



## Laurie Lynn Wallace

March 24, 1956 - February 19, 2023

Mineral Point – Laurie Lynn Wallace, 66, of Mineral Point, passed away unexpectedly of a stroke on Sunday, February 19, 2023 at UW Hospital in Madison, surrounded by her family.

Laurie was born on March 24, 1956 in Dodgeville, a daughter of Douglas Bennett and Nancy (Bennett) Hendricks. She graduated from Mineral Point High School in 1974 and later received her BSN from Viterbo University. Laurie worked at the VA Hospital in Madison for 36 years where she loved caring for the veterans. She and her co-workers had a mutual love and respect for each other, and Laurie was admired for her strength and knowledge.

In 1988, Laurie married her beloved husband, Larry Wallace. They were the perfect match and went on many grand adventures together, but their greatest adventure was raising their two daughters, Shelby and Savannah.

A bucket list to Laurie was not just an idea, it was an experience. Besides running countless half-marathons, taking sailing lessons, going on numerous horse and skiing trips, she recently completed one of her most lofty goals, which was hiking to Mount Everest base camp.

Most importantly Laurie loved spending time with her family and close friends.

She brought joy and laughter with her to every room she entered. When she laughed, we all laughed. In her own words, “I think that a sense of humor is what gets you through life. If we couldn’t laugh at ourselves and others, what a not so nice place this would be.”

In her own words, Laurie recently wrote, “The older you get the more you appreciate all the little things...like if my children are happy that makes me happy! Just sitting here now on the porch with the sun gently setting in the West. The dogs are chasing each other around the yard. The work for the day is done and it is kick back and put up your feet time and I think this is the perfect happiness.”

Her legacy is carried on by her husband Larry; her daughters Shelby Wallace (Chris Mleczko), Savannah Wallace; her son Michael (Meaghan) Fitzgerald; her treasured dog Finnegan; her brothers, Mark (Gail) Bennett, Jeff (Beth) Bennett, Clark Bennett, Steve (Tammy) Bennett; her sister, Sarah Bryson; her mother and father in-law, Ron and Shirley Wallace; her brothers-in-law, Mark (Tina) Wallace, Ken (Geraldyn) Wallace; her grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Douglas Bennett, her mother, Nancy (Bennett) Hendricks and her Aunt Margaret Pardun.

A Public Visitation will be held from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at the GORGEN FUNERAL HOME in Mineral Point, WI. There will be no funeral, per Laurie’s wishes.

In lieu of flowers, Laurie’s family would appreciate a donation to Laurie Wallace Memorial, c/o – Farmers Savings Bank, 305 Doty Street, Mineral Point, WI 53565, which will be put toward a charitable donation to a Wisconsin wildlife rehabilitation foundation. This was a cause near and dear to Laurie’s

heart.

Please share stories and photos of Laurie at the following link to be compiled into a book for her family. <https://www.newlywords.com/in-remembrance-of-laurie-wallace-2>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **23**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gorgen Funeral Home  
310 Ridge Street  
Mineral Point, WI 53565  
(608) 987-3421  
[gorgenfh@mhtc.net](mailto:gorgenfh@mhtc.net)

# Tribute Wall

LP

“ *Such a caring, sweet woman. My wife and I loved our visits with her when she would visit our aunt Marge in Eau Claire.*

---

**Lon and Dawn Pardun** - March 01, 2023 at 07:54 PM

KW

“ *Laurie was so full of life and her laughter filled the room. She was always eager to share her knowledge and help in any situation she could. I learned so much about nursing and caring for patients from her. She was universally loved and respected by all of her coworkers and we are crushed by her passing. But know that she will always be remembered for her kind heart and generous spirit!*

*Kelly Van Wyck*

---

**Kelly Van Wyck** - February 24, 2023 at 01:05 PM

TM

“ We were absolutely in shock to hear the passing of our neighbor, Laurie! It was almost a daily occurrence where we would see Laurie out walking with her dog(s) and enjoying the fresh air! She would always make sure to stop and say hello to her horses and even our horse across the fence would always be on the look-out for her to go walking by! She had a way with people and animals, that was obvious. Even yet today, our horse is standing in our pasture looking and watching and waiting for Laurie to walk by with her dog. You could always count on her to have a bright smile on her face and she waved hello whenever we would see her. Our kids often said that she was the most kind person and we agree. Larry and family, you have our most deepest sympathies and words can't even say how sorry we are for your loss! You will be in our thoughts and prayers!!  
Ted and Karen Martin

---

**Ted and Karen Martin** - February 23, 2023 at 05:59 PM

TE

“ Tess lit a candle in memory of Laurie Lynn Wallace



---

**Tess** - February 23, 2023 at 04:23 PM

TE

“ I have known Laurie for over 28 yrs. She was an amazing nurse. She ensured her patients received the care they needed. She was the kindest person I ever met. I enjoyed working with her. Her family and friends are in my thoughts and prayers

---

**Tess** - February 23, 2023 at 04:22 PM

PS

“ I worked with Laurie for years on 4B and stayed in touch after we both changed units. She was such an amazing nurse— loved by all who met her including her patients. The VA is a tight knit community of lasting friendships often more like family, as we see each other more than some family. Her passing is a shock to everyone who knew her. She packed in more adventure in her young years than many and will be remembered for so much: her energy, love for her family and friends, love for her animals, her generosity, and caring nature for all. I'm sad I can't make the visitation tonight, but know so many share in your sadness and pain. Sending hugs and love to her family, VA family, and all who knew her. Pam Schultz, RN VA Operating Room

---

**Pam Schultz** - February 23, 2023 at 03:54 PM



“Hearing of Laurie's passing left me speechless and heartbroken. Although I had only recently met her during our EBC trip in Nepal, I was struck by her loving and caring personality. She had a kind heart and was always willing to help others, including animals. I recall how she would always put a piece of bread in her pocket and feed all the dogs we encountered along the way. It was heartwarming to see her show such compassion towards them. I also remember the moment we waited eagerly for the perfect shot of the plane landing in Lukla. Unfortunately, due to the weather conditions, we were not able to capture the moment. However, I want to let you know that I did record a video for you after our trek ended. I hope this video will serve as a small reminder of the beautiful memories we shared together. It is hard to believe that she is no longer with us. Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. I know that Laurie was an amazing person and her presence will be greatly missed by many. Please accept my deepest sympathy. Much love from Nepal.



---

?? ?????? - February 23, 2023 at 04:14 AM

MW

“ *Sending thoughts & prayers to Laurie's entire family and close friends she all loved so much. As a classmate & good friend, I often admired Laurie's zest for life. Always full of adventure & fun, and of course as a young girl, keeping up with her brothers. Via Facebook messages I sent her a note not that long ago telling her that I was living vicariously through her adventures and her travels. One in particular was her sailing lessons @ UW, something that has been on my own bucket list for years. Laurie responded back "That's awesome, come on along!" Bless your heart.  
Laurie you are missed already, and will continue to be missed forever by so many lives you touched. Fly high above the clouds! I came across this today, and thought of you. R.I.P.*



---

**Maribeth Weier** - February 23, 2023 at 12:04 AM

KT

“ *My sincere condolences to Laurie's friends and family. I had the good fortune to meet Laurie on the Nepal trip. Her positivity, humor, and kindness enriched all around her. Her kindness extended to the many dogs we encountered, treating them with treats and ear scratches. She will be missed*



---

**Karen Taylor** - February 22, 2023 at 04:33 PM

CA

“ Dear Laurie, how do we move on without you?!! I am crying myself to sleep each night, as we can't believe you are no longer with us! We keep asking why, but remind ourselves that God had a plan for you. Now, we have a special angel in heaven!! You were the best friend that Lou Ann, Chris and I could have ever asked for - we are so forever grateful! We cherish all the hearty laughter, your beautiful, kind and caring ways and your sweet and gentle soul!! We've known you since Sunday School and have remained friends since! I will never forget when you, Chris and I would anxiously wait for work to get done on the weekends, at 18, so that we could hang out and live-up the night away! We laughed until we cried! We laughed at each other's laugh! We would dance at The Summer Blues and then find another place, because we weren't done having fun! We remember all the giggling spells in church choir between you, Lou Ann, Chris and I when we were young and supposed to be singing! To our beautiful, laughing buddy, and sweetest forever friend, until we meet again, we love you so much!!! Our hearts go out to all of your family and friends, you have our deepest sympathies! With Love, Cindy Ayers, Christy Miller and Lou Ann Aurit



---

**Cindy Ayers** - February 22, 2023 at 03:02 PM

CB

As a youngster it was had to get to sleep with all the giggling coming from Laurie's room when you guys were together. You guys never grew out of that. Making her laugh was what made me the happiest.

---

**Clark Bennett** - February 22, 2023 at 11:19 PM

CA

*Clark, you have the best sense of humor! You made us all laugh, especially Laurie! She was so fortunate to have you and your wonderful family. No one has more fun than the Bennetts!*

**Cindy Ayers** - February 23, 2023 at 09:13 AM

DK

*“ Worked with Laurie for many years. Was such a compassionate nurse. Always cheerful and had a smile. Truly a loss.*

**Deb Kucken** - February 22, 2023 at 01:12 PM

KB

*“ I was stunned and heartbroken to hear of Laurie’s passing. I am so grateful I got to know her and spend time with her in Nepal. She was so strong and positive; a kind and generous person with a wonderful laugh -- an instant kindred spirit. We already had plans for future adventures together in Wisconsin, New Hampshire, and Peru. Laurie made friends with every animal we came across. She saved extra French toast every morning to feed the dogs we met along the way, and greeted and petted every horse we passed. She will be with us in spirit in Peru. My deepest condolences to Larry, Shelby, and Savannah – I didn’t get the chance to meet you but she told us such wonderful things. Laurie, you will be so missed.*



**Katie Bartel** - February 22, 2023 at 11:40 AM

JH

“ I was shocked and saddened by this news. I was lucky to meet Laurie on our recent hike to Everest Base Camp in Nepal - she was an amazing travel friend, always so caring and encouraging when the going got tough. She was a true animal lover - I think she petted every yak that passed us on the trail!  
My sympathy and condolences to her family and friends - you must be devastated, I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

---

**Jane Hulse** - February 22, 2023 at 09:48 AM

CR

“ I am so saddened by the news of Laurie's passing. We just returned from our big hike to Everest Base Camp and though we had only just met in Nepal the trip brought us all so close. Laurie was an inspiration, always positive and cheerful, and that was a tough hike. I will always remember her telling us that she was going to drink milk at every meal to support the dairy industry. She was so smart to do that not only for the cause but for the nutrition. I will think of her every morning! We had planned on hiking together, several of us from the EBC group in Peru in Fall. We will make a tribute to her memory and I will always remember her! Thanks for being my friend.



---

**Cristi Brumm Ruhlman** - February 22, 2023 at 08:51 AM

RS

“ Laurie was my co-worker @ the VA hospital many a year. IT was a shock to hear of her passing. Such an explosive laugh. She was a woman of honor n dignity, compassionate. Laurie was mother earth: grounded, self regulating, life giving. I think of a quote by Lao tzu/chinese philosopher related to all her adventures: " a journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step". She took her journeys to the fullest. I will miss her.

-----  
**Ron salinas** - February 21, 2023 at 09:16 PM

BH

“ Laurie always made my days brighter. I learned so much from her during our days together in the CCU. She mentored me, not just as a nurse but also when I became a new mother. I will forever will be grateful. She kindness, compassion, and beautiful smile will be missed but I know will live on in her family and all the lives she touched.

-----  
**Beth Haftoglou** - February 21, 2023 at 08:41 PM

MS

“ Mary Schmit lit a candle in memory of Laurie Lynn Wallace



-----  
**Mary Schmit** - February 21, 2023 at 07:10 PM

CT

“ I had the privilege to get to know Laurie in Eau Claire during her Aunt Marge's final days. Laurie was so attentive and caring and loved her Aunt so much. Even though we knew each other for a short time through Marge, it felt like we knew each other all our lives. She was just that kind and wonderful and caring. She touched so many in such deep, meaningful ways. May the One who offers Comfort and Peace be real and hold you tightly in His Grip. Cindy Tewalt

---

**Cindy Tewalt** - February 21, 2023 at 03:27 PM

JS

“ I am so saddened by Laurie's passing. She greeted me everyday at the VA with a warm smile. I loved working with her. She was a dedicated, compassionate and kind VA nurse. May her memory be memory be a blessing.

---

**Jennifer Smilowitz** - February 21, 2023 at 03:12 PM

SK

“ Laurie cheerfully serving coffee to veterans in the VA Hospital.



---

**Susan Kieffer** - February 21, 2023 at 12:13 PM

MW

“ Laurie was one of the nicest persons I ever met. She lived a full life that has been and will continue to be an example to everyone around her. Marge Weiland

---

**Margery Weiland** - February 21, 2023 at 11:27 AM

LL

“ I’m so sad to hear about this tragic event. Laurie was the sweetest, kindest and most compassionate person I have met. The world will miss her. God rest her generous soul.



Lucian Lozonschi - February 21, 2023 at 10:57 AM

PM

“ Laurie was one of the most wonderful lady's I have ever met. I use to bring her skinny popcorn from Costco. She ALWAYS put a smile on everyone's face.

Pamela McKinney - February 21, 2023 at 10:44 AM

DT

“ My sincere sympathy to her family. I taught her children in Sunday School many years ago. May she Rest In Peace..



Donna Toay - February 21, 2023 at 09:17 AM

NH

“ So incredibly sorry to hear this news, I just saw her and she shared her recent experience in Nepal. What a life, what a loss for all who loved her.

Natalie H - February 21, 2023 at 09:15 AM

KA

“ I was a co-worker of Laurie's for many years both on 4B and in CCU. She was an excellent nurse and a strong caring support to her patients and their families. Laurie was a leader and role model for staff members. She was always kind and had a beautiful smile. We caught up on each other's lives for the last several years in our annual Christmas messages. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Karen Anderson - February 21, 2023 at 03:37 AM

NS

“ I had the opportunity to work with Laurie at the VA. She always had a smile for me and we loved to talk about running; hiking and other outdoor adventures. She was such a kind soul and my heart goes out to her family and all of us who knew her.

Nicole Kraimer Strieter - February 20, 2023 at 09:33 PM



Ty for sharing I'm sure mom valued your friend

Michael Fitzgerald Jr. - February 20, 2023 at 09:55 PM

KA

“ Karen A. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Laurie Lynn Wallace.



Karen A. - February 20, 2023 at 08:26 PM

SK

“ Laurie will be greatly missed by all her co-workers at the VA and most recently, her fellow retired nurses that returned during the pandemic. We will remember her kindness, her smile, her joyful laugh, and her tender care of those she served.



Susan Kieffer - February 20, 2023 at 07:57 PM



Ty for sharing, she loved her co workers and job :)

Michael Fitzgerald Jr. - February 20, 2023 at 09:56 PM

ST

“ I worked with Laurie when I first started at the VA in 1988. I was an LPN, and she was the RN in charge. I learned so much from her. She was so quiet and knowledgeable. I learned a lot from her. We didn't work together after that, but whenever I saw her in the hall or delivered a pt to CCU, she was always so happy and friendly. She will be so missed.

Stacey - February 20, 2023 at 07:39 PM



Ty for your comment :)

Michael Fitzgerald Jr. - February 20, 2023 at 09:58 PM

JH

“ I as well worked with Laurie on 3A years and years ago. She was such a quiet presence, an excellent nurse. She had a great smile and lovely personality. I haven't seen Laurie since I left the VA in 2002, but I remember her so fondly, and so saddened by the news. My prayers for peace to the family and close friends.

Jolene K Hans-Wedl - February 20, 2023 at 07:19 PM



Ty for your comment :)

Michael Fitzgerald Jr. - February 20, 2023 at 09:58 PM

LH

“ I, too, worked with Laurie at the VA. Laurie was an excellent nurse leader who loved working with our veterans and staff. I loved living vicariously through her many adventures, incredible hikes, and nature escapes. May God comfort us all during this sad time. 🙏💕

Linda Hohneke - February 20, 2023 at 07:07 PM



Ty for your comment :)

Michael Fitzgerald Jr. - February 20, 2023 at 09:58 PM

CA

*Oh Laurie, how do we move on without you?!! I am crying myself to sleep each night, as we can't believe you are no longer with us! We keep asking why, but remind ourselves that God had a plan for you. Now, we have a special angel in heaven!! You were the best friend that Lou Ann, Chris and I could have ever asked for - we are so forever grateful! We cherish all the hearty laughter, your beautiful, kind and caring ways and your sweet and gentle soul!! We've known you since Sunday School and have remained friends since! I will never forget you, Chris and I anxiously getting done at our work places, when we were 18, so that we could go out and party and live up the nights away! And, boy we sure did! We laughed until we cried! We laughed at each other's laugh! We would dance at The Summer Blues and then go out to Rock's Motel, because we weren't done having fun! We remember all the laughing spells in church choir between you, Lou Ann, Chris and I when we were young and supposed to be singing! To our beautiful, laughing buddy, and sweetest forever friend, until we meet again, we love you so much!!! ❤️ With Love; Cindy Ayers, Christy Miller and Lou Ann Aurit*

**Cindy Ayers** - February 22, 2023 at 01:07 PM

JG

*“ I worked with Laurie at the VA and so admired her. She was a wonderful and caring nurse. I really admired how she challenged herself in her work to always learn new things and to share and teach her coworkers and patients. Laurie always gave 110%. She clearly loved her life and her family. I will miss seeing pics of her latest adventures. I am so sorry for her family's loss.*

**Jackie Geller** - February 20, 2023 at 06:52 PM



*“ Laurie, you have touched the lives of many and left the world a better place. I was blessed to have you as my first preceptor. Prayers for your family! You will be missed!*

**Jesse Kapusta** - February 20, 2023 at 06:03 PM

LP

“ I worked with Laurie, and she was such a knowledgeable, and dedicated nurse. She was very quiet, but we had a few giggles about life and our jobs. She loved her family most of all, and was proud of everything they accomplished. She lived life to the fullest, and I will miss her very much. Laura Pafford

---

**Laura Pafford** - February 20, 2023 at 05:05 PM

RV

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



---

**Rita vogel** - February 20, 2023 at 04:51 PM