



## Sandra Johnson Lafky

February 20, 1956 - February 2, 2024

Sandra “Sandy” Johnson Lafky was a woman of strength and softness, love and advocacy, and above all: family. And it was her family who surrounded and supported her through a trying journey with cancer, creating a loving cocoon in which she peacefully passed away in the early morning hours of February 2, 2024.

She comes from a family of caregivers. Born February 20th, 1956 in Memphis, TN, she was raised by her wonderful parents Gilbert Lee Johnson and Josephine Johnson along with her four siblings: Debra Russell (Shane Russell), MaryJean Collier (Alan Collier), Kevin Johnson, and Karen Johnson. From a young age, she loved the ocean and eagerly anticipated family trips in the station wagon, driving over eight hours to Panama City beach.

She ventured to the West Coast when she was 22, traveling in a Volkswagen bus with friends, spending a season in the Tetons skiing, and working as an apple picker in an orchard in Washington, where she met the love of her life, Alan Lafky. They knew immediately they wanted to grow a family, so together they moved to Alan’s family home in Tualatin, Oregon where they raised their three children: Alyson Larkin (Andrew Larkin), Evan Lafky, and Katie Lafky (Matt Shaffer).

Sandy devoted the next 15 years to her children and her community as a stay-

at-home mom, involved in their schools, and in the world around her. She was a steady, comforting mother and a strong, tenacious advocate for justice. She protected the local heritage trees, diligently recycled, and developed a passion for women's healthcare. In 1995, at the age of 39, she made the bold decision to go back to school to become a nurse. She graduated with her BSN from OHSU in 1999 and her Masters in 2014. Her OB nursing career started at Silverton Hospital in 1999 and eventually took her to OHSU. Throughout her 24-year career, she worked as a mother-baby and Labor & Delivery nurse, nurse manager, director of women's health services, and eventually patient safety specialist/nurse. She worked to change systems to better support nurses and patients, to provide more resources to women, and to share in her passion and appreciation for birth.

In Sandy's later years, she was blessed to attend many of the births of her four grandchildren: Ayden Larkin, Asher Larkin, Arrow Larkin, and Iris Shaffer. She often expressed that her greatest gift in life was her children and grandchildren, whose lives have been deeply touched by her values and gifts. She was intuitive and practical, empathetic and resourceful, courageous, and wicked funny. She delighted in many simple pleasures— quilting and live music, tending her garden, and researching her ancestry. She loved antiquing, restoring furniture and sewing machines, and spending time quilting on the Metolius River. What she loved, she shared with others. To her children, she's passed on a love of community, of deep connection to nature, of advocacy and generosity, of healthcare work, and of mothering.

She's remembered by her family as the kind of woman who climbs higher to improve the lives of those who come next, as a person who was quiet, but not timid and who always knew what to say, and as the kind of mother whose children's friends even called mom. Her vibrant, incredible life embodied this wisdom from Mother Teresa: "We can do no great things, only small things with great love." Her presence on earth will be

immensely missed.

In lieu of flowers, Sandy has requested that donations go to these organizations which were close to her heart:

Wallisha E. Wade Scholarship- <https://www.abnao.org/willeshas-memorial>

St. Jude Children's Hospital in honor of Zadie Mae Diggs- [www.stjude.org/donate](http://www.stjude.org/donate)

Yamhill Valley Community Doulas- <https://www.yamhillvalleycommunitydoulas.com/>

Real Good Dog Rescue- <https://www.realgooddogrescue.com/>

# Previous Events

## Memorial Mass

FEB 13. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (PT)

Resurrection Catholic Parish  
21060 SW Stafford Rd.  
Tualatin, OR 97062

# Tribute Wall

KH

“ I am a classmate of Sandra’s. Not sure but I believe we went to grammar school ( Grandview) and most definitely Trezevant High School. Maybe Girl Scouts too. Loved her and yes she was quiet but a very smart girl. sorry to hear of her battle with cancer but she had a wonderful adventurous life and such a beautiful family . Hugs to you all

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**Kim Caldwell Hardaway** - March 08, 2024 at 10:19 AM

KL

Thank you Kim! The Lafky family is touched and comforted by your memories of her.

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**Katie Lafky** - April 20, 2024 at 02:51 AM

MC

“ I remember when the whole family visited us in Massachusetts ,, what a wonderful time!! Love and prayers sent your way!! Marian Copley

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**Marian Copley** - February 20, 2024 at 06:49 PM

KL

Thank you, Marian. It is so heartwarming and comforting to hear from people who meant a lot to my mom and who my mom meant a lot to. She will be missed by so many.

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**Katie Lafky** - April 20, 2024 at 02:53 AM

RO

“ Robert lit a candle in memory of Sandra Johnson Lafky



robert - February 10, 2024 at 01:15 PM

KL

Thank you, Robert! Much love to you from the Lafky family.

Katie Lafky - April 20, 2024 at 02:53 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Sandra Johnson Lafky.



February 10, 2024 at 11:30 AM

DL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dennis Lodholz - February 08, 2024 at 12:46 PM

KL

*Dennis, thank you for this wonderful photo! So many great memories with the Lodholz and Lafky families hanging out! Much love from the Lafky family!*

**Katie Lafky** - April 20, 2024 at 02:54 AM

AW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Anne Warren** - February 08, 2024 at 05:36 AM

KL

*This is one of my favorite photos of Mom. Thank you, Anne!*

**Katie Lafky** - April 20, 2024 at 02:55 AM