



Kristina Marie Lichak of Schaumburg

September 5, 1975 - April 20, 2026

Kristina M. Lichak of Schaumburg, passed away April 20, 2026.

Kristina Marie Lichak (Budzinski) passed away on April 20th at St. Alexis Hospital in Hoffman Estates, Illinois.

She was born Kristina Marie Budzinski and is lovingly survived by her mother, Sophie, and her father, Tad. She is also survived by her brother, Ted, his wife Rachel, and their three children, Anna, Luke, and Joey.

On her extended family side, she is survived by her “brother from another mother,” Mark, his wife Jen, and their four children: Amara, Liliana, Mia (affectionately known as “Silly Omelet”), and Elena.

Kris was all of those things—a mother, a friend, a coworker, a doer, a thinker. And sometimes, she was the motivation we all needed. But more than anything—more than the travel, the experiences—what she loved most, what she wanted to reflect, was her time with Amelia.

In October 2019, we got the call: there was a baby girl, viable for adoption, in the NICU in Ottawa. We went down with our eyes wide open, making jokes the whole way—like only Kris could do.

We got to the hospital, scrubbed in, and fed Amelia for the first time. Then the head nurse came over and said, “You better get a car seat tonight—I think you’re taking her home this week.”

So off we went—quick stop at a local bar for a bite, then to Target, learning on the fly how to install a car seat. And somehow, it all just worked.

On the drive home, about halfway there, Amelia decided it was time for a diaper situation. Kris, like a ninja, pulls into a gas station—one hand changing a preemie diaper, the other pumping gas. That was us. That was how we rolled. No job too big, no job too small. And honestly, it was amazing to watch.

There were so many moments like that.

During my cancer treatment, Kris was right there on the front lines—not just as a driver or support system, but as a true partner. She sat in meetings with the doctors, took notes, asked questions. She wanted to understand everything. She got involved.

And if she told me to eat more kale one more time, I might’ve lost it—but that was Kris.

And I’m so incredibly grateful for her.

Kris had a deep love for experiences. Whether it was exploring a small town in Illinois, traveling back to Ohio, or visiting vibrant cities like Boston, San Diego, Napa, and San Francisco, she embraced every journey. She especially cherished moments like crossing the Golden Gate Bridge or discovering a great local hamburger spot right next door.

She was an avid traveler who found joy not in extravagance, but in meaningful

moments—sharing stories, spending time with loved ones, and creating lasting memories. Kris wasn't flashy, but she had a special talent for finding hidden gems, from thrift shops to delicious, affordable meals.

Kristina will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Family and friends are to gather for the visitation on Thursday, April 30, 2026 from 10:00 A.M. till time of service at 12:30 P.M. at Morizzo Funeral Home, 2550 West Hassell Rd., (Northeast corner of Barrington Rd.), Hoffman Estates, IL. 60169. Interment will follow at St. Michael the Archangel Cemetery in Palatine.

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 the Family; we will gladly forward it on to the family.

For further information please contact the Morizzo Funeral Directors at 847.752.6444. Arrangements entrusted to Morizzo Funeral Home, Cremation Services and Cemetery Memorials, at 2550 West Hassell Road, (Northeast corner at Barrington Road), Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169. Morizzo Memorials and Monuments (<https://www.morizzofuneralhome.com/monuments-and-headstones/memorials-monuments-and-headstones>).

Cemetery Details

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Cemetery in Palatine

1185 West Algonquin Road
Palatine, IL 60067
(847) 397-3284
<http://www.catholiccemeterieschicago.org/locations.php?cem=38>

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 30. 10:00 AM - 12:30 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

APR 30. 12:30 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>

Cemetery Committal Service

APR 30 (CT)

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Cemetery in Palatine

1185 West Algonquin Road

Palatine, IL 60067

(847) 397-3284

<http://www.catholiccemeterieschicago.org/locations.php?cem=38>

Tribute Wall



“ Kris every band trip, every school adventure your laugh is unforgettable and it was always cherished! Many years past since than but, you were loved then and I know have been through all the rest of your life adventures. Fly high angel! Elisa Young 💜💔



Elisa Young - April 30 at 09:59 PM

P'

“ Peter Drossos & Sam Froustis; RHS '93 purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Kristina Marie Lichak of Schaumburg.



Peter Drossos & Sam Froustis; RHS '93 - April 30 at 09:42 PM

TL

“ Timothy L. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Kristina Marie Lichak of Schaumburg.



Timothy L. - April 29 at 06:44 PM

TL

“ Timothy L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kristina Marie Lichak of Schaumburg.

Timothy L. - April 29 at 06:44 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kristina Marie Lichak.

April 29 at 02:34 PM



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

April 29 at 08:25 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Kristina Marie Lichak of Schaumburg.



April 29 at 08:25 AM



“ Aunt Connie and all the Ward families purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Kristina Marie Lichak of Schaumburg.



Aunt Connie and all the Ward families - April 28 at 04:51 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Kristina Marie Lichak of Schaumburg.



April 28 at 02:47 AM



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

April 28 at 02:47 AM



“ Jennifer B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kristina Marie Lichak.

Jennifer B. - April 27 at 12:28 PM

SS

“ Kris has been a fixture in my career life for the past 20 years or so. I first met her when I was with RSM McGladrey and she was my rep with John Hancock. We worked together at MassMutual for years and later at Empower. She was a great friend and a great relationship manager; one of the best I've encountered in my 41-year career. She was passionate about helping her clients and doing the very best for them. She was warm, funny, and engaging. I commented when she came back to Empower that now we had our Polish speaking clients covered!

I was so sorry to hear of her passing. Tim, you and Kris have had more challenges in the last decade than more people have in a lifetime. Thoughts and prayers to you and Amelia as you navigate this.

Susan Lindrud Segall - April 27 at 11:55 AM

RN

So well said, Susan. Kris was truly the best of the best and will be dearly missed.

Richelle Norton - April 27 at 01:47 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kristina Marie Lichak of Schaumburg.



April 27 at 11:45 AM

AF

“ Auntie Jabwiga Jasinski & Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kristina Marie Lichak of Schaumburg.



Auntie Jabwiga Jasinski & Family - April 27 at 11:40 AM

MI

“ Kris had a way of making you feel seen. She was ever present. Her easy smile and quick wit made it easy to adore her. She shared the knowledge gained through hard-fought personal experience and shared her intense passion for advocacy during my own difficult times. I was truly blessed to know Kris and I will keep those memories dear for all of my days. Holding Tim and Amelia up in prayer.

Michelle Itzen - April 27 at 07:43 AM



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

April 26 at 04:35 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kristina Marie Lichak of Schaumburg.



April 26 at 04:35 PM

GF

“ George, Maggie& family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Kristina Marie Lichak of Schaumburg.



George, Maggie& family - April 26 at 11:55 AM

GF

“ George, Maggie& family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kristina Marie Lichak.

George, Maggie& family - April 26 at 11:55 AM

MS

“ Kris was one of the most passionate people I've ever known. She was the kind of person who didn't just care about you, she showed up, every time, without hesitation, and made you feel like you truly mattered.

I'll miss our late-night marathon phone calls more than I can put into words... those conversations where we'd laugh, vent, solve the world's problems (well, try to), and lose all track of time. That was Kris—genuine, present, and all heart.

She wasn't just an amazing friend, she was also one of the very best relationship managers in the retirement industry. Watching the way she connected with people, built trust, and gave so much of herself to her work was something special. I feel so lucky to have worked alongside her and even luckier to have called her my friend.

I'll miss her deeply & carry her with me always ☐. Love ya, Kiddo!

Misti Schillero - April 26 at 11:26 AM

JC

“ Josh C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kristina Marie Lichak.

Josh C. - April 25 at 03:26 PM