



Julie Kathryn Lott Hardesty

November 26, 1958 - March 20, 2019

JULIE KATHRYN LOTT HARDESTY, 60, beloved mother and wife, passed away peacefully on March 20, 2019, with her family by her side.

She was born on November 26, 1958, in Louisville, Kentucky, to Richard Wayne Lott and Mina Hazel Lott. She attended Pleasure Ridge Park High School where she excelled in the classroom, on the basketball court, and as a photographer. She went on to attend Eastern Kentucky University where she received a Bachelor's of Arts in History.

She attended law school at the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville, where she met her soul mate and future husband, Joseph Leon Hardesty. She graduated from law school in 1983, becoming the first female attorney in her family.

Upon graduation, Julie began her career at the Louisville-Jefferson County Crime Commission, eventually leading the organization as the executive director. In 1988, she was hired as a prosecutor at the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, at which time she also began a private practice. She quickly made a name for herself as a hardworking, levelheaded, ethical prosecutor and helped start the office's Domestic Violence Unit. In 1999, she was promoted to First Assistant County Attorney, a post she held until her passing. In this role, she skillfully led the office under two administrations for over 20

years. She was the voice of reason and comfort in times of uncertainty. As a just and fair leader, she played a pivotal role in the merger of the Louisville and Jefferson County municipal governments by advising on all legal aspects of the merger.

In addition to her exceptional career as an attorney, Julie was an active member of the Louisville Bar Foundation, where she later served as president, and was also on the board of the Jefferson County Public Law Library. She participated in state and local politics as a lifelong democrat and was heavily involved in the Kentucky Democratic Party. Throughout her career, she served as a role model for women and mothers by exemplifying what it meant to be a successful professional and dedicated mother.

Above all else, Julie was fiercely devoted to and deeply loved her family. It was her true north. Everything she did, she did for the benefit of her children. She enjoyed tapping into her sense of adventure while exploring new destinations around the world with her family. Yet her true happy place was at the lake. You would often find her sitting on the porch of the lake house bouncing a niece or nephew on her knee or making her famous banana pudding. She was always young at heart and was known to initiate family water balloon fights. She enjoyed water-skiing and boat rides at sunset, as well as the annual Fourth of July golf cart parade. She relished attending her children's sporting events and in particular, Kathryn's collegiate field hockey games. While traveling for the games, she and Joe would explore the local culture in each new city. Through her photography skills and love of football, she became the unofficial photographer for her son John's 2005 duPont Manual High School football team.

She laughed often, and her smile was contagious to everyone around her. She was a storyteller and family historian who could recite in remarkable detail pieces of history from the Lott and Peek families dating back

generations. She would reminisce on childhood trips to western Kentucky to visit her grandparents and days spent exploring the creeks or canning vegetables in Dycusburg, Kentucky, where her mother and father were raised. She took great pride in her heritage and the strong line of independent, progressive, compassionate women from which she came.

She loved making the holidays special and spending them with her immediate and large extended family. She beamed on Christmas morning when she, Joe, and their children would eat Kuchen and exchange gifts. She cherished the large family Christmas she hosted each year, where she welcomed all as family and ensured each child had a gift to open.

She adored Joe with whom she shared a long and happy marriage. They enjoyed walks with their three beloved dogs, going to Derby and Oaks each year, and listening to country music on the drive to Lexington to cheer on the Kentucky Wildcats. Their unconditional love was the foundation of their family.

Anyone who knew Julie would agree she was exceptionally kind, deeply compassionate, and full of life. Even as the youngest of five sisters, she was the matriarch of her family and strived to ensure they maintained a close bond. She was a giver whose selfless nature improved the lives of her family, friends, and community. In short, she was a champion of the underdog and a shining example of what a mother, wife, friend, and colleague should be. She was the best in every regard. All who knew her adored her and she will be deeply missed.

Her family expresses sincere appreciation to Dr. Goetz Kloecker, Dr. Jeffrey Clarke, and the nurses and staff at the James Graham Brown Cancer Center, Duke Cancer Center, and University of Louisville Hospital.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Joseph Leon Hardesty, parents, Richard Wayne Lott and Mina Hazel Blick, and stepfather, Glenn Blick.

Survivors include her beloved children, John Hardesty (Jessica), Josh Hardesty, and Kathryn Hardesty, who were all by her side when she passed; sisters, Carmen Miller (Charles), Sue Holton (David), Rebecca Aldred (Bill), and Nancy Guida; Joe's sister, Priscilla Holder (Perry); and many cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Funeral services will be Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2233 Woodbourne Avenue with burial in Calvary Cemetery immediately following.

Visitation will be from 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Monday at Owen Funeral Home, 5317 Dixie Highway 40216.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to the Kentucky Humane Society, the Lung Cancer Alliance, or the Louisville Bar Foundation.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

1600 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40204

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 25. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Owen Funeral Homes - Dixie Highway
5317 Dixie Highway
Louisville, KY 40216
(502) 447-2600
<https://owenfuneralhome.com>

Service

MAR 26. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
2233 Woodbourne Ave
Louisville, KY 40205
(502) 452-9581

Tribute Wall

JK

“ I was a lucky girl. Julie and I ran around together junior and senior years at PRP. After graduation, our paths diverged and I mourn the fact that...even without Facebook...we did not stay in touch.

Reading her accomplishments was astounding but as I've contemplated our time together so very long ago, not surprising. The intense memories that stand out is her commitment to her family. Her pride in her nephew (who was close to our age), Her sisters, her parents. There was a sense of commitment to service not unlike other dynastic families prominent in our city and country.

She had a great laugh, a great smile. A sense of fun to thinking nothing of driving around Dixie Highway with the "Easter Bunny" behind the wheel. I still remember visiting her house at Christmas with a real tree....you HAD to have a real tree for the scent. I never have but there have been many holidays when I smell pine and evergreen and think about her conviction. I remember the uproar when she was determined to cut her lovely long hair into a Dorothy Hamill do.....

I knew she was my friend and for a 16 year old unsure of so many things, that mattered.

Julie mattered

RIP and love to her family

Joan Kayse - March 24, 2019 at 03:33 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Julie Kathryn Lott Hardesty.*



March 24, 2019 at 09:38 AM



“ *Katie Baskett, Ryan Littman, Carol and Tim Burke purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Julie Kathryn Lott Hardesty.*



Katie Baskett, Ryan Littman, Carol and Tim Burke - March 24, 2019 at 09:20 AM



“ *The Fallen Limb: A limb has fallen from the family tree. I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for me." Remember the best time, the laughter, the song. The good life I lived while I was strong. Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you. Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through. My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest. Remember all, how I truly was blessed. Continue traditions, no matter how small. Go on with your life, don't worry about falls, I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin. Until the day comes we're together again. (Author Unknown)*

Donna Fogle - March 23, 2019 at 04:19 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *Julie Kathryn Lott Hardesty*.



March 23, 2019 at 01:15 PM