



Peggy Ann Lautenschlager

November 22, 1955 - March 31, 2018

Peggy Ann (“Peg”) Lautenschlager, of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, died on March 31, 2018, after a battle with cancer that began almost 14 years earlier. The daughter of Fond du Lac public school teachers, Peg served as a district attorney, a state legislator, a United States Attorney, Wisconsin Attorney General, and the first Chair of the Wisconsin Ethics Commission. She had an impact on countless people, and it meant the world to her.

Peg was born on November 22, 1955, in Fond du Lac. She was the valedictorian of her class at Goodrich High School; a Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude graduate of Lake Forest College, where she majored in history and mathematics; and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Peg was appointed District Attorney of Winnebago County in 1985 and was elected to that position the following year. In 1988, she was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly, defeating a 32-year incumbent. Peg is the only Democrat to have been elected to represent the Fond du Lac area in the State Assembly in the last 75 years. She was re-elected in 1990.

In 1993, Peg was appointed by President Clinton to serve as the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin. During her tenure, she served on the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee under U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. Peg was the first Wisconsinite ever to serve on the committee.

In 2002, Peg was elected to serve as Wisconsin’s 42nd Attorney General—the first woman elected to that position. As AG, Peg created a Public Integrity Unit, was a leader on environmental issues, and sued 36 pharmaceutical companies for reporting inflated drug prices. She prosecuted a man who was convicted of murdering six hunters and attempting to murder two others in northwest Wisconsin. She also issued an opinion concluding that Wisconsin law prohibits the exclusion of prescription contraceptives from benefit plans that provide prescription drug coverage.

After serving as Attorney General, Peg continued to advocate for causes that were important to her. She worked with the Service Employees International Union, fought for public access to the Wisconsin State Capitol during the protests of Act 10, and did pro bono legal work for young people in Fond du Lac. She also volunteered at Blandine House, a substance-abuse treatment center, where she was known for her home-cooked meals.

Peg is survived by her mother, Pat Lautenschlager; her husband, Bill Rippl; her five children and step-children, Jason Rippl (Marnie Spielbauer), Josh Kaul (Lindsey Powell), Justin Rippl (Alicia), Ryan Kaul (Kelly Bridgeman), and Rebecca Johnson (Brandon); and five grandchildren and step-grandchildren, Elias Johnson, Simon Kaul, Emma Johnson, Henry Kaul, and Will Rippl. She was deeply proud of her children and step-children, and she delighted in playing an active role in her grandchildren's lives.

Peg was fiercely independent, a gifted orator, funny, and down-to-earth. She was a mentor and friend to numerous people who wanted to serve their communities.

In 2006, the Fond du Lac Reporter wrote that a "woman with the kind of tenacity and courage Peg Lautenschlager has shown in her fight with breast cancer, a woman who picks up the pieces and battles on, doesn't walk away." She never did.

A memorial service for Peg will be held from 1:00-4:00 pm on April 15th at Whispering Springs Golf Club in Fond du Lac . In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Blandine House, Inc., the ARC of Fond du Lac, Inc., or United For Diversity.

Kurki-Mach Funeral Chapel & Crematory is serving the family,
www.kurkimachfuneralchapel.com. 920-921-4420

Comments



“ Heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with Bill and family.

Roger and Lori Staffeld



Lori Staffeld - April 15, 2018 at 05:37 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Peggy Ann Lautenschlager.



April 13, 2018 at 04:03 PM



“ Peg came to visit Bethany House when she was a state representative. Many officials did, but Peg stood out by asking questions that got to the heart of things, and following up with more questions that showed how well she had listened and how much she cared about the community. As our sons became friends, we communicated from time to time about what they were up to, and we'll remember her as a no-nonsense woman who was very smart, and used her great intelligence to serve others. She will be missed. Sincere condolences from our family to hers – Sandra Ahrens and family



Sandra Ahrens - April 13, 2018 at 03:34 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Peggy Ann Lautenschlager.



April 11, 2018 at 11:13 AM



“ Bill and family,
Thoughts and prayers for all of you during your time of sorrow.
Greg and Marlys Belden



Marlys Belden - April 10, 2018 at 11:24 AM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Al Mauch - April 03, 2018 at 11:07 AM



“ Peggy is an amazing person, full of love, a fighter, kind-hearted, down to earth person, an amazing mother, and grandmother, and most importantly a true friend.

It could be 2 years or 6 years before the last time we saw each other and we could just pick up where we left off.

I met Peggy when I had just turned 13 years old and just came back from my horrific kidnapping for almost 3 1/2 months.

I didn't trust anyone back then; but I knew in my heart and gut that I could trust Peggy with my darkest of secrets and that she would keep me safe & fight for me.

If it wasn't for Peggy's, Barb's, and Laura's dedication the man who physically, emotionally, psychologically, sexually abused and raped me which then led to my abduction Oliver would have been tried by the state and not federally.

Because of Peggy's determination Oliver got 40 years in prison without parole and I know she says it's because of my testimony but it's because of the strength and her belief in me that I had the courage to testify for hours on end. I will never forget her smiles, laughs, and that sparkle and tears in her eyes when she opened up a gift I gave her made out of paper, glue, a special glaze and a lot of sanding. I made her a purple heart with her name on it and love Jessyca.

Peggy worked hard to make sure Oliver deserved what he got and she did and I can't thank her enough, she saved my life.

As Peggy says in precious papers, "She is one tough young woman and I think her ability to use sarcasm and humor to get through every day and do so with a smile is pretty remarkable. "

Peggy is right, I have to keep busy to get through the days. All my life I have been told what to do and Peggy has helped me with trying to stand up for myself I'm by all means not there all the way but her belief in me and kind words made me open my heart and believe that I need to be straight forward and stop putting up with people's crap lol.. (a joke we had between us).

When Peggy was running for Attorney General, I was so honored to speak with her in Stevens Point and then again in Madison.

I know Peggy believes I'm an amazing person but honestly Peggy is the amazing person she has accomplished so much in her life, helped hundreds of people, her children, the state of Wisconsin, she will never be forgotten.

PEGGY has always been there for me as a friend and it just brought smiles to both of our faces whenever we saw each other whether it was a convention, tv show, my wedding or graduation, we always made every minute count.

I love you Peggy and I'm so sorry I never got another chance to see you and to say

goodbye



Jessyca Mullenberg Christianson - April 02, 2018 at 11:40 PM