



Wendi Stembridge

August 7, 1970 - July 31, 2017

Wendi Lynn Hanke Stembridge, 46

Wendi was born August 7, 1970 in Dardanelle, Arkansas to Sharon and Bruno Hanke and died unexpectedly on July 31, 2017 after suffering a stroke. In her youth, she lived in Arkansas until she moved with her mother and siblings to Alaska in 1981, staying until 1990, when she moved to Mississippi with former husband Jay Stembridge. She returned to Alaska for several years before moving to Arizona in 2000, where she resided until her death in Phoenix.

Wendi once stated, "You know what I want? I can sum it up in five words from a Sawyer Brown song – 'She wants adventure and security.'" Wendi had a fiercely-loving heart, enjoyed a great cup of coffee, road trips, and reveled in the beauty of the outdoors. Those who met her will never forget her sparkling smile, contagious laugh, quick wit and (not so) subtle sarcasm. Life wasn't always kind to Wendi and her last years were very difficult. Our hope is that she's finally found true peace. She was preceded in death by her son, James (Trey) Rushing Stembridge III, her mother, Sharon Quandt Hanke, and niece, Claire Maria Gross. Wendi is survived by her beautiful daughters, Bella and Maria, father and stepmother, Bruno and Donna Hanke of Arkansas, sister and brother-in-law, Stephanie and Brian Gross, brothers Brian and Doug Hanke, all of Alaska, as well as nieces and nephews Ellen, Hannah, Riley, Hailey, Jonathan, and Ashton, many aunts, uncles and cousins, and lots of friends, including best friends Danielle, Ted, and Audrey.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at Saint Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Grove, Oklahoma with Father Alex Kennedy officiating. Burial is entrusted to Brown-Winters Funeral Home immediately following the service at Fairland Lutheran Cemetery.

Friends and family may send the family notes of encouragement by viewing Mrs. Stembridge's Tribute Page at www.brown-winters.com.

Cemetery Details

Fairland Lutheran Cemetery

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 8. 2:00 PM (CT)

Saint Elizabeth Catholic Church
1653 113th Street NW
Grove, OK 74344

Tribute Wall

DA

“ Wendi became the sister of my heart at the tender age of 14. We laughed, we cried and we swore we'd be Best Friends Forever... The love and sisterhood transcended time and distance and now will transcend life and death. She was beautiful inside and out and my heart will forever have a hole that belongs only to her.

FRIENDSHIP (a poem she wrote to me in May 1993)

Two people, individuals yet connected

One mind, one heart, one soul

Life, love & laughter, it all comes so easily

Straight from the heart, to love you as you are

And were and will be, always and forever

Always a certainty - Unconditional -

Through the muck and the mire

Hopes and smiles

Dreams become a reality

With a little help from a friend

The tears and the pain

The laughter in the rain

A shining light in the darkest hours

A strong hand, a warm heart, a smile to light your day

A hug that makes a difference

In no small way

You've always been there to kick my butt

And say "get up and try again!"

I thank God for his gift to me

More precious than anything

Our friendship will always be

My shining light

Through good and bad

You're always there for me

As I am always here for you

Thank you for being the priceless friend that you are!

All my love B/F/F, Wendi-Pooh

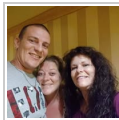
Danielle - August 12, 2017 at 07:45 PM

TH

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



ted hickman - August 07, 2017 at 09:20 AM



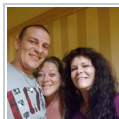
Praying for Peace and Comfort to Wendi's family .. 🍷🍷🍷

Maureen Vorce - August 07, 2017 at 04:33 PM

TE

“ *Found out about my best friend today. It was a beautiful summer day i got home and finaly had time for grieving the sky went dark the wind started to blow and lightning started to crash to the ground with my tears. Its the only storm this big all year. If its her saying goodbye i dont know but i will miss her till the day i die.*

Ted - August 03, 2017 at 10:13 PM



My heart broke hearing the news.. I will hold our memories close to my heart.. I know you are free from pain and sorrow.. RIP my Angel until we meet again 🍷🍷🍷

Maureen Vorce - August 07, 2017 at 04:29 PM

JE

Sharing my sympathy with all those who knew and loved Wendi well enough to understand how amazing of a person she was. Warm, smart, playful, compassionate, hilarious, fierce, and beautiful, she had so many wonderful qualities. Wendi & I were very close as young teenagers, stumbling out of childhood and into adolescence together, and even through all this time she remains one of the best friends I ever had, or probably ever will have. She deserved so much better than all the hard things this life gave her, and I am so very sorry to hear of her passing and for everyone's loss. Thanks and hugs to Ted for putting me in the loop. Wendi was an incredibly special person and we will all love and miss her forever.

Sympathies to all who are grieving.

Jennifer - August 09, 2017 at 07:12 AM