



JulieAnn Villa of Chicago

July 7, 1974 - May 27, 2023

JulieAnn Villa, age 48, of Chicago, Illinois. JulieAnn died Saturday May 27, 2023 in hospice surrounded by family, friends, amazing images of the life she lead and, of course, the best Spotify playlists ever assembled.

Loving daughter of Geraldine “Jeri” Villa and Robert “Bob” (Sue) Villa; devoted sister of Robert (Kathleen) Villa and Kristin Villa; cherished aunt of Robert and Kayla.

“Life can only be understood backwards. But it must be lived forwards. – S.K.”
JulieAnn’s life was a life lived forward. Always forward. It was never easy. It was, nevertheless, always forward.

After graduating from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a degree in Chemistry she became an educator. A profession she committed her life too. She taught youth in Boston; Buenos Aries, Argentina; Guadalajara, Mexico; and in Illinois at Lane Technical College Prep (2002-2008) and Niles West High School (2008-2018). Her own education continued with numerous summer research projects through Northwestern University’s Research Experience for Teachers programs (2001-2017) and Master’s degrees in Education from DePaul University and most recently, in Health Communication from Northwestern University.

In her personal life, JulieAnn was an accomplished cyclist, marathoner, Michelin star foodie, and costume-clad inspirational force who motivated countless others to achieve what they believed they could not. To help people move emotionally and physically forward past what life threw at them. And she did it the way the best educators do - she made sure it was fun. She ran races and cycled crazy miles adorned in flowers, her favorite color purple, as a credible unicorn, rainbowed to support others, cheetah patterned for her crew, Dia de los Muertos faced, and wearing crazy headbands while powering through it. And, of course, she did all of it “owning every mile with grace, courage and gratitude. - JA”

The stories of how her forward leaning life touched and changed people are simply too many to fit within this obituary. You are encouraged to take a few minutes to search the life of JulieAnn Villa. Prepared to be inspired. Her impact is outstanding.

You are loved JulieAnn. Always and every day.

Visitation will be Thursday, June 8, 2023 from 2:00 P.M. until time of service at 6:30 P.M. at Morizzo Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 2550 West Hassell Road, (Northeast corner of Barrington Road), Hoffman Estates, IL. 60169.

If you are unable to attend the visitation in person but would like to attend virtually please [CLICK HERE \(https://www.morizzofuneralhome.com/obituaries/Julieann-Villa/#!/PhotosVideos\)](https://www.morizzofuneralhome.com/obituaries/Julieann-Villa/#!/PhotosVideos) and click on the **WEBCASTING VIDEO** link. The livestream will start at approximately 6:15 P.M. The family has created this Life Tributes page to make it easy to share your memories, photos, and videos. For further information please contact the Morizzo Funeral Directors at 847.752.6444.

In lieu of flowers donation made in JulieAnn's memory to the American Cancer Society (https://donate.cancer.org/?campaign=default&lang=en&_ga=2.219398426.2049296735.1685506917-1851563353.1685506917) would be greatly appreciated.

The family has created this Life Tributes page to make it easy to share your memories, photos, and videos.

For those of you that would have attended services and would like to express your condolences please click on the "Share A Memory" link above and you can leave a message. If you wish to send a Sympathy Card, please feel free to send it to Morizzo Funeral Home, 2550 Hassell Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois, 60169 c/o JulieAnn Villa Family; we will gladly forward it on to the family.

Cemetery Details

The Directors at Morizzo Funeral Home entrusted with any Visitation, Funeral & Committal; requested.

2550 Hassell Road
(Northeast corner at Barrington Road)
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
(847) 752-6444
ross@morizzofuneralhome.com
<http://MorizzoFuneralHome.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 8. 2:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Morizzo Family Funeral Home, Cremation Services, and Cemetery Memorials
2550 Hassell Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
(847) 752-6444
ross@morizzofuneralhome.com
<https://www.morizzofuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JUN 8. 6:30 PM (CT)

Morizzo Family Funeral Home, Cremation Services, and Cemetery Memorials
2550 Hassell Road
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Tribute Wall



“ *Morizzo Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of JulieAnn Villa of Chicago*



Morizzo Funeral Home & Cremation Services - June 07, 2023 at 04:49 PM

CN

“ *Cheryl And Dave Navarro lit a candle in memory of JulieAnn Villa of Chicago*



Cheryl and Dave Navarro - June 10, 2023 at 03:11 PM

AL

“ Deepest condolences to Ms. Villa’s family and friends. Ms. Villa changed my life in immeasurable ways and I will be forever grateful to her. I met her my sophomore year of high school in her honors chemistry class and SIRS class at Niles West in 2014 and we continued to keep in touch until just a few months ago. She uplifted me and my spirit from the moment we met, through validation, recognition awards, and words of encouragement. She helped me in countless ways as she provided mentorship, academic support, financial support, and medical support at various times in my life. When I didn’t know how to apply to college, she helped me express myself in college essays. When I couldn’t afford to repair my laptop in college, she bought me a new one. When I struggled to get to my classes in college, she gave me rides to the train station. When I didn’t know where to turn after feeling exhausted by the day to day of life, she was always always there for me. She always encouraged me to just show up and try my best- that is a lesson, among countless others, that I’ve learned from her and will continue to practice through out my life. Ms. Villa, I feel so lucky and blessed to have known you. I can never repay you for your contributions, but I will always be grateful to you. Thank you so much for all you’ve done. Sending love and prayers to you always- Aimen

Aimen L - June 08, 2023 at 07:16 PM

JD

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Judy DeSalvo - June 08, 2023 at 05:05 PM

CM

“ 18 files added to the album *Team in Training*



Clint Moyers - June 08, 2023 at 03:30 PM

CS

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Cindy Sides - June 08, 2023 at 08:07 AM

NR

I remember these kids. I see Patti and John in the one in front of the Christmas tree.

Noren Ryan - June 08, 2023 at 09:52 AM

DK

“ Dries K. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of JulieAnn Villa of Chicago.

Dries K. - June 07, 2023 at 09:32 PM



“ 147 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Morizzo Funeral Home & Cremation Services - June 07, 2023 at 05:40 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden* was purchased for the family of JulieAnn Villa of Chicago.



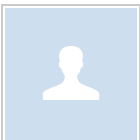
June 07, 2023 at 04:33 PM



“ *With love, Becky's Warriors* purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of JulieAnn Villa of Chicago.



With love, Becky's Warriors - June 07, 2023 at 01:15 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of JulieAnn Villa.

June 06, 2023 at 04:44 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of JulieAnn Villa of Chicago.*



June 06, 2023 at 04:44 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of JulieAnn Villa of Chicago.*



June 05, 2023 at 07:27 PM



“ *Ms. Villa was my honors chemistry teacher in my sophomore year at Niles West. I will never forget when she selected me and one of my closest friends, Anna Darville, to attend a Women in STEM conference held at Northwestern University, as it solidified my passion for STEM and inspired me to pursue it further. While I lost contact with Ms. Villa after high school, I took so many of her lessons with me to college. She had unwavering belief in my abilities to become a successful astrophysicist and work at NASA. To Ms. Villa, because of you and the other amazing teachers that believed in me, I was able to accomplish that goal my junior year of college. I'm forever grateful for your encouragement and support, particularly in regards to seeing women in STEM succeed. I want you to know how much of an impact you've had in my life, and I will miss you dearly.*

Jessica Jelke - June 05, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of JulieAnn Villa of Chicago.*



June 03, 2023 at 11:04 PM



“ *My condolences to JulieAnn’s family and loved ones. I had the honor of being JulieAnn’s student. During this time, she encouraged me to attend a women in stem day event with a handful of other girls. While I was nervous, she believed in me and lead us through a day of fun and inspiring events. After that day, I could actually picture myself in an engineering career and my love for engineering began. JulieAnn was a strong and empowering woman and I will always appreciate the impact she’s had on me*

Anna Darville - June 03, 2023 at 01:26 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to JulieAnn's loved ones. I had the pleasure of working with JulieAnn to bring career speakers to her classrooms at Niles West. She was always a shining star, and while it saddened me to know that her health was fragile, I always admired her strength and zest for life. May all the wonderful times you had together remain in your hearts.*

Lisa Edelson - June 02, 2023 at 09:55 PM



“ *I know Julie Ann as a member of the chemistry teaching community and a ChemWest colleague. Julie Ann was always willing to share what she knew. God bless you. You inspire us.*

Sue Bober - June 02, 2023 at 10:45 AM

AP

“ My condolences to the family. As one of her former students, I remember Ms. Villa as being an excellent teacher and motivator. I remember traveling with her in 2018 to the International Science fair in Pittsburgh. During our 12 flight hour delay, she patiently waited with me. When the traveling fiasco caused me to miss the registration period, she advocated for me and helped find a way. When we won the big prizes, she celebrated with me. She will be remembered as a very special educator.

Alexia Popescu - June 02, 2023 at 08:55 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of JulieAnn Villa of Chicago.



June 02, 2023 at 07:18 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of JulieAnn Villa of Chicago.



June 01, 2023 at 02:12 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of JulieAnn Villa of Chicago.*



June 01, 2023 at 11:20 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of JulieAnn Villa.

June 01, 2023 at 09:26 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of JulieAnn Villa of Chicago.*



June 01, 2023 at 09:26 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of JulieAnn Villa of Chicago.*



June 01, 2023 at 09:08 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of JulieAnn Villa of Chicago.*



May 31, 2023 at 04:13 PM



“ *It is evident JulieAnn exuded a love of life and was loved by many. Her impact will continue to inspire others. Loving condolences Aunt Jeri for always being there for JulieAnn. Robert and Kathleen, your tender loving care of her whenever needed is a testament of your upbringing and love. What cherished memories you all have to help navigate the difficult days ahead. May God bless you all and keep you in his tender arms. JulieAnn, may you rest in the peace of God's loving embrace.*
Love, Lynn Murphy

Lynn Murphy - May 31, 2023 at 02:15 PM



“ *Jeri and family, so sorry for your loss. May God's love and healing comfort all of you.*

jim and joann kijewski - May 31, 2023 at 10:56 AM



Aunt Jeri and family, sending our love to you all in this difficult time.
Love Ed and Teri

TERI BARCAS - May 31, 2023 at 02:04 PM



So so sorry Jeri, sending my love and condolences to you and the family.

Marilyn Aiken - June 01, 2023 at 01:09 AM