



Billie Kops Wimmer

February 9, 1956 - August 25, 2019

Billie Kops Wimmer, 63, of Charlotte, an uncommonly beautiful and loving wife to her husband and a caring, supportive and unconditionally loving mother to her three children, died Sunday, August 25, 2019 in Lansing. Billie was born February 9, 1956 in Detroit, the daughter of Herman Joseph and Stella Joan (Goodrich) Kops. She grew up in the Grand Rapids area, where she graduated from Marywood Academy. Following high school, she pursued her interest in politics. While attending a Republican Convention on Mackinac Island, she met Joe Wimmer. The two fell in love and were married 2 years later on July 10, 1976. She earned her degree in Political Science from Michigan State University in 1981 (GO GREEN!) before launching an extensive career in government and nonprofit organizations.

She worked to develop the Michigan Nonpublic School Accrediting Association in Lansing, serving as Executive Secretary, followed by being the first Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Non-public Schools. Billie served on US Senator Spencer Abraham's staff, as both Deputy State Director and State Director. Following politics, she worked briefly with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, served as Executive Director of the Education Freedom Fund in Grand Rapids, Executive Director for the Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers, and, most recently, as Chief Executive Officer of the Association for Child Development for both Michigan and Illinois. Throughout her career, she received countless appointments and

honors, including the Ivan E. Zylstra Award from the Michigan Association of Public Schools, Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Program Selection Committee, Leadership in Educational Administration Grant Project Advisory Committee, State Board of Education Legislation Law Committee and Chapter 1 Committee of Practitioners, Chair of the State Board of Education Transportation Advisory Committee, National Advisory Panel for the Center for Learning and Teaching of Elementary Subjects, Board of Directors for the Council of American Private Education, Chair of the Michigan Nonpublic School Coalition, Fellow in the Institute for Educational Leadership and Education Policy Fellowship Program, Michigan International Year of the Family Steering Committee, Governor's Advisory Committee, Co-Chair of the Patient and Family Advisory Board at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, Board Member of Holy Name of Jesus School in Wyoming, MI, the Distinguished Alumni Award from Marywood Academy in 1987, and was on the Parish Council at S. Michael's in Grand Ledge.

As busy as Billie's professional life was, she always made time to be there alongside her children in their adventures. Her family was most important in her life, far above her many accomplishments. She lived a life focused on the wellbeing of those around her. She saw the positive in any situation and the good in any person she met along the way. Billie's 26 year journey through cancer treatments, including two battles with breast cancer and a five year battle with multiple myeloma, inspired her to reach out to others battling the disease. She served as a beacon of support, showing others facing cancer that there would always be hope. Many will remember Billie as a perpetually positive person who brought so much joy everywhere she went. Her smile never faded, even to the end.

Billie is survived by her loving husband of 43 years, Joseph Wimmer; sons, William and Daniel (Jessica Ackerson) Wimmer; daughter, Maris Wimmer; extended grandchildren, Devin and Trent Ackerson, Rylie Fisher, Jackson and

Sadie Lake; half-sister, Barbara Tawney; nieces, Mary Bonevelle, Andrea (Hans Weinberger) Bonevelle, Jillian (Matt) Bigelow, Maddie Wimmer, Elise Weinburger, and Emmerson Bigelow; nephews, Nick Bonevelle (Zack Mittenzwei), Bradley (Tracy) Wimmer, Gavin Weinburger, and Beckett Bigelow; sister, Pamela (Mike) Bonevelle; and brother-in-law, Dale (Laurie) Wimmer. She is predeceased by her parents.

Friends are encouraged to support Billie's family at visitation and funeral services. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, August 30, 2019 at St. Michael Catholic Church in Grand Ledge with Rev. Fr. James Eisele officiating. Visitation will be held at the church beginning at 10:00 a.m. Visitation will be from 2:00 – 4:00 and 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 29, followed by a Rosary at 8:30 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. Visitation will also be held at St. Michael Catholic Church in Grand Ledge from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Friday, August 30, 2019.

If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Association for Child Development Michigan or Illinois. Friends and family are asked to share memories of Billie on her Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 29. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

AUG 29. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral Ceremony

AUG 30. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Michael Parish
345 Edwards Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Billie Kops Wimmer*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - August 28, 2019 at 05:02 PM

AB

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family. She would light up whenever she spoke of you. She was such a kind and loving person and I was blessed to have worked with her up until March of this year when I retired at ACD. Blessings. Anne Bashore*

Anne Bashore - August 30, 2019 at 01:54 PM

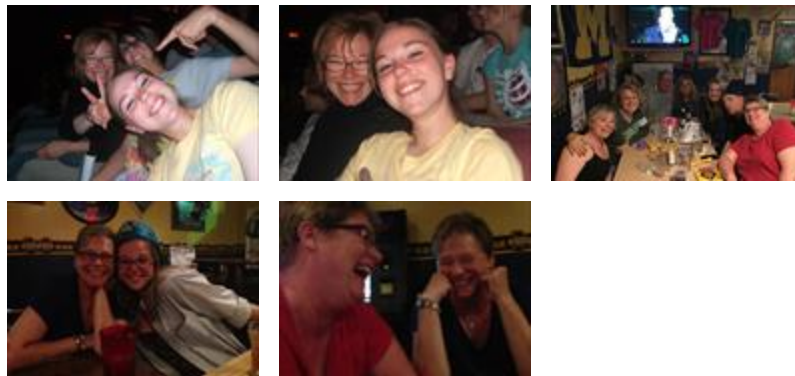
AT

“From late nights at concerts, dance, and play practice to late nights at the Hotel in Port Hope, by the pool, or around the dinner table, you were always there offering endless support, love, and so many laughs. You treated me as one of your own and helped to foster Maris’ and my friendship. You developed a sisterhood with my mom that she will treasure always. In fact, Maris and I danced to “For Good” from Wicked as a celebration of our friendship at our last recital together, and my mom’s special ringtone for you was the same song. The kindness you showed to all people, especially to Seth, was unparalleled. Your love for your family was infectious. Your ability to laugh at yourself and not take life too seriously is something I try to model.

How did you do it all (literally, ALL OF IT) and still have time to wage a brave battle against your own body? In my times of weakness, I will look to you as a beacon of strength.

I’m sorry I couldn’t attend your funeral, but I know you’d tell me to not bother and stay in DC - a place you loved and was so proud of me for living and working in.

“Who can say that I’ve been changed for the better? I do believe I have been changed for the better — because I knew you, I have been changed for good.” Rest easy, dearest Billie. ❤️ Love, Allison Tinsey



Allison Tinsey - August 30, 2019 at 11:05 AM

KH

“ *In loving memory of my dear, kind, fun-loving, friend, a donation will be made by Karen, Syrina and Dan to ACD! Billie was selfless and passionate for each and every cause she stood up for! She was a fierce and loyal friend, wife, mother and grandmother! There was nothing more important to her than her family! She will be missed and her smile will always be the first thing I remember about her! Your grace and beauty are in my heart always! thank you for being my friend!*

Karen Holtz - August 30, 2019 at 09:19 AM

FC

“ *Faith Arnold & Jaquie Algee (SEIU/HCII) Chicago purchased the A Full Life for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.*



Faith Arnold & Jaquie Algee (SEIU/HCII) Chicago - August 29, 2019 at 10:10 PM

LW

“ *I had the pleasure of meeting Billie at ACD as I am a representative for one of their vendors. It was such a pleasure to meet her and I remember her as positive, happy and someone who made me feel welcomed. I am so sorry for your loss and my thoughts and prayers and with your family and the family at ACD.*

Lorie Warner - August 29, 2019 at 01:48 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.*



August 29, 2019 at 08:20 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.*



August 29, 2019 at 07:02 AM



“ *A friend who was like a sister, a kind, caring, special person, many years, many happy times, many memories, many thoughts, many prayers, love always...God's blessings of peace and comfort for Joe, Will, Dan, Maris, and all who loved Billie, as well as the so many others whose lives she touched.*

Jim & Nancy Golembiewski - August 29, 2019 at 12:56 AM



“ *Our deepest condolences on the passing of Billie who is so dear to us. You were not just a friend but our family. All of the moments we shared will forever remain in our hearts. May God give your eternal rest. Love you always.*
Pom & Palm

Chatraporn Piamsai - August 29, 2019 at 12:14 AM

PF

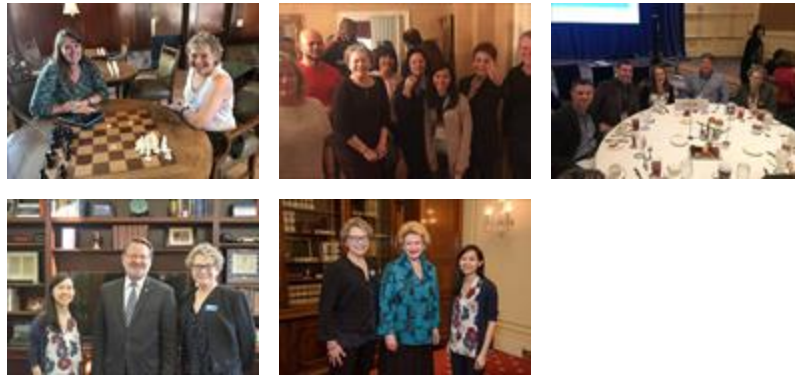
“ Pom, Palm and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.



Pom, Palm and family - August 28, 2019 at 10:41 PM

CC

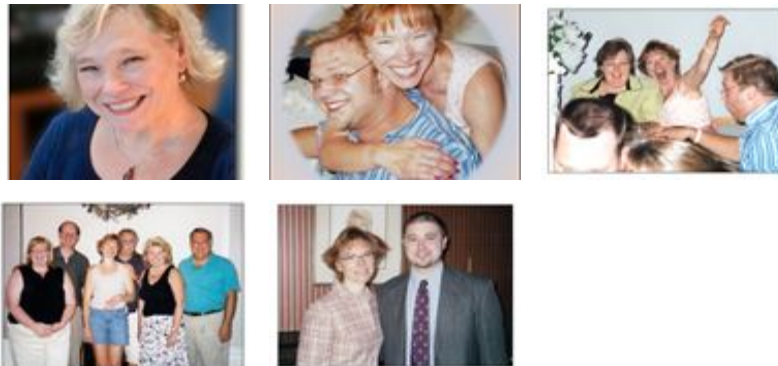
“ Love and miss you Billie!



Chris Clark - August 28, 2019 at 06:03 PM



“ 36 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - August 28, 2019 at 05:01 PM

CC

“ *Billie and I met through our work with CACFP, instant love and admiration for this special woman. We were lucky enough to have opportunities to collaborate professionally and enjoy each other’s friendship on a personal level. She always inspired me and her smile was not only comforting but energizing... her laugh was even more spectacular than her smile if that was possible. Her optimism always energized me, and no matter what she had going on she always had time for you...I will miss our chats so very much. I am so sorry for everyone’s loss...but especially her loving family.*

Chris Clark - August 28, 2019 at 04:58 PM

CC

I will especially miss that twinkle in her eyes... wow. Valiant effort Ms. Billie, I will miss you so much.

Chris Clark - August 28, 2019 at 04:59 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.*



August 28, 2019 at 04:53 PM

SR

“ *The National CACFP Forum Board was fortunate to have Billie on the Board and to experience Billie's warm nature, expertise and unending passion for her work and the children she served. Thoughts and prayers to her loved ones.*

Susana Reza - August 28, 2019 at 03:45 PM

TB

“ *The National CACFP Forum Board purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.*



The National CACFP Forum Board - August 28, 2019 at 03:40 PM

CA

“ *CACFP purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.*



CACFP - August 28, 2019 at 02:28 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.*



August 28, 2019 at 01:38 PM

MC

“ *A donation of \$100 was made to the Association for Child Development Michigan in memory of Billie, with love from Barbara Tawney, Katherine Miller and Monica Calhoun.*

Monica Calhoun - August 28, 2019 at 01:32 PM



Thank you so much my mom would have loved it

William Wimmer - August 28, 2019 at 03:33 PM



Thank you so much. the organization was very special to her

joe Wimmer - August 28, 2019 at 04:10 PM



*“ Heaven has just gained another angel. To your loving family Billie my heart grieves with them. You will be missed by so many.
Gayle Clement*

Gayle Clement - August 28, 2019 at 12:10 PM



*“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
Billie Kops Wimmer.*



August 28, 2019 at 09:21 AM



*“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
Billie Kops Wimmer.*



August 27, 2019 at 09:52 PM

NM

“ Nancy and David McKeague purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.



Nancy and David McKeague - August 27, 2019 at 09:09 PM

DK

“ Dan & Jessica, I'm so very sorry for the loss of your mother. She sounded like a beautiful soul.

Debbie & Ron Kline

Debbie kline - August 27, 2019 at 08:08 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.



August 27, 2019 at 07:45 PM

TM

“ To one of the classiest, caring, and successful people a person could ever know. The times our families spent together are filled with great memories and love. Billie had such a positive impact on so many people, she will be truly missed. Joe, Dan, Will, and Maris, my deepest condolences to you at this most difficult time.

Tom Miller

Tom Miller - August 27, 2019 at 06:10 PM

VD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Veronica D. - August 27, 2019 at 06:01 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of *Billie Kops Wimmer*.



August 27, 2019 at 05:20 PM

PB

“ *My sweet sister was taken from me on Sunday. We only had a little over 63 years together. I never thought I would ever say that about us. I loved her so very much. Compassionate, Brilliant, Loving, Beautiful are all words that pale next to the real Billie. The very first time I saw her I fell in love with her. I wanted to protect her forever. The last time I saw her I still thought the same thing. I love you my sweet sister Billie.*

Pam Bonevelle - August 27, 2019 at 05:11 PM

FF

“ *From Your Mojo Coffee Family purchased the Yo ur Light Shines for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.*



From Your Mojo Coffee Family - August 27, 2019 at 04:29 PM

LD

“ *Lansing Catholic High School Fine Arts Department purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.*



Lansing Catholic High School Fine Arts Department - August 27, 2019 at 04:13 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.*



August 27, 2019 at 03:41 PM

GM

“ *I had the privilege of meeting and working with Billie far too briefly but I immediately felt her warmth, intelligence and commitment to ACD and the food program. Wishing the team and the family my condolences. Georgine - Kidkare*

Georgine Muntz - August 27, 2019 at 03:06 PM

NI

“ I'll really miss my Aunt Bille! She was such an inspiration to so many people. I never remember her getting mad about anything. She would give the shirt off of her back to someone in need. Selfless, and strong, Aunt Billie is someone who inspired everyone in our family with her strength, perseverance, and resilience. She leaves a legacy for all of us of someone who role modeled how to live when entrenched in adversity. I can still hear her voice-calming and reassuring.



Maris, Dan, and Will have known Aunt Billie's unconditional love all of their life, and Uncle Joe for most of his. I know that legacy will provide some comfort to them. It's the kind of love that never goes away, even if her physical presence has. And now, in Heaven, she can keep an eye out for us and help us to love others the same way she loved all of us.

We all will miss you Aunt Billie.

Nick - August 27, 2019 at 03:01 PM

FM

“ From the Staff at MANS purchased the Pretty Ple ase for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.



From the Staff at MANS - August 27, 2019 at 01:42 PM

DC

“ So sorry for your loss Dan. Praying for you and your family during this difficult time. Please let me know if there is anything we can do.

Derek C

Derek Couch - August 27, 2019 at 01:26 PM

JM

“ Joe, Will, Dan and Maris, my deepest condolences to you all. When you define "beautiful," this truly brings Billy to my mind. Always smiling, caring and joyful this is my dear friend who I will treasure our memories forever. May you all find a sense of peace and joy when you think of all the fond memories you have of your loving wife and mother. May Our Heavenly Father welcome her home in his loving arms.

RIP my dear friend Billie. ❤️

Love Janet Miller.

Janet Miller - August 27, 2019 at 01:18 PM

KF

“ Kelly & John Petz & Family purchased the Sweet est Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.



Kelly & John Petz & Family - August 27, 2019 at 12:51 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.*



August 27, 2019 at 12:42 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.*



August 27, 2019 at 12:08 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.*



August 27, 2019 at 11:41 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Association for Child Development - August 27, 2019 at 11:20 AM

JW

Not sure what to say right now, but thank you so much it was beautiful. I will miss coming in the office and seeing all of you. Joe

Joe Wimmer - August 28, 2019 at 09:21 AM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.*



August 27, 2019 at 11:18 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.*



August 27, 2019 at 11:12 AM

DM

“ *My deepest condolences to Billie's family. I will miss her contagious laughter and smile that lit up any room she was in. Billie was a great leader and dear friend. She made every one of her staff feel valued and always offered a listening ear. She will be deeply missed.*

The picture I attached was from our time in Washington DC at a conference. I was running down the halls while pushing her in the wheel chair. We were laughing so hard we had to stop to catch our breath!

Denise Meyer



Denise Meyer - August 27, 2019 at 11:03 AM

MB

Great story and picture. Thanks for sharing.

Mary Bonevelle - August 27, 2019 at 02:51 PM

VM

“ *I have never known a more beautiful person inside or out. Here caring and loving spirit is what we all strive for. Billie and Joe have always been a team and it saddens my heart to realize that she won't be part of our lives anymore. My memories of Billie will always be ones of kindness, joy and that beautiful smile. Rest in peace my dear friend.*

Virginia Mooney

Virginia Mooney - August 27, 2019 at 10:42 AM

AP

“ Alicia Pilmore purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.



Alicia Pilmore - August 27, 2019 at 10:15 AM

GO

“ GVSU-Charter Schools Office purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.



GVSU-Charter Schools Office - August 27, 2019 at 10:14 AM



“ Loving Grace was purchased for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.



August 27, 2019 at 10:09 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Billie Kops Wimmer.



August 27, 2019 at 10:01 AM