



## Shelly Denise Knight

September 29, 1967 - January 9, 2026

Shelly Denise Knight, age 58, passed away peacefully at home on January 9, 2026 after a long, hard-fought battle with cholangiocarcinoma. She was born on September 29, 1967 in Kansas City, KS, the daughter of the late George and Sandra (Luttrell) Ladd. She was the oldest child followed by two brothers, Michael and Joseph.

Shelly married Michael (Mike) Knight in 1987 at Sauer Castle in KCK and enjoyed a long, happy marriage of 38 years. During that time, she had two children, Keenan and Kristina. She graduated from the University of Phoenix with a bachelor's degree in business management in 2010, and proudly enjoyed a twenty-year long career with UPS.

Shelly's infectious smile was the light of any party. September was her favorite month, where she could often be found in Colorado among the aspen trees. During her free time, she enjoyed finding deals while thrift shopping, reading, listening to her music and podcasts, caring for animals and dogs, and spending time with her children and niece and nephews.

She was diagnosed with cholangiocarcinoma in October 2023. Shelly fought like a warrior throughout her diagnosis up to the very end, with a smile on her face never backing down from the challenge. She was invited to the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation Annual Conference as an honored guest in

April 2024.

Shelly is preceded in death by both of her parents. She is survived by her husband, Michael Knight; children Keenan Knight and Kristina Knight; brothers Michael (Yvette) Ladd and Joseph Ladd; nephews and niece, Ryun, Caleb, Brandon, Raymond, Zachary, and Jolina; step-son, John Knight, and two step-grandsons, Mason and Lucas; four grand-cats and one-grand dog; and many loving friends who will miss her deeply.

A memorial service to celebrate Shelly will be held at Maple Hill Funeral Home on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 12:00 PM. A visitation will take place an hour prior from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM for those wanting to come pay their respects.

Contributions in her honor may be made to the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation, <https://www.cholangiocarcinoma.org/>, or to your local animal shelter.

Shelly's humor, compassion, light-heartedness, strength, and courage will continue to live in the hearts of all who knew her.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

JAN 17. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home  
3300 Shawnee Dr  
Kansas City, KS 66106  
(913) 831-3345  
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com  
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

## Memorial Service

JAN 17. 12:00 PM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home  
3300 Shawnee Dr  
Kansas City, KS 66106  
(913) 831-3345  
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery created a Tribute Video in memory of Shelly Denise Knight*



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**Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery** - January 14 at 09:46 AM



“ *Thinking of you all. Shelly was such a joy to know! I loved her smile and always enjoyed visiting with her at our family gatherings. Hugs and prayers to you all.*  
*Joyce and Tom Jenkins*

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**Joyce Ellen Jenkins** - January 17 at 09:38 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shelly Denise Knight.*



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January 16 at 02:44 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shelly Denise Knight.*



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January 15 at 01:34 PM



“ *Vitas Healthcare planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shelly Denise Knight.*

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**Vitas Healthcare** - January 14 at 05:39 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Shelly Denise Knight.*



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January 14 at 05:39 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Shelly Denise Knight.*



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January 14 at 04:07 PM

DK

“ My condolences to your family - As her Aetna nurse I had the wonderful opportunity to get to know and work with her over the past couple of years. She will be missed.

Donna Kurtz - January 14 at 02:45 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Shelly Denise Knight.



January 14 at 01:43 PM

BA

“ Prayers to the Knight/ Ladd family. Shelly was so kind and fun to talk to!

Bruce Adcox - January 14 at 10:17 AM

CR

“ I met Shelly a few years ago on connect. I was drawn to her positivity and love for life. We exchanged cards and messages and I looked forward to her posts. Her smile was ever present in all her pictures, even when things were very hard. Her loss is a great one and I send sincere condolences to her family. Rest in peace my sweet friend, you will be missed 🙏



Christine Rikkola - January 13 at 10:42 PM

SM

“ Strong. Brave. True to herself. Always a smile in every photo she sent to me. ( a lot of photos during her treatments ) Loved her nurses. Loved her family. Loved her friends. Loved her animals and the wild ones outside. Loved the Aspens in Colorado. Just full of life. I will deeply miss Shelly. ❤️ Sue

Sue Mueller - January 13 at 05:58 PM

PB

“ Patrick and Krystal Barr purchased the Beautiful i  
n Blue for the family of Shelly Denise Knight.



Patrick and Krystal Barr - January 13 at 01:55 PM

DK

“ Debbie n Rodney Sharon and Karen planted a <a href="/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518">Memorial Tree</a> in honor of Shelly Denise Knight.

Debbie n Rodney Sharon and Karen - January 13 at 12:01 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Shelly Denise Knight.



January 13 at 12:01 PM

AB

“ I will miss Shelly (cupcake). She was a great friend to me in our online community, so warm, funny and friendly. I am so sorry for your loss. I hope to keep my attitude towards life as bright as her's was . What a strong and wonderful woman. April, from Tennessee

April Birdsell - January 13 at 06:40 AM

DC

“ I was always very moved by Shelly's sharing of her life on the Connect social media page for Weight Watchers. She was a joy!  
Diane

Diane Christy - January 13 at 12:53 AM

RR

“ Regina Rivera planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shelly Denise Knight.

Regina Rivera - January 12 at 11:06 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Shelly Denise Knight.



January 12 at 11:06 PM

SB

“ Sandy B. lit a candle in memory of Shelly Knight



Sandy B. - January 12 at 05:45 PM

JR

“ Jeff & Sharon Ramsdell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shelly Denise Knight.

Jeff & Sharon Ramsdell - January 12 at 04:45 PM

JR

“ Jeff & Sharon Ramsdell purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Shelly Denise Knight.



Jeff & Sharon Ramsdell - January 12 at 04:45 PM

SB

“ I met Shelly on the WW website. I was struck by her strength and positivity despite enduring painful cancer. Her enthusiasm (big smile) and courage were endearing, and I feel blessed to have known her. I am sending along blessings and prayers to help comfort her family. God has wrapped Shelly in his arms and she is now pain free. 🕊️❤️

Sandy B. - January 12 at 03:50 PM

SB

“ *Sandy B. lit a candle in memory of Shelly Knight*



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**Sandy B.** - January 12 at 03:37 PM

D(

“ *Dean and Julie Gottschalk (vandenbergh) purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Shelly Denise Knight.*



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**Dean and Julie Gottschalk (vandenbergh)** - January 12 at 03:15 PM