



Imelda W. Lewis

January 10, 1958 - July 14, 2020

Imelda W. Lewis of Waldport, OR, passed away peacefully in the early hours of July 14 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis, with her spouse Sammi and friends by her side. She was 62 years young. Imelda was born in Morristown NJ and grew up in Long Valley NJ. As a young person, she was always scouring the rock walls and woods of north Jersey for snakes, sometimes bringing them home wrapped around her arm. She also loved raccoons and raised several orphaned babies. Most of all, Mel loved to fish.

As a young adult, she moved to Oregon and fell in love with the Pacific Northwest, living largely in and around Portland. She was happiest spending a day fishing one of the rivers and bringing home sturgeon or other fish.

Eventually Mel moved home to Pennsylvania to be closer to her parents as they aged. A few years later, she reconnected with an old friend through Facebook and ended up moving to northern Minnesota to be together, before making a last move to her beloved Oregon coast.

Mel is survived by her spouse, Sammi McPherson, the love her life. Mel is also survived by brother Michael Lewis and wife Karen, sister Chris Lewis and husband Mark Lacatena, sister Andrea Lewis and spouse Jerry Brown, as well as 2 nephews, a niece and two grand nieces.

Mel will be cremated and a celebration of her life held sometime in the future. Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at www.demossturda.com

With Mel's death there will be significant medical bills. Please consider contributing to the gofundme campaign: <https://gf.me/u/yhm2pa>.

Tribute Wall

CA

“ *I just wanted to we are sorry for your loss. You will be in our thoughts and prayers. Ed & Carol Alley (friends of Mike)*

carol Alley - July 31, 2020 at 09:54 PM

SG

“ *I would like to comment on behalf of the Guempel family. My father, Robert Guempel, who passed in January was best friends since childhood with Mel's dad, Rod Lewis. They were best friends in school and throughout their lives. Rod was best man at my mom and dad's wedding and vice-versa. There was nothing growing up that the Lewis family was not part of - weddings, baptisms, graduations, funerals, and of course, bridge games. The family bonds and love are tight. When we would visit my handicapped sister, Linda, Mel and Rod Lewis were there to meet us for lunch. Of course our families got together often. I recall when the Lewis family would visit us at my parents house at the Jersey shore. Mel, being the enthusiastic fisher and crabber, would crab on the dock during the day, and into the evening. Many a night we would spend on that dock, catching crabs by flashlight, scooping them up in a net, and of course cooking them, and enjoying, with our dads, the fruit of our labor.*

Many of the disciples of the Lord were fisherman. I guess it was fitting, although way too soon, that God called home another loved one that loved to fish.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sammi and all the friends and family members. Rest in Peace, Mel. I hope your nets are full of fish and the crabbing is great!

Scot Guempel, on behalf of the Guempel family

Scot Guempel - July 26, 2020 at 06:21 PM

CL

“ *With Mel's death there will be significant medical bills. Please consider contributing to the gofundme campaign: <https://gf.me/u/yhm2pa>";.*

Chris Lewis - July 22, 2020 at 06:46 PM

LF

“ *Cousin Mel,
So many years had passed and life situations takes us all in different directions but thoughts of you had never left. We had made plans of coming out to see you and Sammi next year, but in the mean time you made the trip to Destin where we all got to see each other again. Im so glad we did as who would have ever thought you would leave us so quickly. It was like yesterday I introduced you to my neighbors and we played baseball in the field. You were always strong willed , determined and held nothing back a true Lewis for sure. Rest in peace Mel and guide me through the beauty of Oregon when I get there.*
Love to you,
Cousin Laura

Laura Fronk - July 18, 2020 at 03:40 PM

AO

“ *Dear Mel,
At times, life seems to be so short. It appears to be just recently that you were studying at Long Valley High School with my daughter Alba Soraya. Many times the school bus used to drop you at our house with her and when you were ready and wanted to leave, I used to take you to your parents house up Schooley's Mountain; and what a mountain it was. So long and steep, remember?
It was a pleasure to have you around as you always had a smile on your face and seemed to be very comfortable with us.
Only God knows how long our separation will be, but I know that we will see each other again.
Until then, RIP,
Alba Olivencia*

Alba Olivencia - July 17, 2020 at 03:58 PM

AM

“ *Alba Morton lit a candle in memory of Imelda W. Lewis*



Alba Morton - July 16, 2020 at 12:47 PM

AM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Alba Morton - July 16, 2020 at 12:43 PM

AM

My dearest friend Mel, I still can't believe that you are gone. I have reread the last email that you sent me on July 6th a dozen times. We were making plans to meet up with each other once I got settled in WA state. We had been talking about this moment for so long. I'm sad that it didn't come to fruition, but I also feel so blessed that you spent a couple of days with Bobby and I at our home in FL in March. Our days together were filled with great conversations, some serious and some silly; sharing memories of our decades long friendship; playing card games; going for walks at the park and lake; exploring the neighborhood, eating at local eateries and cooking together.

We have been best friends for over 50 years. We became friends in grade school, but our friendship was sealed during high school. We were drawn to each other because we didn't fit the mold. We accepted each other for who we were and respected our differences and similarities. Your family accepted me into their home and my family accepted you into ours and you became family.

Throughout our friendship, there were years that we lost contact, but when we did reconnect, it always felt like we didn't miss a beat; that's how comfortable and easygoing we were with each other. I remember when Mel came back to PA to take care of her parents, she drove to my parent's house in Long Valley, sat down with my parents for a few hours and had them give her my contact information. She called me and we met up at a diner in PA and talked for hours. We never lost contact since that time. For Mel's 50th birthday, she wanted to go to Atlantic City, NJ.....we spent it playing slot machines, walking on the board walk, talking and laughing. I took her to an Italian restaurant and had some great food. I embarrassed her when I had the waiter bring a cake to the table and sing happy birthday to her. Afterwards, I had the waiter bring a couple of birthday shots of grappa. Let's just say that just about every time that we spoke, she would bring it up.

Mel, I already miss the sound of your voice, your smile and your laugh. Your laughter was contagious, your warm and outgoing personality lit up the room. We have remained friends this long because we both know the love we have for one another. I am honored to call you my friend.

God called you home too soon my friend, but your flame will never be extinguished. I know that you leave behind family and friends who loved you and will continue to honor your life. Big hugs and much love to you Mel, your memory will always live in my heart, stories and memory. When my time comes, I know that we will meet again on the "yellow brick road".

Alba Morton - July 17, 2020 at 03:50 PM

ML

“ Sorry for the spelling errors. Remeber and fond and a couple others. Thought I proof read it but I guess I wasnt paying enough attention

Michael Wade Lewis - July 16, 2020 at 12:20 PM

“ *My Aunt Imelda and a few found memories,*

As a young boy, my sister and I would spend some of the summer with my grandparents in NJ (Imelda's mom and dad's house). I can recall a few of those times when I was lucky enough that Imelda made it back east for the family reunion BBQ. I was always so excited to have someone that would scoure the woods looking for and catching snakes. I also remeber and cherish a time or two that her vist was long enough to warrant a fishing trip to one of the nearby ponds and or streams.

As I got older we didn't get to see each other as much as we would have liked, but when we did it was like no time had passed. We shared alot of the same views and past times so it was rather easy to quickly reconnect.

I can remeber the few times she was able to make it to Maine and how I was always so eager, and proud, to take her fishing on the lake. The late night conversation at her parents when the family and I would go to PA to visit while she was there helping to take care of things. The time the family and I visited and she gave one of her most cherished stuffed animales that was given to her by a dear friend, KC which was a leopard puppet stuffed animal, to my oldest daughter Annabelle. And I can still almost recite the lecture she gave my daughter about it because it meant so much to her. My daughter still has and loves it.

She loved and was well loved by my family. I was looking forward to a trip she was trying to set up for her and Sammi to come back out east and visit. We were also looking forward to a trip out west to visit her and that side of the country that she so much loved. Unfortunately time moves quickly and those possibilities were cut short.

My aunt was a very caring, loving and opinionated women (by the very definition of those words). She will be cherished, loved and deeply missed by my family and I. And FYI, she hated being called aunt, it made her feel old. But I did it anyway. And then she would ALWAYS call me "you little shit".

Wade, Amber, Annabelle and Amelia

Michael Wade Lewis - July 15, 2020 at 07:38 PM