accept our heartfelt condolences. Cherish your beloved memories and know that your friends will keep you in our thoughts and prayers!

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**Kathy/Rick Haller** - June 12, 2011 at 12:29 PM

PJ

“ Katrina-I can't put into words the love I had for you. I am so blessed that I had you as a friend. You will always hold a special place in my heart..Prayers being sent to all your family during this difficult time.

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**Penny Jenema** - June 11, 2011 at 10:21 PM

SW

“ Katrina, I was just telling my kids about you a few weeks ago...about how we used to spend hours on your boat---you going over the biggest waves over and over again while I was inner-tubing and by the time the day was done I would be bruised from the tops of my thighs to the tips of my toes. But yet, we would get up and do it the next day all over again. I have many fond memories of you from 4th grade (swimming in your pool and visiting Mr. Hinkley) all the way through high school. I know my life is better from knowing you and sharing a small portion of my life with such a wonderful person! You truly were a special person with a kind, loving and compassionate heart for everyone! Shane, Mr. and Mrs. Kelley and Kasey-since I heard the news you have continually been in my thoughts and prayers...and you will continue to be in the days and months to come. I wish I could be there to celebrate Katrina's life with you! Know that she is honored and celebrated all over---today and in the years to come!

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**Sue (Ashbay) Whipple** - June 11, 2011 at 09:46 PM

MG

“ As I try to type something I have to keep fighting the tears..Katrina,you will so dearly missed! I will be praying for you, Shane and your family.. Yes its true.. Mike Galloway is speechless right now..Miss U!

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**Michael Galloway** - June 11, 2011 at 08:16 PM

SP

“ Katrina ~ I could not have ever imagined Shane finding someone who would connect with him like you did. You ' got' him like no one else. You loved him like no one else. You needed him like no one else. You two were a such a hoot to be around and I long for that kind of love and interaction with someone. I can't say " Thank You" enough for what you gave to him and shared with him. We are all so blessed to have been given the time that we had with you but it was not enough. Shane, you continue to be a wonderful husband as you are doing everything you can to make this celebration of her life one that gives her honor. You are an amazing Dad to those two girls and Katrina would be proud of how you have comforted them and others during this time. We all have things Katrina did and said that we will always have with us and we will hold tight to those and to you. We love you.

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**Shaunne Pranger** - June 11, 2011 at 08:06 PM

AE

“ My thoughts go out to the Kelley and Pranger families. I have so many wonderful memories of my time growing up with Katrina...she will definitely be missed by all who knew her. Keeping you all close to my heart during this difficult time...

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**Aimee (Blackman) Evans** - June 11, 2011 at 04:37 PM

CP

“ Katrina, You were the most beautiful person inside and out. It was an honor to have a friend like you. God bless and rest in peace my friend. You will be missed.

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**Callie Potter** - June 11, 2011 at 03:54 PM

MH

“ My Dear Katrina, since my first meeting you, you were always such a shining star. Leaving us so soon has made us all so very sad. Your vibrancy, energy, kindness and humor will be so very missed. Take care little star and shine forever... Sincerely, Myra

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**Myra Henigan** - June 11, 2011 at 03:14 PM

TC

“ im sorry so she was a beautiful and wonderful person who always had a kind smile for everyone.... she will be so missed...

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**troy and kerry (boyd) cannedy** - June 11, 2011 at 02:54 PM

CF

“ I met Katrina in 1988 when I went to work for her Dad at 7Up. She later became my neighbor and friend. I will always remember her bubbly personality and contagious smile as well as all of the time at the bonfires and snowmobiling. My heart aches for her family and for the fact that she is gone.

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**Cristie Ferguson** - June 11, 2011 at 02:09 PM

TF

“ We remember your smile and jolly personality. You were always bubbly with smiles and kindness. Katrina you will be greatly missed by our family, Carolyn and Christine.

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**The Mulder Family** - June 11, 2011 at 02:04 PM

CJ

“ So sorry to hear of your very sudden loss Shane. Katrina was awesome in all the ways listed in this guestbook and then some. Always full of life, living, laughing and giving to others. May all her memories and strength give you more strength as you continue your journey here on earth.

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**Christie Petersen Johnson** - June 11, 2011 at 01:31 PM

AH

“ Katrina- To know you was to have loved you. The saying " beautiful on the inside and out" was coined for you, old friend. Shane and Kelley-Pranger family, you will continue to be held in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Anne-Terese (Beaudoin) & David Horning** - June 11, 2011 at 01:26 PM

SE

“ It was a privilege and honor to have Katrina as a cousin. She was always so much fun to be around and always had an irreplaceable smile that no one could forget. She left a lasting impression on many of my friends that she only met once or twice. Trina we all love and will miss you dearly...

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**Shayne Eisenga** - June 11, 2011 at 12:44 PM

AC

“ I met Katrina years ago at Curves when it was out on Sunnyside Drive. I believe she was getting ready for her wedding. She had a great smile and Personality. My condolences to the family. She will be missed.

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**Alice Cook** - June 11, 2011 at 11:14 AM

KF

“ *Katrina you were such a beautiful person. You were outgoing, happy and friends with everyone. You will be sadly missed my friend. My heart goes out to the people that never knew you and all the people that did have the pleasure of knowing you. RIP*

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**Kim Freese** - June 11, 2011 at 10:53 AM

JW

“ Candy, Russ, Kasey & Lynn, Shane,

*I'm so sad to hear about Katrina. I've been thinking about her and your family so much over the last few days, recalling so many great and funny memories! Some go back a pretty long way, like playing in laundry baskets and wagons at your house on the corner, and thinking Trixie was the cutest dog ever (especially when she was sporting a ribbon or bandana!). I remember making a GIANT domino maze with her (and adding several games-worth of Scrabble tiles when the dominoes weren't enough) while she was recuperating from something (mono maybe?) and had to "play quietly" (not sure we succeeded!). I remember being in awe of her easy and confident way with animals, and being coached and encouraged by her when I braved my first hamster. (I'm pretty sure the only times I ever held it were when she got it out of the cage for me!) I remember so many afternoons trying to keep up with her in the pool, playing in the Fontaine's yard and garage, thinking you'd moved to the wilderness when you moved down to the end of the block. I remember an seemingly endless number of high school tennis practices, matches, road trips, and doubles partnerships, to which she brought the fabulous combination of talent, hard work, humor and antics. She is a light that will always shine--her infectious smile, her sweet disposition, her ability to always see the best in people and situations. I am better because I knew her. I wish so much I could be there on Monday. My heart is with you. Love, Molly*

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**John & Molly Whelan** - June 11, 2011 at 10:35 AM

DT

“ My prayers and thoughts to the Kelley and Pranger families. It's never easy to lose a loved one, but I know Katrina touched the lives of everyone she encountered and though she is not with us, she'll never be forgotten.

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**Dave Tripp** - June 11, 2011 at 10:29 AM

SK

“ Katrina's beautiful spirit and bright smile will live on to be a wonderful inspiration for us all!

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**Stephen & Lorri King** - June 11, 2011 at 09:13 AM

CD

“ God must be short on angels - the only reason I can think of for such a vivacious life to be taken so young. Leadership Cadillac just wouldn't have been the same without your compassion and humor!! God bless your husband and family. And ....."  
listen  
sister"  
keep a good eye on all of us down here - we all need it!!! Biggest of hugs. Carol, Gary, Bosch and Bently

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**Carol Donohue** - June 11, 2011 at 08:47 AM

JM

“ Katrina, it was an honor to be your friend. I will miss you every day, laughing at the stories I remember and knowing you're up there cheering me on in life. You rocked this world, sister!

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**Judi Maloney** - June 11, 2011 at 07:51 AM

PW

“ I didn't know Katrina personally, but wish I had the opportunity to have known her. What wonderful things I've heard about her, her love for people, excitement, flowers, animals, and certainly Shane. No one can take care of him like Katrina did, but he has the love and support of many friends at work.

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**Paul Witte** - June 11, 2011 at 07:46 AM

AB

“ Katrina ~ Working with you at Cellular One for 2 years was both a privilege and a blessing. We were such a happy work family...the best ever! I have so many cherished memories of you and those crazy days at work and the amazing trips we won and took together. I can look back at those photos and smile because I got to be a part of your amazing life...even if it was a small part. I will never forget your contagious laughter, or you silly antics. The angels above rejoice to have you. I wish I could be there to tell you good-bye one last time, but then again, lets not say good-bye. Let's say "Until we meet again my friend." To say you'll be missed by us all just doesn't even scratch the surface...

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**Anne-Parrish Beigh** - June 11, 2011 at 01:54 AM