



## Kristin Marie Forness

January 24, 1955 - September 16, 2025

The sunset was nearly as radiant as she was on September 16, 2025, when Kristin Marie Uhlig Forness left this earthly presence, surrounded by love, after a courageous battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. With heavy hearts, we write this, as we thought we had more time...

Born on January 24, 1955 in Sidney, New York, Kris was the third child of Karl and Hilda Uhlig, and a first generation American. Her youth was spent in Utica, New York and growing up, the family moved a handful of times throughout upstate New York. The new kid on the block, Kris was Homecoming Queen her junior year and graduated from Springville-Griffith Institute High School in 1973 in Springville, New York. After graduation, Kris set her sights on the Washington DC area to study at the International School of Interior Design and George Mason University, where she graduated with a Bachelors in Interior Design in 1976.

It was during her time in DC and Arlington, Virginia that she met Terry Forness, whom she married March 4, 1978. The couple moved from Arlington to Lake Jackson in Manassas, Virginia in 1979. She was a devoted wife to Terry for 22-years and even after their marriage ended, she was still his witty, good friend.

Kris and Terry both worked at Manassas Lumber together, which is where her

career in the home building and design business began in 1980. In 1984, Kris gave birth to a daughter, Katie Lorraine, and shortly paused her career to be a momma. Kris returned to work in 1986 as an entrepreneur and proud owner of Goose Creek Kitchens and Residential Design Services, on Battle Street in Old Town Manassas. She had her storefront until 1989, with the birth of Kyle Henry, when she paused her career again to be a mom. Parenthood was her proudest calling, even as she balanced it with her impressive professional journey. Rejoining the workforce later in 1989, Kris worked at Signature Kitchens in both the Tysons Corner and Manassas locations, as well as New Dimensions Custom Contracting in Manassas until the mid-1990's when she once again started her own company, DesignWorks of Prince William. After two years of working in a home environment, Kris rejoined her colleagues at Signature Companies – Signature Kitchens in Haymarket, Virginia. In 2010, Kris began working at NVS Kitchen and Bath/NVS Remodeling and Design as a Project Designer and Sales Consultant, and Project Coordinator of within the Remodeling division. Kris worked at NVS until 2023. Kris created lasting friendships with “The Kitchen Ladies” as a Certified Kitchen Designer from 1996-2019, and spent over 40 years in residential design, creating kitchens and baths throughout Northern Virginia— long before computers and CAD were standard, Kris’ artistic skilled knowledge in hand-drawn architectural designs showcased her rare talent. Prior to her diagnosis in 2024, Kris briefly worked at Jiffy Lube Live where she helped concert goers and was able to listen to a plethora of live music shows, which was a perfect fit for her outgoing personality and love of live music.

Kris loved supporting the local community of Old Town Manassas. In the late 1980's, she participated with Historic Manassas, Inc. on the Historic Manassas Special Events Committee, and was an original core member of the Manassas Fall Jubilee planning committee, which she helped plan for several years. Kris was a regular in Old Town Manassas, always supporting small businesses and live music. Often times in the early 2000's through

2010's, she could be found at Okra's Louisiana Bistro, dancing and laughing with local musicians and neighbors. Music was her joy, and dancing was her way of expressing the freedom and happiness she carried within her.

More than her love of design and the community, Kris treasured her children. She was dedicated to raising kind, smart, and fun human beings that believed in themselves, found silver linings on cloudy days, and appreciated music and arts. She instilled independence, kindness, curiosity, and creativity in her daughter; musicality, intelligence, and sensitivity in her son. Her love lives on in the ways they see the world and in their everyday laughter and resilience. While Kris may be gone now, she is very much alive in her children's personalities and dispositions.

She loved gardening and plants and created beautiful gardens at the Lake Jackson house and on her patio in recent years. She spent hours outside with her hands in the dirt and found gratification in the colors of nature coming to life. She found peace and fulfillment in nurturing the earth. Her flowers were a reflection of her soul—beautiful, vibrant, and full of life.

Kris was a woman of deep passions and broad joys. She loved witty humor, fuzzy socks, Bonnie Raitt and delta style blues music and culture. She made friends wherever she went, and had great memories of her motorcycle crew trips – she especially loved catching up with “the girls” over a glass of Cab Sauv, a margarita, or a rum and coke. She preferred movies and shows based in the Victorian era, and read thriller novels. She liked fairies and folklore, and could often be heard humming a tune. She liked staying atop weather forecasts and spent many sunny afternoons with the kids and pets on the patio or porch together.

Kris Forness, "Kris (with a K!)", was a compassionate force of nature, and we hope you remember her as dancing in the streets of Old Town with a summer

dress, contagious laugh, and sparkling eyes. To know her, was to love and to BE loved by her. She was a remarkable entrepreneur, deeply loving mother, sister, and daughter. She was the most fun “Bonus Grandma” and “Grandma Kris”. She was a vivacious friend, and left a sparkle of mischief wherever she went.

Kris is preceded in death by her parents, Karl and Hilda Uhlig, her brother Tom Uhlig, her aunt Kathy Uhlig Kline, and former husband, Terry Forness.

Kris is survived by her devoted daughter, Katie Lorraine Forness and cherished son, Kyle Henry Forness. She also leaves behind her kindred spirit son-in-law, Rob Smith, and adored “bonus” granddaughter, Alexis “Lexie” Smith – as “Bonus Grandma Kris” to Lexie, she poured out the same boundless affection she gave her own children. All four are living in Manassas, Virginia, and will forever remember her as a guiding light in their lives. She is also survived by her sister Thea Ruff, of Frederick, Maryland, brother Steve Uhlig and sister-in-law Karen of Westminster, Maryland, and sister-in-law Jeanette Uhlig of Naples, Florida, who will miss their sister’s laugh immensely. Her Uncle Gary of Virginia Beach will miss her telling him to get out of her kitchen... Kris also has a handful of cousins, nieces, and nephews that will miss their Auntie Kris hugs and silliness, loved ones from her former marriage, extended family members and countless friends who will forever miss her fun presence and shenanigans.

We would like to thank you for the love and support we've received thus far, and especially thank the caring staff at UVA Health Prince William Hospital Medical Oncology and ICU units. An additional magnitude of gratitude goes out to Dr. Jey Maran, Nurse Eryn, and the entire staff at Virginia Cancer Specialists for your care of our momma this past year.

The memorial service for Kris Forness will be held at Pierce Funeral Home on

Center Street in Manassas, Virginia on September 28th at 2pm. A celebration will follow immediately on site in the Celebration of Life reception hall, where family and friends are invited to share their memories and honor her remarkable legacy.

While flowers are appreciated and adored by the family, they would also welcome donations in memory of Kris Forness to Old Town Strong ([oldtownstrong.com](http://oldtownstrong.com)) or Historic Manassas, Inc. (<https://historicmanassas.org/>).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

SEP **28**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
pfh@piercefh.com  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

## Reception

SEP **28**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home Celebration Room  
9609 Center Street  
Manassas, VA 20110  
<https://www.piercefh.com/who-we-are/celebration-room>

# Tribute Wall



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kristin Marie Forness.



September 26, 2025 at 08:17 PM



“ The Fletcher Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Kristin Marie Forness.



**The Fletcher Family** - September 26, 2025 at 11:12 AM



“ I will always remember Kris and the good times we had in old town. She really loved it all, including the Christmas pub crawl caroling. She spoke often of her family and how much she loved them, especially her kids. Katie & Kyle, she is part of you and will always be with you.

**Robin Nash** - September 25, 2025 at 02:04 PM



“ Robin Nash purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Kristin Marie Forness.



**Robin Nash** - September 25, 2025 at 01:55 PM

JD

“ I didn't have the pleasure of meeting Kris but I know she shared the same birthday and the tragedy of cancer with my mother. I am fortunate enough to know her son, Kyle, who has been nothing less than a light at the end of the dark tunnels we faced. I wish the desire for our moms to meet had come to fruition but I know they will meet each other soon enough above. My deepest condolences and strength to Kyle and family for their loss. He is a true pillar of strength for her and myself. May she tend to her eternal gardens whilst listening to the delta blues she adored.

Jenna & Deborah - September 24, 2025 at 11:29 PM

LK

“ Love, Thea, Steve and Karen purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Kristin Marie Forness.



Love, Thea, Steve and Karen - September 24, 2025 at 06:46 PM

FF

“ From the Nolan Forness Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Kristin Marie Forness.



From the Nolan Forness Family - September 24, 2025 at 04:32 PM

NE

“ I count myself blessed to have had Kris as a sister-in-law for the many years she was with us. She had a way of making everyone feel her joy in life and she loved her family with all her heart. One of my favorite memories is her picture hat worn on her wedding day and she was a radiant bride. I wish I had one of those pictures to share here but could not find a one. My sympathies to all the family from the Evans family. Love, Nancy L. Evans

Nancy Evans - September 24, 2025 at 12:29 PM

NF

“ Nancy Evans and family purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Kristin Marie Forness.



Nancy Evans and family - September 24, 2025 at 12:16 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kristin Marie Forness.



September 24, 2025 at 09:54 AM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Kristin Marie Forness.



September 23, 2025 at 05:09 PM