



Michelle Bennett

November 17, 1968 - February 5, 2022

Glens Falls - Michelle Bennett, loving and selfless mother of three, devoted and adored wife, cherished and beloved daughter, joyful and hilarious sister, strong and caring teacher and passionate and committed coach passed away on February 5, 2022 at age 53.

No matter the title you knew her by – Mom, Mika, Shelly, Ziggy, Coach or Mrs. Bennett – you knew that in her you had the best of the best. At age 24, she married her college sweetheart Jeff and began an almost 30 year marriage rooted in love, friendship, loyalty and a love of sport and all things Lake George. Together they devoted their lives to raising three loving, kind, passionate and hard-working children in Mackenzie, Graceann and Cole. Michelle shared her strong, larger than life spirit with all who knew her and poured her boundless energy and passion into her family, her students, and her athletes.

She was as quick with a joke or a bad pun as she was with a compliment and words (often shared in a loud volume) of encouragement or motivation. No one, and we mean no one, out worked or out hustled her on the court, in the classroom or in life. She was fiercely loyal and devoted to her two passions of family and basketball.

Described as a “pillar of the Queensbury Middle School community” Michelle served as a 6th grade ELA teacher, department chair and varsity coach in Queensbury, Lake George, and Hadley-Luzerne for more than 22 years.

Born on November 17, 1968, in Boston, Massachusetts Michelle was the proud daughter of Robert and Maureen Zeigler of Sharon, Massachusetts. She is survived by her husband, three children, parents, four sisters and brothers-in-law, the Bennett Family of Lake Luzerne and four nieces and three nephews.

A wake will be held on Sunday February 13th from 1-4 pm at the Regan Denny Stafford Funeral Home, 53 Quaker Road, Queensbury. Masks are mandatory upon entering the building.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated 4 pm on Monday, February 14, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 50 Mohican Street, Lake George.

Michelle’s commitment to coaching and mentoring women in sports was rooted in admiration and respect for Pat Summit, the longtime coach of the University of Tennessee women’s basketball team. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully asks for donations to the “We Back Pat” Pat Summit Alzheimer’s Fund. Donations can be made at

Previous Events

Wake

FEB 13. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Regan Denny Stafford Funeral Home - Queensbury

53 Quaker Road

Queensbury, NY 12804

info@sbfuneralhome.com

<https://sbfuneralhome.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 14. 4:00 PM (ET)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

50 Mohican St

Lake George, NY 12845

Tribute Wall

PL

“Michelle -Was an outstanding role model to all. An outstanding educator and coach but an even better person. Michelle touched so many peoples lives and her legacy will live forever. To Jeff and family my my thoughts and prayers are with you always . Rest In Peace Michelle. I am one of many who's life you touched.

Phonsey Lambert - February 14 at 09:18 AM

MT

“Mrs. Bennett was not only my 6th grade teacher, but also a tremendous role model this school year as a new teacher. She showed me how an amazing teacher shares her compassion, humor, and love of life with her students. She was a force in the classroom. I admired the way she taught and the relationships she had with all of her students, as well as her colleagues. I can only hope to be a fraction of the teacher she was. She was adored by all of her students, and she will be truly missed.

Michelle Thornquist - February 13 at 02:38 PM

CE

“Jeff, Mackenzie, Graceanne & Cole,
With deepest sympathy and condolences we are
Sending our thoughts and prayers to you and your family in
this time of sorrow.
The Ehmann Family, Charlene, Dave, Alexandra & Aimee



Charlene Ehmann - February 13 at 11:21 AM

KG

“My deepest condolences to the Ziegler and Bennett families. I have fond memories of Ziggy as a classmate and teammate on the Sharon HS basketball team. Her positive energy, spirit, and light was always present through her radiant smile (and pony tail!). But what I remember most is her loving family always in the stands to cheer us on. I can only imagine she carried that spirit through her teaching, coaching, and raising a family.

May memories of earlier days and happier times bring you peace.

Karen Tyler "Ty" Giffen
Class of 1986

Karen Giffen - February 13 at 09:24 AM

CK

“ Coach Bennett,

I just want to say that I'm terribly sorry to hear about your loss. My thoughts are with you and your family.

Chris K - February 13 at 06:01 AM

TH

“ Jeff and family,

We are so saddened to hear of your tragic loss. God Bless you and your family.

Tim, Linda Harrington and family

Tim Harrington - February 12 at 07:57 PM

JW

“ Jeff and family

*So saddened to learn of your loss.
Our deepest condolences, you all are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Jeff Wiley and family

jeff wiley - February 11 at 05:19 PM

MG

So very sorry for the loss of such a vibrant beautiful lady, may she rest in the arms of our LORD. Prayers of peace, comfort and strength for her beloved family, and all the lives she touched.

*In deepest sympathy,
Ms. Jan Payne and family
Rome, Ga*

Ms Janice Payne(Caleb's Grandmother) - February 12 at 11:00 AM

JM

Just devastated to hear this sad news. My brother and I grew up with the Zeigler family in Sharon. James and I send you all much love and peace.

Joan Marshall

Joan Marshall - February 12 at 12:32 PM

BC

*I am so sorry to hear of Michelle's passing! Some of my favorite memories of the Hershey Track Program & Sharon Playground include Michelle & Marybeth! The Ziegler Family was always so kind to me! Prayers & Love for you all!
Barb Courtade-Westall*

Barb Courtade-Westall - February 12 at 08:13 PM

DR

“ *Bennett and Zeigler families, it truly was our blessing to know Michelle. We have met her several times while coaching with our cousin Rob. Met her folks watching Mackenzie and Graceann play at the Lake George games while Cole cheered everyone on and watching Mackenzie play at Keene State. There are fireballs that we all meet through life that have a significant power of impact. She always had a bright smile, a warm hug and a twinkle when talking about her family. She was so proud of all of you and it was always a pleasure to be in her company and hear her laugh. Love and good memories go on forever and we are all watched over with guidance and pride by many. No one will do that better than Michelle! You were all fortunate to have her and call her Mom. With sincere condolences, Donna Rathbun & Suzanne Etzel*

Donna Rathbun - February 11 at 12:59 PM

DD

“ *When Michelle was young, I taught her and her sisters how to swim. The vibrancy of her family has always stayed with me and they have remained in my heart ever since. The consistency, love and kindness in this family was epic. Michelle, amongst 5 girls in the family, had a spark within her, a determination, and fire in her belly. Though each daughter had their own special space, I knew that Michelle would have what it took to be a great athlete. Since her passing I have learned about the fullness of her life and her beautiful. I love that her spirit resides in her children... it is so evident even from an outsider. So to her husband Jeff, her daughters Mackenzie and Graceann, her son Cole, parents Bob and Maureen, Chrissy, Cathy, Marybeth and Cara I send you my deepest sympathy and know that her spirit will remain with you as you navigate her loss. Live as she did, with dignity, humor, energy and love. Let her spirit soar inside you. Rest In Peace, beautiful Michelle.*

Deborah Dutton - February 11 at 09:55 AM

NS

“ *Mrs. Bennett was my sons support teacher in the middle school. It was hard years for him but she was a bright shining star. She expressed encouragement, hope, and passion in her teaching. These are eternal attributes that she will wear in her Heavenly crown. Deepest condolences to her family.*

Noreen Szmul - February 11 at 01:05 AM

TC

“ Jeff and Family,
We are devastated for your loss. Your family filled our little Lake George neighborhood with such joy. I will truly will miss her catching some "me time" down at the beach. You have an amazing family and they will reflect her beauty and grace forever.
-Tracey and Dale Clothier

Tracey Clothier - February 10 at 08:48 PM

CA

“ Jeff and family- so very sorry to hear about your wife/mother passing away. Keeping all of you in prayer during this very difficult time.
Candace Groff (Barber)

Candace - February 10 at 07:09 PM

DS

“ I am so sorry to hear about Michelle's passing. I remember her as a young girl back on Capen Hill Road in Sharon. I have always heard such positive things about Michelle and I am not surprised.
Bob, Maureen, Cathy, Chrissy, Marybeth and Kara - Sending healing prayers and love to you all. My heart is broken.
~Dawn Sacco

Dawn Sacco - February 10 at 07:04 PM

SC

“ So Sorry to hear of Michelle's passing.

Sean Cox - February 10 at 03:57 PM

PG

“ On behalf of the Capital District Board of Women's Basketball Officials, the organization sends its deepest sympathy.
Paul Gordon-Pres.-C.D.B.W.B.O.

PAUL GORDON - February 10 at 07:46 AM

DQ

“ Jeff, Mackenzie, Graceann and Cole, we are thinking about you every day. Your wife and mother was a truly amazing woman.
-Sean, Deb, Ian and Tara Quillinan

Deb Quillinan - February 09 at 08:46 PM

WP

“ Jeff,

So sad to get this news from home and very sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my prayers.

Ward Philips and family

Ward Philips - February 09 at 07:45 PM

KW

“ *Jeff and kids, we are so sorry for your loss. My kids had Michelle in school and loved her, and Cady remembers how positive and encouraging she was during AAU basketball when she had the pleasure of playing with Graceanne. Our hearts and prayers go out to you. The Willows family*

Karen Willows - February 09 at 04:35 PM

CM

“ *Jeff. So sorry for your loss. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers*

Chris Maruca and The Maruca Family

chris maruca - February 09 at 03:35 PM

BT

“ *What a beautifully written testimony that describes Michelle as we knew her in college. Always a kind word with boundless energy, she was the embodiment of our EPY sisterhood. Praying for healing and peace for her family.*

Bonnie Tompkins - February 09 at 12:48 PM

PT

“ *Jeff and his family. My sincere condolences.*

Paul Toran - February 09 at 12:25 PM

JJ

“ *My sincere condolences to Jeff and the entire Bennett family. Michelle was a precious gift for us here on earth and now she is making heaven an even better place.. Prayers to you all. I feel blessed to have known her.*

John Johnson

John Johnson - February 09 at 11:32 AM

CK

“ Jeff, we are sorry for your loss.
Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you and your family.
God Bless.

The Kovath Family

Chris Kovath - February 09 at 10:45 AM

RF

“ My sincerest condolences to Jeff and the whole Bennett family. God Bless you all,
my prayers are with you.

Ron Flauto - February 09 at 10:00 AM

JT

“ I taught with Michelle for two years in QMS many years ago. She and I were among several teachers who came in before school to play basketball twice a week, so I am privileged to say that I saw her competitive drive in action! More than once I came away with a bloodied lip trying to guard her near the basket! She will be really missed. Please know that my family and I are praying for you guys as you grieve, asking the LORD to comfort you as only He can. -John Tether (Spanish teacher and pastor)

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4 PRAISE BE TO THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF COMPASSION AND THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT, WHO COMFORTS US IN ALL OUR TROUBLES....

John Tether - February 09 at 09:17 AM

TB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Tony Buttino - February 09 at 05:15 AM

CR

“ Growing up friends with Chelsea meant time with the Bennett Family. I remember at a young age admiring Michelle's spunk, her kind words and goofing off with us kids. I wanted red hair because of Michelle's beautiful hair. I remember watching her coach at HL. And running into her at other schools, she always had a smile. My condolences to her family❤️

crystal - February 08 at 10:03 PM

SB

“ Ziggy and I ran cross country and track in high school. We lived near each other as well and I often found myself hanging out with her after practice. She had the most amazing smile, laugh and joie de vivre even as high schoolers. She tore up the track and we have so many fun memories of cutting practice short and getting donuts on Saturday. She was a natural leader and always cheered the whole team, even those less talented than her. She had presence and was the toughest competitor — she ran hard and pushed us all to be our best selves on and off the track. All these years later I remember her vividly. I have the pleasure of knowing Graceann. Michelle’s influence on her daughter is ever present — her friendliness, her drive, her openness. Her gifts carry on. Her light will never diminish.



sarita bhargava - February 08 at 07:59 PM

KS

“ I have many wonderful and different memories of the Bennett family. I loved talking to Michelle at football games while I was a cheerleading coach, her husband was on the field, and her son was wandering around, trying to be the big kid. My favorite memory was this Christmas Eve when I entered the church and got huge “Bennett size” hugs from Michelle, Cole, and the girls. My sister in law’s comment was “geez, that family just mauled you!” That was Michelle. That is the Bennett’s. I will miss seeing you Michelle and your kind smiling face. Keep at watch on your family from above and know that you have so many communities of people loving them down here.

Kim Sicard - February 08 at 07:28 PM

CT

“ I did not know Michelle personally but do know of her accomplishments at Queensbury School and also know Jeff and his family. I am so sorry for your loss. Much too young to leave this world but I’m sure the Lord has much bigger plans for her.

Conni Mitrione Tucker - February 08 at 04:49 PM

JN

“ I can say I was honored to be able to call her a Coach, friend, fellow coach, as well as part of her family. Her presence was always known. She taught not only me basketball skills but life lessons that I will truly cherish forever. Her passion for coaching and teaching was exciting to watch. I remember from when I played we had spectators just come to watch her coach. Her fiery passion and her determination.

One of my fondest memories is from when we won the best in the West title. We were celebrating at her house and I ended up putting a hole in her wall of her living room. She still talked about it even when I was coaching against her. What I learned from her coaching I have instilled in my own coaching philosophy. I can say I am truly blessed to have had her and her family in my life.

Jessica Nevins - February 08 at 04:44 PM

KJ

“ My daughter, Nora Sanders, played for Michelle from 1994-1997 at Hadley-Luzerne. To say Michelle was "just a coach" is truly an understatement. She cared for each and every one of her players as if they were her own. She coached with ferocity, compassion, and above all, dedication to the sport and the team. Not only did she teach basketball skills, she taught life lessons. To the Bennett family, my condolences and my thanks for giving us the best of the best.
Kathleen M. Jones Hadley-Luzerne

Kathleen Jones - February 08 at 12:22 PM