



## Mary Catherine Penatzer

January 5, 1963 - December 12, 2019

Mary Catherine (Cathy) Penatzer, age 56, passed away on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville, VA.

She was born on January 5, 1963 in Joliet, Illinois to the late William Joseph Fraser and Mary Ellen (Borman) Fraser.

Cathy was a graduate of Lake Braddock High School 1981 and James Madison University 1985. Cathy met her husband Brian through mutual friends and married in March 16th, 1991. In 2005 they adopted their daughter Emily Jia from China. Cathy coached Emily's softball team for many years and in other sports, cheered her on from the sidelines.

Cathy was a true friend to many. She was energetic, creative, passionate and loving. Her many passions included: Christmas, decorating, and flower gardening. Her gift was being a loving wife, devoted mother, sister, and aunt.

Survivors include beloved husband, Brian; her daughter Emily; her sister, Susan Edwards; her brothers, Chris Fraser and Charles Fraser; her nephews, Kyle Edwards and Jeffrey Penatzer; her nieces, Kate Edwards, Mara Penatzer, and Heather Penatzer.

The family will receive friends on Monday, December 16, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA and on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 from 9:30 AM to 10:20 AM at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 8213 Linton Hall Road, Gainesville, VA where a Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 AM with Father Thomas VanderWoude and Father Francis Peffley officiating. Interment will follow at Stonewall Memory Gardens, Manassas, VA.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Brian Timothy Penatzer, 9008 Woodpecker Court, Gainesville, VA 20155.

# Cemetery Details

## Stonewall Memory Gardens

12004 Lee Highway  
Manassas, VA 20109  
<http://www.stonewallmemorygardens.com>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 16. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

## Visitation

DEC 17. 9:30 AM - 10:20 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
8213 Linton Hall Rd  
Gainesville, VA 20155-2997  
(703) 753-6700

## **Mass of Christian Burial**

---

DEC 17. 10:30 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
8213 Linton Hall Rd  
Gainesville, VA 20155-2997  
(703) 753-6700

# Tribute Wall

AB

“ Althea Beverly lit a candle in memory of Mary Catherine Penatzer



---

**Althea Beverly** - December 29, 2019 at 04:12 PM

JS

“ Jenifer Stewart lit a candle in memory of Mary Catherine Penatzer



---

**Jenifer Stewart** - December 17, 2019 at 06:00 PM

PB

“ Patty Bliss lit a candle in memory of Mary Catherine Penatzer



---

**Patty Bliss** - December 17, 2019 at 07:52 AM

KT

“ Kim Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mary Catherine Penatzer



---

**Kim Taylor** - December 17, 2019 at 07:14 AM

RC

“ *Cathy was the coach who taught my daughter not only the skills for softball but to love the game and to have fun even when frustrated. She took her team to the 2014 championship game and won! She was an amazing woman with a big heart. Prayers to Brian and Emily. -John, Rachel, Angela and Wyatt Carter*



---

**Rachel Carter** - December 16, 2019 at 05:57 PM

AP

“ *Alicia Palmer lit a candle in memory of Mary Catherine Penatzer*



---

**Alicia Palmer** - December 16, 2019 at 11:26 AM

AP

“ *Brian and Emily, we are so sorry to hear of your loss. I always looked forward to seeing Cathy at softball games when she and Sarah played to together. She was always so engaging, and had numerous humorous tales to keep us entertained on the side line. May the memory of Kathy's love and humor help comfort you.*

*Alicia Palmer & Sarah Ortega*

---

**Alicia Palmer** - December 16, 2019 at 11:25 AM

KT

“ *Cathy was a wonderful person and dear co-worker! I will miss her advice and can do spirit!*

*Kim Taylor*

---

**Kim Taylor** - December 16, 2019 at 11:19 AM

RM

“ *I've only worked with Cathy a few years, but in that time she made a big impact in both my work and personal life. Working with her was a joy – she not only cared about the mission and our clients, but always believed in putting people first. Cathy was caring, smart, honest and lived her life with integrity. She will truly be missed, but will not be forgotten in the lives that she touched. Thoughts and prayers go out to her family.*

*Ryan Mangels*

---

**Ryan Mangels** - December 16, 2019 at 09:57 AM

KT

“ *What can you say about Cathy?? A good friend, an exceptional co-worker, great wife and mother!! She was worthy of all of those accolades but first and foremost she was just a Great person!! Cathy was always there to talk to and help you work out your issue with a kind word and smile. I will always remember when she adopted Em and the joy that was added to her life. She always kept in touch sharing pictures and stories of Emily. Heaven has gained an Angel and Cathy will truly be missed by all of the lives she touches!! Prayers of peace and comfort to Brian, Emily and the entire family.*

*Kathy Thornton*

---

**Kathy Thornton** - December 16, 2019 at 09:25 AM

GG

“ As I hear the news off Cathy passing, I am keeping Brian, Emily and family in my prayers during this difficult time. I admire how Cathy was so strong, and a fighter, giving everything she had for her family.

She was an exceptional program manager, a leader, mentor to many and a friend. We shared the joy and love of being first time mothers during the same time period. We were proud mama's bragging about Emily and Patrick's.. first birthdays, first pictures, first vacations .. lol She truly had a big heart and will be greatly missed. But I also know she is safe and in a good place watching over her family 🙏🙏

---

**Gloria George** - December 15, 2019 at 08:59 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Catherine Penatzer.



---

December 15, 2019 at 08:02 PM

PF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



---

**Peregrino Family** - December 15, 2019 at 03:11 PM

AW

“ *Cathy made our workplace, work. She had a kind word for each one of us, and gave us motivation when we needed it. Cathy had a wonderful sense of humor, not to mention her intelligence. We came to her with some hard problems, and she helped us "figure it all out". We'll remember her smile and her kindness - and also her contributions to making the world a better place.*

---

**Anne Wells** - December 15, 2019 at 11:28 AM

BL

“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



---

**Brian Langley** - December 13, 2019 at 09:14 PM

TI

“ *We are so sad to hear of Cathy's passing. We enjoyed our times together playing CYA softball and always loved having her on the sidelines. Cathy's love of watching Emily play ball is what we will remember most. Emily is a special girl and we wish you guys all the peace and healing that God brings.*  
*Ken, Tina, Ellie and Anna Campbell*

---

**Tina** - December 13, 2019 at 09:03 PM

TF

“ *The SAIC Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mary Catherine Penatzer.*



---

**The SAIC Family** - December 13, 2019 at 04:00 PM