



Lisa Johnston

December 13, 1965 - March 21, 2024

Lisa Ann Johnston passed away on March 21, 2024 at the age of 58 after a brief battle with cancer.

Lisa was born on December 13, 1965 and grew up in Detroit and graduated from Troy High School in 1984. She then attended Central Michigan University where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Hospitality Management and was a proud member of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

After graduating, she began her career at the Guest Quarters Hotel in Troy and eventually moved to Kelly Services where she spent more than 24 years. She spent the last years of her career as a Customer Success Partner for the Midwest team at SAP.

Lisa loved traveling, reading, live music, theater, and anything and everything on Bravo. Some of her favorites were books: Pillars of the Earth and Lonesome Dove; musicals: Wicked, Rent, and Les Misérables; and artists: Prince, Adam Ant, Duran Duran, and Taylor Swift.

She was an adventurous diner and loved supporting local businesses and restaurants. She visited all 50 states before the age of 50 and enjoyed traveling internationally as well. She especially enjoyed going to Eastern Market on Saturday mornings and supporting local farmers.

Lisa is survived by her partner of 14 years John Robertson and siblings Michele Lewandowski (Mark), Stephen Tighe, Mary Ann Redhage (Corey), and brother from another mother Dantes McSween. She was the proud Auntie to Sarah, Stephen, Davis, Nolan, Alana, Ruby, and Eli. She was an adopted

Auntie to Jack, Parker, Pierce, Emma, Melanee, Tyrese, and Sophia. She was also a devoted dog-mom to her beloved Groot.

To know Lisa was to love Lisa as evidenced by her many, many friends.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to one of Lisa's favorite charities: Michigan Humane Society, The Children's Center of Detroit, and Impact 100 Metro Detroit.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

APR 5. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Tribute Wall

“ My Sister Lisa

June 16, 1984, is the day I met my wife-to-be, Michele, for the first time. This occurred at the high school graduation party of my sister-in-law-to-be Lisa. See, I've known Lisa longer than I've known Michele. I was at the party because my older brother Bob was dating Lisa at the time. They met through Bob's friend Kevin Pyle - shout out to you Kevin. So, I feel like I need to drop the "in-law" from sister-in-law. She was the sister I never had growing up.

I grew up with 4 brothers and no sisters. I kinda always wanted a sister growing up and, with Lisa, I got one. We poked fun at each other constantly over the years. Eventually, somehow, we began referring to each other as "Loser". This became my nickname for my sister and hers for her brother. This was all done in jest. We had fun with it over the years and expressed it in some of the following ways:

- My attire at her wake ordered specifically to honor her (for those who didn't see me, or understand it, I was the one wearing the polo with the "Loser" logo)

- My contact on her phone: Loser

*- Her ringtone on my phone: "I'm a Loser" by The Beatles
o I teased her about this also because she claimed that she didn't know the song. I would have loved to have told her that it was written specifically about her, but it came out in '64 and Lisa was born in '65*

- My last Christmas gift to her was a reusable shopping bag that simply said "Loser"

o For the record, John found it at Sub Pop at the Seattle airport and showed it to me so I could buy it

- My last text to her was a picture of a woman wearing a 2-piece bikini with "Loser" on the three covered parts

o Yes, there is more to that story. Suffice it to say that it made her laugh.

I went on vacation with Lisa 16 times over 40 years starting at the Wheels Inn in Chatham ON in the summer of 1985 and ending in Hawaii last year. You'd likely think that we must have gotten along really well to travel so often together. That is true...to a point. It is also where another aspect of our relationship demonstrated other characteristics of being a sibling relationship – the fights. Wow, we got into some doozies on vacation. The first one I remember was in September of 1998 (Labor Day weekend) when we went to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

We were getting out of the van, and I was getting out before her, so her face was perfectly placed at my rear end. I had the opportunity, so, I took it – as brothers sometimes do to their siblings. Well, that was the first (and last) time I did that to her. I don't think I helped the situation by telling her that it was a sign that I really felt like she was my sister. She was still telling people that story 20+ years later. BTW, Mary Ann, I'm here if you want to share some sibling bonding experiences with me 😊.

Then there was the summer of 2013 in Nashville where we had our biggest blowup ever. We screamed at each other. I kicked her out of the van. That night, she was looking for flights home. It was ugly. Thankfully, she stayed, and we actually went to The Grand Ole Opry the very next night to experience that show together.

After that experience, Michele said something like: 'I guess this is the last time we will vacation with Lisa.' I said no. Michele's idea of vacation is resting with a book in hand whether on the road or at a hotel. I want to go and experience everything I can in places I may not return to. Lisa had some of both of those views of vacation, but I think she tended toward experiencing everything. How else would we have ever gotten to see the Corn Palace in Mitchell South Dakota? I would have never been able to convince Michele to go there on my own.

She was able to push me out of my comfort zone as well. In 2009 in Memphis, we went bar/blues club hopping together on Beale Street.

Anyone who knows me, knows that I am not a 'bar person'. I wanted to check out the Beale Street blues scene. One place we stopped was a bar called Silky O'Sullivan's. We walked up to the bar where there was a couple sharing a large yellow bucket of booze and, Lisa being the shy person that she was, started chatting them up and asked what was in the bucket. They proceeded to describe the many, many different liquors that were dumped in there (which included some/all of the following: beer, Hawaiian Punch, rum, gin, cream soda, sangria, grenadine, triple sec, sour mix). They then asked Lisa if she wanted to try it. Of course she did! Did someone provide a new straw? They just slid the bucket over and provided their straw. Then, Lisa said 'Come on and try it Mark'. Of course, she conned me into it against every ounce of common sense in my head. I didn't know where these people had been! So, the one picture in the slideshow at the wake that didn't have Lisa in it is a picture of me, taken by Lisa, as proof of my experience and her ability to convince anyone to do anything. Maybe it was her revenge for the Pro Football Hall of Fame experience.

We shared many experiences that I didn't think I would ever share with anyone like standing head-to-head watching the kids pop out. We climbed Diamond Head barely over a year ago. She made it to the top and I came up just short. I was really impressed as it was not an easy climb

There were friendly arguments like:

- Which was the best Beatles album. She said Revolver, I said Sgt. Peppers. She was wrong.*
- How she could have ever hated Field of Dreams*

My last words to her were: "Thanks for giving me a sister." I should have included: "and a wife, and a daughter, and a son, and Granny & Granddaddy, Babs & Tomba, more siblings: Steve, Mary Ann & Corey, Dantes, all the kids and the entire family. I pray that the Lord is embracing you now and always. Love you sis.

Mark J Lewandowski - April 06, 2024 at 09:21 AM

CM

“ *Cedric M. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lisa Johnston.*

Cedric M. - April 05, 2024 at 04:39 PM

TM

“ *Trevor M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lisa Johnston.*

Trevor M. - April 04, 2024 at 05:56 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lisa Johnston.*



April 04, 2024 at 12:02 PM

KF

“ *Kirsten Hood & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lisa Johnston.*

Kirsten Hood & Family - April 04, 2024 at 12:02 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Lisa Johnston.*



April 03, 2024 at 07:23 PM

LR

“ Lovingly, Francie Robertson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lisa Johnston.

Lovingly, Francie Robertson - April 03, 2024 at 07:23 PM

SN

“ Suzanne and Larry Noe purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Lisa Johnston.



Suzanne and Larry Noe - April 03, 2024 at 02:24 PM

SN

“ Suzanne and Larry Noe planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lisa Johnston.

Suzanne and Larry Noe - April 03, 2024 at 02:24 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lisa Johnston.



April 02, 2024 at 03:04 PM

AH

“ Alyssa & Team NA HXM planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lisa Johnston.

Alyssa & Team NA HXM - April 02, 2024 at 03:04 PM

DB

“ I remember the first time I met Lisa. Michele, Lisa, their mom and Uncle Tom came over to my parents house. As usual all of us Tighes were running around and being crazy. I remember thinking “cool more cousins”. Over the years we shared holidays, birthdays, graduations, weddings, Edgewater, Uncle James’ cottage and New Orleans. We have welcomed new family members and said goodbye to many family and friends together. There will be a missing piece in every Tighe event going forward. Lisa just fit into our wonderfully loud and funny family. She will be missed dearly by all of us, but will be in our hearts forever.
Donna (Tighe) Berkley

Donna Berkley - April 01, 2024 at 06:51 PM

LM

“ Lisa was a force to be reckoned with. If there was fun to found – she WOUL find it. She was always planning and organizing fun events. She was highly creative and had a musical soul. I pray for healing to her family and friends. She will rest in peace.

Lorrie Sole/Rick Maguiness - April 01, 2024 at 10:21 AM

TM

“ Team MidBest purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Lisa Johnston.



Team MidBest - March 27, 2024 at 02:48 PM

KD

“ I met Lisa through a work relationship; she was always so helpful, kind, and a great spirit to be around. You will be missed by so many. Rest in peace, Lisa.

Kristina Djekovic - March 25, 2024 at 06:50 PM



“ Angel Figurine Light was purchased for the family of Lisa Johnston.



March 25, 2024 at 12:19 PM

LF

“ Love, The Nesser Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lisa Johnston.

Love, The Nesser Family - March 25, 2024 at 12:19 PM

LK

“ We lost the physical LAFJ but she will live on in our fondest memories. Rest in peace funny lady.

Laura Kuhn - March 23, 2024 at 09:18 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lisa Johnston.



March 23, 2024 at 02:06 PM

FD

“ Fadila Dukic planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lisa Johnston.

Fadila Dukic - March 23, 2024 at 02:06 PM

JC

“ Lisa and I were work pals and we were hired on the same date in April of 2017 with SAp. She always made a point to reach out to me on our IM chat program each April to wish me(& us) a happy work anniversary. I'm glad I stayed in touch with her even though we moved on to different teams. Lisa you were a wonderful person and I will never forget how nice you were and your love of the Detroit area was contagious.

Jack Conway - March 23, 2024 at 01:30 PM

TF

“ The Kiell Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Lisa Johnston.



The Kiell Family - March 23, 2024 at 09:42 AM

TF

“ The Kiell Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lisa Johnston.

The Kiell Family - March 23, 2024 at 09:42 AM

ST

“ Stan Tracy purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Lisa Johnston.



Stan Tracy - March 22, 2024 at 11:13 PM

RR

“ My Auntie Lisa has shown me so many ways to be a better person and I am infinitely grateful for every moment that I did get to spend with her throughout my life. I will always remember all of the fun things we did together, especially seeing Duran Duran with her as my first ever concert. I'll never forget all of the times that we would get our nails done or go out for sushi. I wish I got to tell her how much of an impact she's made on my life and how because of her I will now always "live in the moment". I love you so much Auntie, life isn't the same without you.



Ruby Redhage - March 22, 2024 at 11:04 PM

AC

Beautiful, caring, fun, great with people, a go getter.

Annemarie Carroll - March 23, 2024 at 08:47 AM

MR

*Ruby,
What you wrote about your Auntie Lisa was so beautiful! I know you loved her very much and she loved you. So sorry for your loss. Love you, Nana*

Maureen Redhage - March 23, 2024 at 09:39 AM

JR

God bless you Ruby. Those are beautiful words.

John Robertson - March 23, 2024 at 09:45 AM

BR

An amazing person and a joy to work with. Lisa always found a way to make others around her laugh even when times were tough. A wonderful person is lost but will never be forgotten. RIP Lisa! Seafood Towers 4 Life. Brian

Brian - March 28, 2024 at 03:42 PM

NM

One of the best managers I had at Kelly. I appreciated her strong support and up front candor. Always tried to bring a little fun to the workplace. She was a very unique individual, may you rest in peace..

Nathaniel Malaski - April 10, 2024 at 11:49 AM

CR

“ My best memories of Lisa are always when she was in a fit of laughter. Best sound in the world because you couldn't help but to join her in that joy of ridiculousness . . . no matter what, if she was laughing like that, you knew and felt it was that damn funny! I will miss you, silly sister.

Love always, your other pain-in-the-ass brother-in-law -- Corey.

Corey P. Redhage - March 22, 2024 at 10:36 PM