



Heather M. Thomas Schroeder Obituary

AUG 28, 1978 - SEP 12, 2011



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Heather M. Thomas Schroeder Obituary

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Heather Machelles Thomas Schroeder, age 33, began to organize and shake up heaven on Monday, September 12, 2011 after passing away at Kavanagh House in Des Moines, Iowa. Heather began her life's journey in Corydon, Iowa on August 28, 1978. She loved playing with her pets and getting dirty on the farm until her family later moved to the Des Moines area during her childhood. Her life always seemed to include many trips to hospitals, where as a small child she climbed out of bed as soon as she could and headed to the hospital playroom. She always refused to tolerate anyone feeling sorry for her or to think of her as different in any way because of her health challenges. Heather loved going to concerts of many genres. Her favorite Christmas gift from her husband, Jay was tickets to see Lady Gaga in Chicago. After receiving the gift of life twice with two kidney transplants, she passionately promoted awareness of organ and tissue donation. One of her proudest moments was winning a gold medal in ballroom dancing at the National Transplant Games. All participants of the games were either recipients or family donors of organ transplants. Heather graduated from Bondurant High School and then became a Registered Nurse at Mercy College of Health Sciences, where she was the commencement speaker. She practiced renal, hospice and incarceration nursing. In August 2002, she met the love of her life on a blind date and called both her mom and dad that night saying she had met her husband. Jay and Heather traveled to many parts of the country making memories. Heather loved attending NASCAR races with her father. Those missing her deeply are her newborn son, William; husband, Jay Schroeder; brother, Ben Gillette; mother, Sandy (Art) Decker; father, Terry Thomas and his fianc Kathleen Bubon; grandfather Courtney (Judy) Siglin; parents in law, Barb and Lowell Schroeder; brother in law, Dana Schroeder and his fianc, Sue Britt, and countless others whose lives were touched by Heather's smile and 'Bring It' attitude. Hosting the Welcome Home party in heaven are Heather's



Obituary

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dog, Jackson; cousins, Cindy Thomas and Sarah Thomas; Uncle Don Thomas; Grandma Sig (Marge Siglin); Grandma Carol and Papa Doyle Thomas. Memorial donations may be directed to My Angel Foundation, which promotes organ and tissue donor awareness. Book Travel to Services To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Heather M. Thomas Schroeder Obituary please visit our Sympathy Store.



Tribute Wall

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Thomas Funeral Home posted:

October 21 at 3:24 PM



Thomas Funeral Home shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



October 13 at 3:36 PM



Nathan Rice - Des Moines, Ia - Friend posted:

Heather was one of my best friends growing up. We worked together as kids at Fazoli's in Ankeny where I absolutely fell in love with her spirit and laughter. I could write volumes about how she changed my life and shaped me as a young man. She had a wonderful laugh, smile and aura to her. I know most of her family probably won't remember me. But I still think about her and her parent's place in Bondurant, often to this day. I wish the best to her child and her husband. I know words are shallow but I think about them too. I'm not sure why I'm writing this, just thinking about her again and wondering if anyone thinks of her too.

July 16 at 7:00 PM



Roxane Fontana - Ankeny, Ia posted:

To Jay ,Baby Will, and The Families of Heather I am very sorry to learn of Heather's passing! Each of you are in my thoughts and prayers .I worked with Heather's husband Jay and that is how I met Heather. I had the opportunity to be around Heather on a few occasions and what a lasting memory she left. From the first time I met her, I knew she was a strong and joyous person. Such a bright and wonderful attitude with a darling smile you would never forget. Such an inspirational and positive woman . May she forever live in your minds filled with memories and your hearts filled with forever love. Rest in Peace Heather and God Bless You With My Deepest Sympathy

September 22 at 7:00 PM



Gwendolen Shickell - W Des Moines, Ia - Care Provider posted:

My heartfelt prayers go out to Heather's beloved family and friends.

September 20 at 7:00 PM



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AF

Audrey Lange - Elgin, Il - Family Friend posted:

Heather fought and won so many battles in her life with such humor, grace and dignity. Her desire to be treated just like everyone else despite her health issues has taught me so very much about facing health issues as just a part of a normal day and not letting them get in the way of the things you still want to do and accomplish in life. Heather's smile lit up the room and her strength was admirable. I am better for knowing her. I will miss her and think of her often. Sandy and Jay, take comfort in knowing that you will see her in Will, a little more every day. She will be watching over him closely.

September 15 at 7:00 PM

LP

Lee And Amy Rutenbeck - Maquoketa, Ia - Friends Of Jay's Parents posted:

Our prayers and thoughts are with you. You are a great family with many, many strengths and because of that you will continue the legacy of strength and courage that Heather has always shown. Our prayers will be with you for many months to come. God bless you all and God speed Heather.

September 15 at 7:00 PM

BA

Bob Turner - Ankeny, Ia - Ben's Boy Scout Troop In Ankeny posted:

Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

September 15 at 7:00 PM

JS

Jana Barnard - Indianola, Ia - Cousin Of Sandy posted:

Fitting funeral for a more than fitting daughter. Heather would be proud.

September 15 at 7:00 PM

KB

Kim Mohr Gymer - Bondurant, Ia posted:

Heather and I shared so many memories growing up and into our adult lives. She always had a smile and a way to make you laugh. Many prayers to Jay, William and her family; may her memory live on forever in all our hearts.

September 14 at 7:00 PM



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LF

Lois & Paul Eads - Maquoketa, Ia - Friends Of The Schroeder Family posted:

Our deepest sympathy to Jay, baby Will, and the rest of the family. What a wonderful legacy Heather left behind in little Will! Even though we never met Heather, we know that she had a lot of spunk to be able to handle all of the medical issues in her life and still keep on fighting. Our thoughts and prayers will be with each of you during this difficult time. God's blessings on all!

September 14 at 7:00 PM

HF

Holly - Ankeny , Ia - Friend posted:

Heather---You were such a wonderful person!! Everytime I saw you---you had a huge smile on your face...Will is the luckiest kid to be able to call you his mom!! He'll make you and Jay so proud....You will be greatly missed Heather....I always looked up to you!!

September 14 at 7:00 PM

LF

Linsey And Bree Terrell - Des Moines, Ia - Friend posted:

I can't even begin to count the great memories we have shared. Anything from sneaking out of the house as kids to go TP friends houses, to more recently singing karaoke, doing the shopping kart, sprinkler, and many other goofy dance moves and listening to anything from the Grease soundtrack to Run DMC. Heather your smile would definintely light up the room. I have never met such an amazing and strong person in my life. You are truly going to be missed!

September 14 at 7:00 PM

JF

Jessica (Benz) Hebenstreit - Norwalk, Ia - Friend posted:

Heather was such a strong amazing woman. Her spirit will live on through baby Will and those that love and remember her. She will be missed.

September 14 at 7:00 PM

SF

Shawna Monaghan - Mingo, Ia - Friend posted:

Heather was an amazing person! Her beaming smile and her red hair!!! Always happy and never getting down about anything. She could make anyone laugh when they were having a bad day. Jay and Will, my heart goes out to you in this difficult time. Also to you and the family...you are in my thoughts and prayers and I will continue to pray for your family. I am sorry I will not be able to make it to the veiwing or funeral but will be thinking of you.

September 14 at 7:00 PM



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TZ

Tom, Bonnie, & Gregory Waller - Zwingle, Ia posted:

Death leaves a Heartache no one can heal. Loves leaves a memory no one can steal. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. With our deepest sympathy

September 14 at 7:00 PM

BF

Bob Berggren Family - Maquoketa, Ia - Friends posted:

Our hearts & prayers go out to you Jay & Baby Will, also to Lowell & Barb & Dana.

September 14 at 7:00 PM

GP

Greg Hamilton - Phoenix, Az posted:

Many warm thoughts and prayers to both families. A wonder woman taken too soon from this world. I remember that Heather always had a smile on her face. It is what I remember most of her.

September 14 at 7:00 PM

AF

Ajohn & Donelle Kilburg - Spragueville, Ia - Friends Of The Schroeder Family posted:

Sending our deepest sympathy in your loss. Heather was a vibrant, articulate, loving person. Her special love of life will continue through little Will. Cherish the beautiful memories that we all have of Heather.

September 14 at 7:00 PM

JH

Jim & Judi Ver Hoef (Michaels) - Bixby, Ia - Friend Of Heather And Her Mom posted:

I remember so well the room ALWAYS lighting up when Heather showed up at any Jaycee meeting. I remember her being part of the JC family and when we had get togethers at her mom's house in Altoona, her smile made everybody feel good. So thankful that Heather and her mom are part of a chapter in our lives, if not we would have been cheated out of great memories. Heather you have changed addresses as we all will and we truly will see you later.

September 14 at 7:00 PM



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NP

Niki Groetken - Urbandale, Ia - Health Care Provider posted:

Thank you for allowing us to care for her. She has been a pleasure and inspiration for all. She will be truly missed.

September 14 at 7:00 PM

JF

Jo Montefusco - Des Moines, Ia - Friend posted:

My heart is heavy from the loss of a friend and fellow nurse. No one had a brighter smile and twinkling eyes than Heather. I will miss her comments in facebook that I looked forward to reading....My thoughts and prayers are with you, Jay and little Will. Cherish Heathers memory....I'm sure she is a wonderful Angel with a topsy turvy halo....

September 14 at 7:00 PM

TI

Traci Thompson - Urbandale, Ia - Ihc Rn posted:

I am so glad that I had the pleasure of getting to know Heather. She was an inspiration. She had a great smile and laugh that could make anyone's day better. She will be truly be missed. To Jay and Will I am so sorry for your loss and you both are in my thoughts and prayers.

September 14 at 7:00 PM

MN

Mary & Jim Adam - Fairfield, Ia - None posted:

My heart aches for your loss, What a beautiful smile generated from her picture it would have been a joy to have met her. A year ago we lost our son-in-law to an anerysm and became an organ donor. My daughter Tori Bailey has been very active for the Iowa Donor Network. We continue to support the very important Angel Foundation. Once again my deepest sympathy to your family.

September 14 at 7:00 PM

JF

Joyce Ellens - West Des Moines, Ia - Friend posted:

The first time I met Heather, she was smiling that huge smile of hers and joking around. The last time I saw Heather at her home with Jay and met little Will for the first time- she still managed to smile and say a joke or two. Our hearts goes out to you Jay and Will. Our hearts also go out to the Thomas and Schroeder families and friends too. You're in our thoughts and prayers. Steve and Joyce Ellens

September 14 at 7:00 PM



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MF

Maria Faber - Mason City, Ia - Friend posted:

Although I was not fortunate enough to know Heather I do know that she was very much loved and will be missed by all whose lives she touched. My prayers go out to all her loved ones.

September 14 at 7:00 PM

MF

Mark Janes Jr. - Ankeny, Ia - Friend posted:

Even though Heather and I were never close or talked much, but EVERYTIME I seen her she always had this big smile on her face. I've never seen someone so happy, so full of life. I am glad that I will be able to take Heather and her beautiful smile and keep it in a safe place in my heart. I could say a million things about a woman that I was never close to. Heather may you rest in peace and watch over your husband and your beautiful little boy. Rest In Peace!!!

September 14 at 7:00 PM

BF

Bryan & Renae Berner, Kelly Elliott - Baldwin, Ia - Friends Of Schroeder Family posted:

Lowell, Barb, Dana, Jay & Baby Will - we are so sorry to hear of the passing of Heather. You are all in our thoughts & prayers during this difficult time.

September 14 at 7:00 PM

AB

Angie Enos (Durbin) - Bondurant, Ia posted:

My childhood would not have been the same without Heather and I thank her for all the memories. Her husband Jay, baby boy Will (what a precious gift she left), and the rest of her family are in my thoughts. May you all find peace knowing that so many people loved her and will remember her always.

September 13 at 7:00 PM

KF

Karen, David And Ryan Glasgow - Bolingbrook, Il - Friend Of Family posted:

Jay, Baby William and family, We are so sorry to hear of Heather's passing. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Hugs and Love to Everyone

September 13 at 7:00 PM



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TW

Tina Nolan - Surprise, Az - Co-Worker posted:

Jay, Baby Will and family I am sorry to hear of the passing of Heather. She was truly one to teach people in life of living and loving. She spoke of her one wish of being a mommy and that came true for her. May her spirit live on in little Will. May God wrap His loving arms around you, the family, and bring you through this storm. Rest in peace Heather. Spread your wings and fly girl. You are finally free of all the hurt.

September 13 at 7:00 PM

GB

Garry & Nanci Clark - Maquoketa, Ia - Friend Of Lowell & Barb posted:

So sad to hear of Heather's passing. Thoughts and prayers are with you..

September 13 at 7:00 PM

CF

Charla Garnes - Perry, Ia - Friend posted:

Heather was truly a vivacious beauty! She always made me laugh. She was witty and spunky! Always up beat no matter her circumstances, but she was a true redhead when she was mad! My life was touched by hers and will be forever changed because of the challenges that she endured with her effervescent personality and attitude toward living. One thing I knew about her was that she had such a desire to be a mom and I am so glad that she was able to experience it before she passed. William is a miracle, but so was his mom. Heather will be forever remembered by anyone that ever knew her or met her. Jay my heart breaks for you and Will and you will continue to be in my prayers and thoughts throughout this journey. I am truly sorry for the loss of your best friend, your loving adoring wife and forever companion. Let God be your strength and may William bring true joy back into your life.

September 13 at 7:00 PM

CB

Chuck And Wendy Current - Omaha , Ne - Friends Of Lowell And Barb posted:

Jay and family. Our hearts break for your loss. We pray that you feel comfort knowing that Heather is now in the loving arms of our maker, our lord and our savior. We pray for you all.

September 13 at 7:00 PM



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BF

Bethany Reed - Prairie Du Chien, Wi - Friend posted:

Some of my very favorite childhood memories include Heather. Her beaming smile, sparkling eyes and infectious laugh will never be forgotten! May they live on through little Will and all of us that she touched with her zest for life! She was and will continue to be a true inspiration here on Earth. And with God's help and her new angel wings her possibilities remain endless! Love to the family.

September 13 at 7:00 PM

LB

Lindsey (Martin) Herron - Bondurant, Ia posted:

You've taught us about strength, humor and living life to the fullest. You did it Heather, you've made a difference in so many lives. You've inspired so many people. May you find peace and comfort as you begin your next journey....

September 13 at 7:00 PM

DF

Darby And Tony Natale - Ankeny, Ia - Friend posted:

Heather truly was a fighter! Even with the many health issues she faced over the years, she had a positive outlook on life. Our hearts go out to Jay, Will and the entire family as they grieve. Heather - may you rest in peace now and may your strength and courage live on in your son, Will.

September 13 at 7:00 PM

JF

Jamie Morgan-Stasny - Portland, Or - Friend posted:

Heather was so open and loving. I will never forget the fun we had growing up together. Her bright smile will never be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with her husband, her sweet son and all of her friends and family.

September 13 at 7:00 PM

DF

Deanna And Paula Comstock - Ankeny, Ia - Family Friend posted:

Heather, your story is of strength, beauty, humor, love and fight. You were an amazing woman that took every battle head on through out your life. You told me that 'fighting is all I know how to do' and you should be proud of how hard you did! There is no doubt that you earned your wings and will be watching over all the ones you love. Congratulations on being a mother and Will is a miracle! No more fighting and no more pain. Now you can fly free. Bless your wonderful soul!

September 13 at 7:00 PM



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HF

Heather Byers (Griffieon) - Pleasant Hill, Ia - Friend posted:

Heather touched so many peoples lives in her short time here. The world is a better place because she was in it and she will be missed by so many. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family, her husband and her son.

September 13 at 7:00 PM

CF

Carin Murphy - Ankeny, Ia - Friend posted:

My heart aches for Heather and her family. Such a spunky young gal with a a great sense of humor. My sincere wishes go out to her mother Sandy, my good friend, her husband Jay, her new baby boy Will, and all who loved her.

September 13 at 7:00 PM

TF

Tanya Thomas (Fontana) - Granger, Ia - Friend posted:

Although we weren't real close in high school, you have made a huge impact on so many people. Your positive and spunky attitude towards life is going to be greatly missed. May you rest in peace.

September 13 at 7:00 PM

KF

Kaylyn - Carlisle, Ia - Friend posted:

Heather you made an impact far more then you knew in my life. You will be missed.

September 13 at 7:00 PM

CM

Cindy & Steve Starr - Maquoketa, Ia posted:

Thinking of you & your family at this difficult time . Our thoughts & prayers are with you. Steve & Cindy Starr

September 13 at 7:00 PM

KB

Katy Hayward - Maquoketa, Ia - A Friend Of Lowell & Barb posted:

I am deeply saddened by Heather's death. You and all of her family have my sympathy. Give Jay and little Will a hug. Thinking of you...

September 13 at 7:00 PM



Media

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Thomas Funeral Home shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 3:36 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Heather by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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