



Theresa (Terri) Marie Klym

October 26, 1955 - February 23, 2025

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Theresa Marie Klym passed away peacefully surrounded by her family and friends. She was the beloved wife of her best friend, Thomas A. Klym, with whom she shared over 50 years of being together and 46 years of marriage. Theresa leaves behind her wonderful Ohana including her 3 children Traci (Rich) Pulsifer, Tommy Klym and Katelyn Klym (Eric Armetta), her 3 grandchildren Emma, Evan and Camden Pulsifer, her pets Dewey, Shady and Kitty Klym and her grandpups, Chase Klym, Murphy Pulsifer and Cooper Klym.

She also leaves behind her mother, her brothers Michael (Linda) Pennino and Mark (Ann) Pennino, Sisters-in-law Connie Green and Mary Pennino, Brother-in-law Mark (Betty) Klym, sister cousin Adele (Larry) Schaffer along with many nieces and nephews, great nieces and great nephews, many cousins and many dear friends. She is preceded in death by her father, Samuel F. Pennino, Father and Mother-in law Thomas and MaryAnn Klym, and brother-in-law Dick Green.

Terri was born in Chicago, IL and spent most of her childhood in the St. Gregory parish area. Her family moved to California for 3 years before returning to Chicago. She met the love of her life, Tommy, in second grade at

St. Gregory's Grade School. Her high school years were completed at Good Counsel Catholic High School.

After Terri and Tommy were married, they moved out of Chicago, first to Glenview and then to Vernon Hills, IL where they raised their 3 children. Terri worked as a dental assistant for Dr. Kenneth Pittner throughout her time in Illinois. She also loved her other job of being a mom and cherished every moment of life with her family & friends.

In 1996, Terri fought a courageous battle with Stage 4 Breast Cancer, and she underwent a stem cell transplant. She fought for her life so she could see her kids grow up and live her happily ever after with her Tommy. For the past 29 years she was a proud Breast Cancer Survivor and always strived to live her best life and always to the fullest.

In 2010, Terri and Tom decided to pursue a dream of theirs by making the move to Florida so they could be closer to their grandchildren. Terri had aspirations of working for Walt Disney World where she could make dreams come true – and this became her reality shortly after becoming a Floridian. She began her magical journey in Tomorrowland Attractions at Magic Kingdom before moving to Disney's Animal Kingdom Guest Relations.

Terri and Tom were fortunate to find a wonderful home in the Doctor Phillips community of Turnburry in Orlando where they continued their love story & life journey creating valuable long-lasting memories at "108 South".

Over the past few months and throughout the 2024 Holiday season, Terri was diagnosed once again with stage 4 cancer, impacting her lungs, spine and liver. She took this devastating news with grace and optimism. She was ready and willing to go into battle and fight for her health, and the life she built with her family. Unfortunately, shortly after Terri started treatment – the effects of her diagnosis were too powerful to overcome, and she was placed into hospice, preparing for peace and her eternal rest. She took her final breaths

pain free and was called home to God.

Terri lived to love and loved to live....her legacy will live on forever in our hearts.

A viewing is scheduled for 12:30pm at Flynn Hall followed by a funeral Mass to begin at 2:00pm on Saturday, March 15th, at her home church of Holy Family Catholic Church in Orlando, FL. We will also have a reception to follow. All are welcome to attend to pay their respects and celebrate Terri's life.

In lieu of flowers, we kindly invite you to consider making a donation in her memory. You may choose to support St. Jude because Terri would want to continue to help fight cancer, or the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, celebrating her love as a Disney Cast Member and her passion to support conservation efforts around the world.

Her family deeply appreciates any contribution you choose to make, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

MAR 15. 12:30 PM (ET)

Chapel at Holy Family Catholic Church
5125 S Apopka Vineland Rd.
Orlando, FL 32819

Funeral Mass

MAR 15. 2:00 PM (ET)

Holy Family Catholic Church
5125 South Apopka Vineland Road
Orlando, FL 32819

Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Theresa (Terri) Marie Klym.*



March 13, 2025 at 07:03 PM



“ *Terri , I thank the good lord everyday for placing you and your family in my path and will treasure the memories we made together over the years we had together! Whether it be all the St. Patrick's Day celebrations at Raglan rd or all the birthdays and holidays and BBQ at 108 south and our time with the DAK Pack ! You loved life and lived it to the fullest and your beautiful family took me in and made me one of their own, trusted me to watch over all your fur babies and your home at times ! Heaven called you home and may you rest in eternal peace watching over all of us !*



peter smith - March 13, 2025 at 04:10 PM



“ *Derek, Meg, Ave and Jack Schaffer purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Theresa (Terri) Marie Klym.*



Derek, Meg, Ave and Jack Schaffer - March 12, 2025 at 02:54 PM



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

March 10, 2025 at 12:56 PM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Theresa (Terri) Marie Klym.



March 10, 2025 at 12:56 PM



“ Alex Tabel purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Theresa (Terri) Marie Klym.



Alex Tabel - March 10, 2025 at 12:30 PM



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

March 09, 2025 at 06:15 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Theresa (Terri) Marie Klym.



March 09, 2025 at 06:15 PM

LF

“ Love your BBK Family purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Theresa (Terri) Marie Klym.



Love your BBK Family - March 09, 2025 at 02:53 PM

KP

“ I will always think of Terri and "bubbles," because that is what her personality was. From the moment she came into my office as a child patient and later began to work for me, her smile, laughter, warmth and happiness were always shining. It is a gift that she gave to everyone. God Bless, Terri Love and Prayers, Always Ken Pittner

Kenneth Pittner - March 07, 2025 at 01:51 PM

CM

“ Tom, Traci, Tommy, Katelyn and your beautiful families,



May God Bless you each with beautiful memories, smiles and special moments from above as she lives on in all you do. Angels live on in us as they guide us through our journey on this earth. Terri/your mom is your Angel. God Bless each of you.

Terri was a light of love to everyone she met; her smile and beautiful spirit were infectious. Terri was a very special soul spreading joy, love and compassion; a true example of living a life filled with God's blessings.

Terri taught us all the virtues of a well lived life.

*"Whatever you do, do it with Kindness,
Whatever you say, say it with Kindness,
Wherever you go, radiate Kindness."*

Jonathan Lockwood Huie

Mr. Huie must have known Terri when he wrote those words.

cheryl and michael - March 06, 2025 at 04:29 PM

“ Like sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives. I know it may sound like a soap opera cliché, but these words capture a truth we all come to learn too late. In 1988, when we moved to Chicago without knowing a soul, fate introduced us to a new kind of family. Within just a few hours of our arrival, two children—one boy and one girl—appeared at our door, eager for a playmate. With our three boys ready for adventure, they joined in, filling our home with laughter. Before long, their mother arrived, asking, “Have you seen my children?” We replied, “Yes, ma’am — they’re right here, happily playing together.” And from that spontaneous, unforgettable moment, a lifelong bond was born.

For four beautiful years in Chicago, Terri, the Klym family, and we were more than neighbors—we were family. We shared countless days filled with fun and adventure: from playing with our kids, camping at Sky High, visiting Great America, shopping, and biking to the park, to engaging in friendly competitions in the streets and at the park. Every game, party, and family gathering deepened our connection. Our talks went on and on, each other’s homes were an open door. Terri with her extraordinary gift for hospitality, alongside Tom, welcomed us with open arms. Their home was always full of warmth, laughter, and a sense of belonging. Even when we moved back to Florida, they continued to open their home to us until we found ours, ensuring we never missed a moment—whether it was a playoff game or a family celebration.

Terri’s spirit was as vibrant as her smile and she never met a stranger. Her biggest dream was to work at Disney—a dream she chased with unyielding passion. I still remember her calling me and saying, “I’ll do anything to work at Disney. I’ll even be a maid in a hotel room if I have to.” When she secured a position in guest relations, she took off like a shooting star. Terry loved people and had a magical way of bringing joy into every life she touched. There was never a day when anger or sorrow could dim her light; instead, her laughter and positivity were infectious, making every gathering brighter. She planned on returning to work after treatment and going

to Disneyland next year. She never gave up hope.

Even when faced with unexpected challenges—like the back pain that led her to seek help for Tom—Terri fought with every ounce of energy she possessed. When the doctor delivered news that made my heart sink, she refused to give in. “I did it before; I’ll do it again,” she insisted, determined to keep moving forward. It was both inspiring and heartbreaking to watch her struggle, knowing there was little anyone could do to ease the pain.

Through it all, Terri’s faith remained her guiding compass. She trusted in the Lord completely, believing that He would carry her even on her toughest days. Even when the hardships grew, she sought a second opinion, never once complaining about the pain of struggling to breathe—the worst any of us could imagine. Her resilience, grace, and unshakeable hope became a beacon for everyone around her. I was so honored and sad to be a part of Terri’s last days. She embraced and befriended her nurses, getting pictures with them. In every picture from her bed was the two thumbs up and a smile.

Terri you will be so deeply missed. You leave behind a void in our hearts that can never be filled, yet the joy you spread with your mere presence endures. Your life reminds us that we truly don’t know what tomorrow brings. So let’s live each day as if it’s slipping through our fingers like sands in an hourglass—cherishing every moment, loving longer, forgiving quicker, and embracing joy wherever we can.

We love you, Terri and we love you, Tom. You were, and always will be, TNT—explosive, vibrant, and unforgettable.

sherri bosley - March 06, 2025 at 02:55 PM