



## Melinda Kay Evans

February 23, 1948 - July 13, 2024

Melinda Kay Evans, 76, peacefully fell asleep here on earth and awoke to glory in her heavenly home on July 13, 2024. To know Kay was to love her. Kay was born to Walter and Elizabeth Evans on February 23, 1948, in Paducah, Kentucky. She joined a loving home where she learned to hang tough with her devoted older brothers, Donald Morton and Lewis Edward “Eddie” Evans. Kay often told stories of her mischievous, yet fiercely protective, older siblings. After her Dad, brother Don, and her mother passed, she depended upon and cherished her beloved “Eddie” and sister-in-law, Ruth Ann Evans—moving, along with them, from Louisville, Kentucky to Orlando, Florida in 2004.

You see, in earthly terms, Kay was considered (clinically speaking) to be mentally and intellectually challenged; however, from a practical perspective, Kay’s social “IQ” was remarkable. She lived independently, worked hard, and paid her bills. She was witty, mischievous, and funny.

In her youth, Kay attended a trade school in Arkansas where she learned hospitality services. Her personality and work ethic earned her huge tips when she waitressed at Piccadilly Buffet in Louisville, Kentucky. After moving to Orlando, she worked in housekeeping at Embassy Suites in Altamonte Springs. Kay was an award-winning Special Olympics athlete, specializing in Bocci and Bowling, winning many state and regional awards. She was also a

proud Altamonte Springs Special Olympics “Sparkler,” even cheering on the Orlando Magic! Kay was also an accomplished dancer, showing her skills at several Special Olympics showcases.

This spring, Kay was diagnosed with Myasthenia Gravis, a disease rendering her unable to swallow and breathe properly. How she missed having a cup of coffee! She endured several hospital stays since March, and received outstanding care at Advent Altamonte, ORMC, and especially at Advent’s Solaris Apopka. She gained a new friend and advocate in Claudia Propiglia with Guardian Care Management, who helped us with placement and care for Kay these last few months and became family to us. Kay was well-loved by the team at Solaris and her family is so grateful for their care.

Kay was not defined by her mental and intellectual challenges. She is defined by and will be remembered for her amazing abilities and accomplishments. She had an unequalled work ethic. She persevered and thrived despite often being erroneously judged by people who focused on her limitations rather than her strengths.

Kay was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Elizabeth Evans, her brother Donald Evans and nephew Mark Evans. Kay is reunited with them, as well as her kittens Lucy and Jade.

Leaving to cherish her memory are her beloved brother, Ed Evans and wife Ann; Don’s wife, Ann; adored nephew Doug (Wendy); and cherished niece Kim (Charles). Also missing Kay are her “greats” including great-nephew Ethan and great-nieces Callie, Amelia, and Christiana, as well as Hilary.

Kay will be interred with her parents in Paducah, Kentucky later this year. Her family will have a toast in her honor and smile at the memory of the Life and Times of Melinda Kay Evans. Rest in Peace.



# Tribute Wall

CP

“ Kay was an amazing person in every way. She overcame obstacles to become independent. She had a great work ethic. Her quick wit would catch people off guard but her smile when she used that wit lit up a room. Kay did not like people being mean or cruel and would make it known that if people messed with someone Kay cared for they would have to deal with her. Kay also had the “Evans’ don’t quit” spirit which carried her through the last months of her life along with the love and support of her family.

Today, I picture Kay sitting at the feet of Jesus with her cup of coffee and her honeybun. She is smiling because she knows that she didn’t quit, she just went to a better place where she does not have to fight anymore.

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**Claudia Porpiglia** - July 16, 2024 at 06:48 AM

NM

“ Kay was a special person to me in our childhoods; we are first cousins who lived hundreds of miles apart. I have respected her strengths, work ethics, and her ability to bloom despite challenges. Rest in peace, dear cousin, and in the glory of the Lord and your family in heaven. ❤️. Love, Nancy Mcphail

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**Nancy McPhail** - July 15, 2024 at 11:21 PM

TA

“ Sending lots of virtual hugs to the Evans family. Love you and she was a blessing to your family!

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**Tara** - July 15, 2024 at 10:27 PM

CB

“ We are so saddened to hear this news...  
Kay played bocce and bowled with my son  
she was always so friendly and a pleasure to  
be around  
She will be missed terribly our sincere  
condolences  
RIP Kay



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**Crystal Brown** - July 14, 2024 at 05:29 PM

JB

Kay was a wonderful person. I enjoyed her daily. She has been in my life for so many years. It's hard to remember she has been the best person that I can ever think of. She loved me and adored a lot of other people when I went to visit her she always said to say hi to everyone, there was not a mean bone in her body she cherished everybody for who they were and what they were OK may you live in heaven and enjoy my husband and your family and have a wonderful wonderful life in heaven as it is beautiful up there and you deserve it because you are a very beautiful person inside and out I will love you forever. I will miss you forever in a better place. Love you always Jackie.

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**Jacqueline Barry** - July 15, 2024 at 10:55 AM