



Monica Kirsten Petersen

July 2, 1984 - November 13, 2016

Monica Kirsten Petersen, 32, of Ames, Iowa, departed this world on November 13, 2016 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. She was born July 2, 1984 to Michael and Marcia (Maurer) Petersen. Monica grew up in Ames Iowa. She was involved in many activities. As a 4-H member, she showed a number of animals including rabbits, chinchillas, Holstein cows, llamas, her cat and her hedgehog, plus doing projects in photography, visual arts, sewing and communications. Monica was also involved in gymnastics, dance, cross-country, soccer, and drill team. She was part of a select group of her high school drill team that performed at the 2000 Citrus Bowl half-time show.

Monica earned her bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Western State College of Colorado in Gunnison, Colorado in 2008, and received her master's degree in International Development with a concentration in Human Trafficking from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver in Denver, Colorado in 2014. After graduating, Monica worked at the Human Trafficking Center as a Research Fellow and the Assistant to the Director. She also worked with the Social Wellness Advocacy Network, the Colorado Human Trafficking Council, the Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking, and gave a presentation at the University of Nebraska/Lincoln Human Trafficking Conference. Monica was appointed to the Data and Research Task Force of the Governor's Colorado Human Trafficking Council.

Monica was a scholar-activist committed to improving the plight of the oppressed with a clear and critical voice in the human trafficking field. She was courageous and gave selflessly of her time and energy. After leaving her position at the Korbel School this past June, she moved to Haiti in September to teach and set up an NGO (non-governmental organization). At the time of her death she was teaching Social Sciences at the Union School in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Monica was known as a fearless traveler--traveling in less than ideal conditions. She did research in the ghettos of India, and traveled in open Jeeps in Tibet at 20 degrees F. Her travels included: Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Tibet and a wonderful trip through seven European countries with her family.

Monica worked as a nanny while in graduate school, and was a mentor for a Congolese family for six years. She had an exceptional way with children. Her vibrant smile and radiant personality will be deeply missed by all who knew her!

Monica is survived by her parents Michael and Marcia Petersen, and her sister Maureen Petersen (boyfriend, Jacob Solomon), grandmother Maxine Baun, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. She was preceded in death by her grandfather Howard Maurer, step-grandfather Orvel Baun, and grandparents Helmer and Larida Petersen.

Funeral services will be Saturday, December 3, 11:00 AM at Pray Funeral Home with the Reverend Jack Brown officiating. Visitation will be held Friday, December 2, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at Pray Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made "In Memory of Monica Petersen" for the

Annual Monica Petersen Memorial Lecture at University of Denver, P.O. Box 910585. Denver, CO 80291-0585. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Monica on her tribute page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte, MI.

Cemetery Details

Perry Cemetery

2688 Stevens Hwy.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Monica Kirsten Petersen*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 03, 2016 at 09:04 AM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Monica Kirsten Petersen*

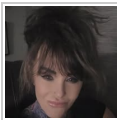


Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 02, 2016 at 02:34 PM

BD

Vi sender jer de kærligste tanker! Tak fordi I delte de dejlige fotos med os.

Bodil og Anker Askou. Denmark - December 03, 2016 at 02:42 AM



So much love for you. Thank you for being a part of our lives. Craig, Daz. Max and I miss you and will forever hold you dear to our hearts. Rest easy my friend, your soul was tired.

We love you!

Billie McIntire - December 03, 2016 at 07:11 AM

RJ

Suicide is no solution.

Ron Jeremy - March 24, 2017 at 02:07 PM

AS

Mr. Jeremy she did not commit suicide. We may never know what really happened in this lifetime, but Monica will be bright and beautiful and alive in the next world while her murderers burn in hell.

Ariuna S. - September 20, 2018 at 12:10 AM

CA

All my love and support for the family of this beautiful soul stolen by who we know. Justice will come one day. LOver to you all.

christine alessandrini - April 06, 2020 at 11:21 AM

SM

Yes we know... Rest in Heaven beautyfull soul. We all put our good energy together to get the murderers.

Stella McCann - April 13, 2020 at 12:02 PM

NA

“ *Nat lit a candle in memory of Monica Kirsten Petersen*



Nat - July 26, 2024 at 01:33 AM



“ *Please accept my condolences for the untimely loss of a beloved beautiful person. She was a crusader, trying to help people that needed it the most. The world was robbed.*

Gregory Gonzales - October 24, 2019 at 09:00 PM

HW

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I did not know her but read about her bravery and service to the poor and vulnerable. I am keeping you in my prayers.

harriette wheatley - September 15, 2019 at 05:24 AM

MC

“ This lady was an inspiration to us all. Hopefully someone will continue her good work uplifting humanity and fighting the dark forces that enslave us all.



Miles Caughey - September 17, 2017 at 09:03 AM

SA

“ Your daughter was a humanitarian on a mission to better the world. Please view George Webb's YouTube videos as he is investigating the foundation including your daughter's death. There are many working tirelessly to bring justice for your daughter. May she rest in God's arms until you meet again.

sandy - January 05, 2017 at 09:24 AM

CW

“ What a beautiful and courageous young woman. We feel your grief at this sudden and tragic loss. She saw more of the world and the human condition than most of us. She had a mission in life to make this world a better place. I learned of her passing through Nathan Tosten today. Our hearts are heavy tonight yet encouraged by her brightness and indomitable spirit. Carol and Eric Weber

Carol J Weber - December 08, 2016 at 07:38 PM

CS

“ *Carol Stuve lit a candle in memory of Monica Kirsten Petersen*



carol stuve - December 08, 2016 at 04:11 PM

TT

“ *To the Petersens: My heart goes out to you as you navigate the loss of a beautiful young woman. I will always remember her larger than life personality! I really enjoyed having her in class; there was never a dull moment with her around. :) You are all in my thoughts.*



Teresa Testroet - December 05, 2016 at 08:41 PM

BD

“ *Bodil Og Anker Askou. Denmark lit a candle in memory of Monica Kirsten Petersen*



Bodil og Anker Askou. Denmark - December 03, 2016 at 02:45 AM

GN

“ Uli and I just learned of this terrible loss. We always seem to lose those who truly can change this world for the better. Although I never really knew much about my great-grand-niece(? My mother's sister's grand-daughter) just reading about Monica and knowing the love that surrounded her and her obvious passion for life makes us wish we had been closer. It is rare for such a young person to have accomplished so much and to have experienced so much of the world. Uli likes to say we are all "earthlings" and I feel like Monica would have agreed. Michael, Marcia, Maureen, Maxine, and the entire extended family; we share your grief and wish for you, in time, to find peace.

With love, Gary and Uli Newsted, New Hampshire

Gary & Uli Newsted - December 02, 2016 at 10:21 AM



Keith Clayton

What did they say she died from? Last I heard was the family still had a lot of questions surrounding her untimely death.

Keith Clayton - January 11, 2019 at 03:05 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Monica Kirsten Petersen .*



December 01, 2016 at 08:47 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Monica Kirsten Petersen* .



November 30, 2016 at 10:09 PM