

Penny Leann Merk
July 8, 1964 - July 27, 2020

Penny Leann (Mason) Merk was born in Knoxville on July 8, 1964, the daughter of Vern and Joyce (Zellmer) Mason. She began her schooling in Attica and graduated from Twin Cedars High School. During high school she was a member of the cheerleading squad and baton. On July 3, 1982, she was united in marriage with Jeff Crosby. To this union three children were born: Natasha (Nikki) Nicole, Misti Shaye, and Tiffani Danielle. In August 2001, Penny married Paul Merk and gained three stepchildren.

Together Penny and Paul built their successful business in 2002, Thunder Trucking, where she served as co-owner, and ran the daily administrative tasks and operations. In 2010, they completed the build of their dream home, which Penny helped build every step of the way. This was the home



that held many family get-togethers, where Penny loved to cook and bake family recipes like lasagna, homemade noodles, and chocolate chip cookies for her kids and grandkids. Penny adored spending time with them, always looking forward to their next visit.

To know her is to love her. Aside from being a loving mother, grandmother and wife, she was an amazing, selfless aunt and friend. She would go out of her way to be by the side of anyone who needed her. She would drive hours through the night or be by your side for anything. Her infectious smile and contagious laugh will never be forgotten.

Some of Penny's favorite things include her three dogs, Herky, Hawkeye, and Bella, enjoying her beautiful garden, and soaking up the Caribbean Sun on a Carnival Cruise.

Penny passed away on July 27, at the Mercy One Medical Center in Des Moines, at the age of 56.

Penny is survived by her husband Paul Merk, daughters Nikki (BJ) Poe, Misti (Mike) Austin, Tiffani (Mason) Nielsen, step-son Zach (Jen) Merk, step-daughters Jessica (Justin) Kramer, & Rachel (Ryan) Schaden. She had thirteen

grandchildren: Kali and Kael Poe; Vivianne and Eloise Austin; Uriah Altvater, Aurora, Hannelore, and Juniper Merk; Grace, Lucy, and Mia Kramer; and Nora and Hazel Schaden. She is also survived by her mother-in-law Linda Merk and sister-in-law Jen Merk (David Govek). She also has many nieces, nephews, great nieces & great nephews. Penny was preceded in death by her parents, Vern and Joyce Mason, brother, Danny Mason, sisters, Cindy Mason, Joy Jones and her grandparents.

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