



COURTNEY ROSE (FERRARA) WILHELM

1995-2022

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“FLOWERS, ESPECIALLY ROSES, ARE SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL REPRODUCTIVE STRUCTURES IN FLOWERING PLANTS. FLOWERS MAKE US SMILE BECAUSE OF THEIR BEAUTY. THEY MAKE US FEEL BETTER WHEN WE ARE DOWN AND OUT, THEY HAVE A LONG-TERM POSITIVE EFFECT ON US AND ALLOW FOR INTIMATE CONNECTIONS. HOWEVER, FLOWERS DO NOT TEND TO LAST VERY LONG. TREES, ANOTHER ONE OF NATURE’S ESSENTIAL REPRODUCTIVE STRUCTURES, ARE BY CONTRAST LONGER LASTING THAN FLOWERING PLANTS. HOWEVER, BOTH THINGS ARE ESSENTIAL AND NONE OF US COULD IMAGINE LIFE WITHOUT EITHER OF THOSE THINGS. I’D LIKE TO THINK THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE FLOWERS AND SOME PEOPLE ARE TREES.”

— CHAPLAIN RHONDA CHESTER



“SHE STOOD IN THE STORM, AND WHEN THE WIND DID NOT BLOW HER WAY, SHE ADJUSTED HER SAILS.”

— ELIZABETH EDWARDS

COURTNEY’S SENIOR QUOTE



COURTNEY'S COURT CHALLENGE MEMORIAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT IS DEDICATED TO BELOVED 13THIRTY MEMBER, DAUGHTER, WIFE, SISTER, NIECE, COUSIN, AND GOOD FRIEND - COURTNEY.

SHE WAS A GREAT KID WHO TURNED INTO A STRONG, BEAUTIFUL, DRIVEN YOUNG WOMAN, WHO IS STILL LIVES IN THE HEARTS OF ANYONE SHE MET.

COURTNEY'S TENNIS JOURNEY STARTED WHEN SHE WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL. SHE STARTED TAKING LESSONS AT MIDTOWN TENNIS CLUB, SHE PLAYED ON THE TENNIS TEAMS AT PITTSFORD-MENDON HIGH SCHOOL AND AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY.

COURTNEY WAS AN EMOTIONAL AND COMPASSIONATE YOUNG WOMAN. SHE LOVED HER FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND HER HUSBAND COLTON. SHE LOVED COOKING AND EATING - COLTON CALLED HER THE SAUCE QUEEN. COURTNEY WAS SO PASSIONATE AND PROUD OF HER GRAPHIC DESIGN WORK. SHE LOVED ALL KINDS OF ANIMALS. SHE LOVED HIKING AND CAMPING IN THE ADIRONDACKS THROUGHOUT HER LIFE. SHE REALLY LOVED THE YEARLY PILGRIMAGES TO THE ADIRONDACKS FOR SUMMER VACATIONS WITH HER FAMILY.



COURTNEY AND COLTON MET AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY, THEY WERE ENGAGED IN THE SPRING OF 2020 ON TOP OF WHITE FACE MOUNTAIN. THEY STARTED PLANNING THEIR WEDDING FOR AUGUST OF 2022 AND WERE ENJOYING THEIR NEW JOBS AND LIVES IN SYRACUSE.

IN SEPTEMBER 2021 AT THE AGE OF 26, COURTNEY FOUND A LUMP IN HER BREAST. SHORTLY AFTER, AMID THE PANDEMIC, SHE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH STAGE 4 METASTATIC BREAST CANCER. HER CANCER HAD SPREAD TO HER LIVER WITH NO OPTIONS FOR SURGERY. DUE TO THE AGGRESSIVE NATURE OF HER CANCER, SHE WAS TREATED WITH THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHEMOTHERAPY.

AFTER HER DIAGNOSIS, SHE HAD TWO MAJOR GOALS: GETTING MARRIED AND BEATING CANCER. UNFORTUNATELY, SHE ONLY ACHIEVED ONE GOAL, SHE AND COLTON WERE MARRIED ON AUGUST 20, 2022. A MERE 25 DAYS AFTER THEIR WEDDING, ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2022, SURROUNDED BY HER LOVING FAMILY AND HER CHILDHOOD FRIENDS SHE WAS TAKEN FROM US AT THE AGE OF 27.



COURTNEY JOINED 13THIRTY CANCER CONNECT ON THE ADVICE FROM HER COUSIN CHRISTINA, WHO WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL WITH LAUREN'S (FOUNDER) DAUGHTER, MELISSA.

FROM THAT FIRST MEETING, COURTNEY WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE CAMARADERIE, COMPASSION AND COMFORT SHE FOUND AT 13THIRTY WITH PEOPLE HER OWN AGE WHO WERE EXPERIENCING THE SAME ISSUES THAT SHE WAS FACING. SHE EMBRACED 13THIRTY WITH ALL HER MIGHT, WHERE SHE WAS NO LONGER THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM WITH CANCER, SHE KNEW THAT SHE WAS A PART OF A VERY SPECIAL GROUP OF PEOPLE.

SHE MADE MANY NEW FRIENDS AT THE 13THIRTY CANCER CONNECT LOCATIONS IN SYRACUSE AND ROCHESTER, WHICH EMPOWERED HER TO FOCUS A POSITIVE ENERGY FOR A GREATER GOOD, DESPITE HER RAPIDLY DECLINING HEALTH.



AS SICK AS SHE WAS, COURTNEY STILL HAD A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE. SHE WAS HOPING TO BE ON THE ASSOCIATE BOARD AT 13THIRTY SO SHE COULD HELP OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE THAT EXPERIENCED THOSE 3 HORRIBLE WORDS... "YOU HAVE CANCER."

UNFORTUNATELY, SHE WASN'T GRANTED ENOUGH TIME TO CONTRIBUTE MORE TO THE GROUP SHE LOVED. SHE WAS MUCH LIKE A FLOWER THAT IS BEAUTIFUL AND SPREADS JOY, BUT FLOWERS DON'T ALWAYS LAST AS LONG AS WE WOULD LIKE.

THOUGH WE ONLY HAD A SHORT TIME WITH COURTNEY, SHE LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON THE HEARTS OF EVERYONE AT 13THIRTY. HER PICTURE ON OUR WALL IS A DAILY REMINDER THAT THE HUMAN SPIRIT IS STRONGER THAN EVEN THE DEADLIEST DISEASE WHEN LIFE IS LIVED WITH PURPOSE. COURTNEY IS PROOF OF THAT.