



## Sandra Jannette Grockau-Flansburgh

August 31, 1953 - January 6, 2024

Sandra (Sandy) Jannette Grockau-Flansburgh (70), passed away peacefully at her home in Kalkaska, Michigan on the morning of Saturday, January 6, 2024. Sandy was born to her wonderful parents, Harold and Margaret (Wedra) Grockau on August 31, 1953, in Detroit, MI. Sandy grew up in St. Clair Shores, MI where she attended Lakeview High School, and was a valued member of the school's Marching Band as a Flute player. She graduated in 1971 and decided to stay in her hometown to grow in her career as an Executive Assistant with Team Detroit, where she eventually retired after 27 years. She also received an Associate's Degree from Macomb Community College. Sandy met the love of her life, Dave Flansburgh, in 1994. Their passion for the outdoors, fishing, music, Detroit Sports, traveling north to Manistee Lake, and of course riding their Harley were just a few of the things they loved to do together. In 2022, Sandy and Dave were able to make Sandy's childhood vacation spot of over 60 years, and parents' home, their home. Nothing brought more joy to Sandy's life than being with Dave, her family, and friends at Manistee Lake. Sandy loved boating on Manistee Lake, being around her brothers, caring and loving for her nephews and nieces, and reading a good book in the backyard on her porch swing. Over the years she played her Flute and Piccolo in the Warren Concert Band and most recently with the NMC Concert Band in Traverse City. She is survived by her loving Husband and soulmate, Dave Flansburgh. Her Brothers, who will always be her best friends Kurt Grockau (Traverse City, MI), Karl (Robin) Grockau

(Bellaire, MI), Keith (Lora) Grockau (Rogers City, MI), and Kent (Pamela) Grockau (St. Clair Shores, MI). She is also survived by the “kids” that will always call her “Aunt Sandy” but to them, she was so much more; Jeremiah Grockau, Kris (Nikki) Grockau, Rachelle Grockau, Jake Grockau, Samantha Grockau, Deiga (Colleen) Griffin, Taryn Grockau, and Mathew (Hailey) Grockau. She will forever live on in the hearts of many, including her dear cousins and friends as well as her great-nephews and nieces, who all meant so much to her. Sandy is preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Margaret Grockau, her Aunt (whom she was named after) Jannette (Grockau) Frazier, her sister-in-law, Arlene Grockau, her 2 Boxer-Dogs, Buckshot and Sparky and other important family members. A private family service is being held on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at the Cornerstone Community Bible Church in Kalkaska, Michigan. A celebration of life will follow in the Summer of 2024. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sandra Jannette Grockau-Flansburgh.*



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January 11, 2024 at 08:41 PM



“ *Chip Elzinga planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sandra Jannette Grockau-Flansburgh.*

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**Chip Elzinga** - January 11, 2024 at 08:41 PM



“ *Love Beth purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Sandra Jannette Grockau-Flansburgh.*



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**Love Beth** - January 11, 2024 at 08:18 PM



“ *Love Beth planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sandra Jannette Grockau-Flansburgh.*

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**Love Beth** - January 11, 2024 at 08:18 PM

CS

“ I am so sad to hear of Sandy's passing. I met Sandy in 1999 at Ogilvy where she was a wonderful part of our team, and also became a friend over our shared love of Up North and boating. I'll always treasure the good times we had in my heart.

*My deepest sympathies go out to Dave and Sandy's family.*  
*Cath Stoll*



Cath Stoll - January 11, 2024 at 05:59 PM

LP

“ I'm so bummed to read this news. I just loved Sandy. She was so unbelievably kind to the sales reps in the Detroit market and was a phenomenal assistant to my late husband at Team Detroit for so many years. We both shared a love of the dog breed--Boxers and she just was such an upbeat, kind human in what can be kind of a tough industry sometimes. I'm sending love and strength to Dave and family while hoping that they may find levity and joy somehow in this deep loss. I pray to believe that Heaven is real and perhaps Andy met Sandy at the gate to give her a high five. Much love, Lynn Pellerito

Lynn pellerito - January 11, 2024 at 09:55 AM

CG

*I just heard this very sad news. I met Sandy when I moved to Detroit to work for Ogilvy. Sandy was my assistant, my right hand and more importantly a very dear friend! We shared wonderful moments boating with Jose and Dave and although I left MI in 2014 we kept in touch. Dave my thoughts and prayers are with you and the whole family. I send you a big hug (from Peru)*

Carmen Maria Guzman - January 11, 2024 at 04:06 PM

JM

*2 years ago you left us for a better place. No longer in pain but the sadness lingers for those left behind.*

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**Joann marsack** - January 05 at 07:27 PM

NC

*“ I met Sandy when I worked for Readers Digest and she was at Ogilvy & Mather. Sandy was always one of my favorite people. She was upbeat, fun and professional. Just seeing her face always made me smile! I was fortunate to have known her during my time in Detroit. She was one in million!*

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**Nancy Cole** - January 10, 2024 at 05:44 PM

“ It was with great sadness that I learned of Sandy’s passing. She gave such a valiant effort to survive despite setbacks.

*Although Sandy and I lived across the street from each other in St. Clair Shores, MI, we didn’t spend time together until I was in my teens. We went to different schools, and she was a few years older than me. A mutual friend living on the same street introduced us, and the three of us hung out for a time. The other friend and her family moved to California, so Sandy and I started to do many things together. We enjoyed music, movies, visiting the local library, and shopping to name a few.*

*Our mutual friend’s sister-in-law asked us if we wanted to do volunteer work as hostesses for the Junior Red Wings, a Junior A level hockey team. The team was the only American team in their league. All the other teams were from Ontario, Canada. It sounded like fun and our parents gave their permission. The team played at Olympia Stadium in Detroit. We had red and white outfits and promoted the team and sold souvenirs during each home game. We even had a dressing room assigned to us to use during the games.*

*We met other girls of our age from other parts of the Detroit area who also became hostesses. Patty and Randy from the west side of town soon became good friends.*

*The professional Red Wings team also needed some volunteers to help out with their home games. So, the hostesses went to all those games. Plus, we went across the river to Windsor, Ontario, Canada to see more games!! I was involved with the hostesses for 5 years. That added up to a lot of hockey games!!*

*After graduating from high school, Sandy went on to earn an Associate Degree in Executive Secretarial Studies from Macomb County Community College. I wasn’t sure which field of study to pursue after high school. So, I decided to seek the same degree at Macomb. I felt that everything that I would learn in the program*

*would be of benefit to me in whatever I chose to do later. I worked an interim job during school at a life insurance company, and continued working there after graduation. However, I had a real calling to learn about gemology (the study of diamonds and colored stones). During my work, I started to take a Home Study Program from the Gemological Institute of Gemology based in Santa Monica, California. I also began working for a jewelry store.*

*After talking with my sister and parents, I decided to switch to the Resident Gemology Program and attend school in California. My parents and I went there in March of 1980. They came with me to help me settle in, then flew home. I began my program and upon graduation, began working as an instructor for the school. I missed my good friend, Sandy, but we kept up with each other with cards and letters.*

*My parents retired and moved from Michigan to Arizona. So, I only went back to the St. Clair Shores area a few times before they moved. I was able to see Sandy those few times, but we continued our friendship by mail and later email.*

*Even though we had rarely seen each other for many years, I still considered her one of my dearest friends. I cherish those memories of her. We shared how our lives changed through our adult years.*

*I was thrilled for Sandy when she met her special someone in Dave. They enjoyed their lives together in St. Clair Shores, then later Kalkaska (near Manistee Lake). She realized her dream of living "Up North" as it had always been an important part of her life.*

*It was very difficult to hear that Sandy was ill. She fought so hard over the course of 2023. I will miss knowing that she is no longer here.*

*My deepest condolences to Dave and Sandy's family.*

*Rest Well, my dear friend. I will always keep you in my heart.*

**Frances (D'Angelo) Livera** - January 10, 2024 at 02:54 PM

SB

“ I met Sandy when I started at Team Detroit in 2007. We both had a mutual love for Springsteen and dogs. She was always willing to lending a helping hand and a smiling face to our Administrative Sirority as we called it. My thoughts and prayers are with Dave and her family which I knew meant everything to her. I will miss her and think of her so fondly. ❤️

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**Sandra Byers** - January 10, 2024 at 02:54 PM

SB

“ I met Sandy when I started Team Detroit in 2007 and immediately connected with her and our mutual love of Springsteen. She was always willing to lend a hand help out our Administrative Sirority as we called it. I will miss her and think of her very fondly. ❤️ sending my prayers to Dave and the rest of her family who I know meant so much to her.

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**Sandra Byers** - January 10, 2024 at 02:30 PM

AP

“ I will miss you my ole Blues Traveler...we had many a great time listening to the Blues bands in the 90's. Getting to meet Leon Russell at Sully's downtown and introducing me to the Blues Band and Master James. Music was always your passion and a true musician you were. Celebrating both of our 50th birthdays at the Blue Goose...great memories. I'm glad that I got to know you because of the friendship Leon had with Keith, Kent and Karl. The angels have come and prepared a place for you. This is not goodbye but until I see you again my friend. God has blessed me in my travels knowing you. Prayers to Dave, and all your family members. Irish tradition is to plant that tree for you it will be done on our property in your memory.



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**April** - January 10, 2024 at 02:07 PM

SC

“ Sandy was one of the “great ones” in life, always upbeat and great to be around. I am so sad to hear of her passing. I met Sandy when she joined Ogilvy Detroit as media department assistant. Everyone loved working with Sandy. She organized company parties, kept our department running smoothly, and made everyone feel welcome. Rest in Peace, Sandy. The world lost a good person.

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**Susan Carey** - January 10, 2024 at 01:32 PM

HN

“ I am so very sad to hear of Sandy’s passing, she was a wonderful gal. I first met her in the flute section of the LHS band. About 1994, Sandy began taking private lessons with me, and we would have long chats after her lessons (I remember the day she told me she met a great guy named Dave). She studied with me for some twenty years, was a devoted student and musician, and even bought her beloved piccolo from me. My heartfelt condolences to Dave, to the many musicians she called friends, and to her entire family. May her memory be a blessing. 💔🕊️🎵

Love,  
Helen Near

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Helen Near - January 10, 2024 at 12:49 PM

GW

“ I am saddened to hear of Sandy’s passing. We enjoyed many fun years in the Warren Concert Band. She was a blessing for our friend Sally Crawford, a fellow flute that Sandy “adopted” as a “mom”. It was always special to hear that fine piccolo!!😘 Be comforted she’s not suffering. Love, Gail Winchester(clarinets)

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Gail Winchester - January 09, 2024 at 02:52 PM

RG

“ 1 file added to the album Aunt Sandy



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Rachelle Grockau - January 09, 2024 at 01:17 PM

RG

“ 1 file added to the album Aunt Sandy



Rachelle Grockau - January 09, 2024 at 01:13 PM

PR

“ I first met Sandy in 1972 at the Detroit Olympia, the initial meeting of the Jr. Wing Hostesses. This meeting led to a life-long friendship filled with laughter, adventures, and a bond that transcended mere friendship. Hockey road trips, shopping, beverages at the Blue Goose, and celebrating my wedding (both times!) But our bond wasn't just about good times; it was about the quiet moments too. She walked with me as I traversed the road of grief following the death of my husband, Rick. And we laughed and cried together through the trials she faced with grace and courage this past year. It was during these moments that I truly got to know the depth of Sandy's soul. She had a compassionate heart and loved her family and friends more than they will ever know. I'm so proud to be able to claim Sandy as my friend. My life won't ever be the same. My condolences to Dave and the family during this most difficult time.



Patricia Rose - January 09, 2024 at 01:07 PM

DC

*She was my bud, we leaned on each other all the time  
After work n at work, she was so Happy to retire. Her man was her  
world. I will truly miss her. Looking forward to attending her celebration  
of life in 2024.*

*Angel gone to soon.. 🙏🙏🙏 😊❤️*

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**Dawn Chlebek** - January 13, 2024 at 12:04 AM