



## Kathryn Stopper

February 13, 1984 - September 1, 2013

Kathryn “Kate” Laurette Stopper, 29, of North Haven passed away at home on Sunday, September 1, 2013, after courageously managing a long illness. Kate was born in New Haven on February 13, 1984. She was the cherished daughter of Carl and Debra (Knightly) Stopper of North Haven, CT and loving and devoted sister of Colin Stopper of Vancouver, Canada. She leaves behind many loving aunts, uncles and cousins and numerous friends. She was pre-deceased by her paternal grandparents, Norbert and Mary (Borisuck) Stopper and her maternal grandparents, Richard and Laurette (Lagasse) Knightly. She was a 2002 graduate of North Haven High School. She received her undergraduate degree in 2006 and a master’s degree in 2007, both in music education, summa cum laude from Syracuse University. Kate was a member of Tau Beta Sigma, the National Honorary Band Sorority at Syracuse University, where she held the offices of Recognitions Chair, Vice President of Membership and President. Kate received numerous awards and honors during her college years, including membership in Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, Golden Key National Honor Society, Phi Eta Sigma, Honor Society of First-Year Students, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. During her graduate years at Syracuse University, she was a graduate assistant for the “Pride of the Orange” Syracuse University Marching Band. Before her illness, she was employed as the Director of Bands for Oxford Academy in Oxford, NY. She had made her home in Norwich, NY where she was a parishioner of St. Bartholomew’s Church and a member of

their church choir. She was the past-secretary of the Oswego Educators Music Organization. After returning to Connecticut, she was employed as a substitute teacher for Kelly Services, working in the Hamden and North Haven school systems. She also enjoyed participating in the Southern Connecticut State University Band as a community member and audited graduate music classes at Yale University. Kate was an avid reader, loved cooking, traveling and spending time with friends. She raised thousands of dollars for the Relay For Life of West Hartford and, after being a top national fundraiser, travelled to Las Vegas for the annual OMG Summit for Young Adults With Cancer. She was a fan of anything Syracuse, especially basketball, and cherished her time at Syracuse University where she was a member of the Syracuse Marching Band and Pep Band. She loved her work and time spent with her students at Oxford Academy. She was so very proud to see their hard work culminate in successful concerts and musical achievements. Kate had a passion for conducting and one day had hoped to return to school to pursue a doctoral degree in conducting where she would one day teach at the university level and conduct a symphony. Her death has brought us profound sadness, but her life was a blessing to all of us who knew and loved her. She was truly graceful, positive and active while managing the challenges of a devastating illness.

There will be no calling hours. The family welcome family and friends for a Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated at 11:00am at St. Rita Church, 1620 Whitney Avenue, Hamden on Saturday, September 7th. Interment will be private. Funeral arrangements are in the care of Sisk Brothers Funeral Home. In her memory, contributions may be made to:

The Director, The National Cancer Institute, Building 31 Room 11A-16, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892. Please indicate your donation is to be used for research at the NCI . [www.siskbrothers.com](http://www.siskbrothers.com)

# Tribute Wall

SC

“ *She was such a sweet girl very talented at swimming and music I will miss her very much*

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**Stephanie caneschi** - November 23, 2013 at 08:04 PM

JR

“ *Debbie & family,  
There are no words to say when you lose a child. Just know that prayers are with you & Kate & the whole family. Judy (Anton) Randazzo*

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**Judy (Anton) Randazzo** - September 19, 2013 at 05:41 PM

LC

“ *Deb, Carl, and Colin,  
Our deepest condolences. We remember Katie so well as an aspiring young lady with lots of dreams. May your memories help you all through this difficult time.  
Laurie, Rob, Emily, and Ian Crowther*

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**Laurie Crowther** - September 07, 2013 at 11:46 AM

TW

“ *My thoughts & prayers are with you all. Although I only knew Kate for a short time, I feel so lucky to have known her as both a coworker & as a parent of a band student. She has left a lasting impression on us. I will remember most her radiant smile, which she always seemed to have, even throughout her illness, & also her amazing courage & grace. She was truly a beautiful person, inside & out.*

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**Terri Woodford** - September 07, 2013 at 11:39 AM

DL

“ *May peace shower over you today and always. You have a beautiful angel watching over all of you. Deepest sympathies from the Landry family....Love, Gary and Debbie*



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**Debbie Landry** - September 07, 2013 at 06:45 AM

BW

“ *Dear Carl and Family,  
With deepest sympathy and prayers for strength during this difficult time. Our entire family sends its love to you all.  
Bill and Susan Wivell*

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**Bill Wivell** - September 06, 2013 at 08:58 PM

RV

“ *Much love to you all from the Voos Family. You have been in our thoughts and prayers. Rhonda, James, Kirby and Avery*

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**Rhond Voos** - September 06, 2013 at 01:12 PM

DN

“ *Debbie, Carl, Colin and Family, Although we never met Kate, we were profoundly touched by her beautiful speech and pure soul. Her speech will help heal many people of all ages. What an amazing young woman. How blessed you are to have had her in your lives.  
Love, Monty and Darlene Nebinger (Ron Nault's sister)*

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**Darlene and Monty Nebinger** - September 06, 2013 at 01:03 PM



“ *Written in the Stars was purchased for the family of Kathryn Stopper.*



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September 05, 2013 at 09:11 PM



“ *She was a bright light, a shining star, kind beyond reason, so full of life no matter how difficult the day. The students at Oxford High School who had the privilege of learning about music from her are better simply because they knew her. And so am I. Her strength will inspire me for the remainder of my life. Thank you Kate.*

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**Jena OConnor** - September 05, 2013 at 04:50 PM



“ *We send our deepest sympathies to you. May your heart be brighten as you think back of all the memories you had together . Sincerely Charlie and Sue Stopper*

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**susan stopper** - September 05, 2013 at 12:46 PM



“ *Jean Myers lit a candle in memory of Kathryn Stopper*



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**Jean Myers** - September 05, 2013 at 10:23 AM

JM

*To know Kate was to love Kate. We will miss her joyful presence at Choir rehearsals in Norwich. She now sings with the Angels.*


**Jean Myers** - September 05, 2013 at 10:25 AM

JM

“ *Jamie Gaudreau & Helen Moore lit a candle in memory of Kathryn Stopper*



**Jamie Gaudreau & Helen Moore** - September 05, 2013 at 09:55 AM

  
Christina Sites

“ *Christina Sites lit a candle in memory of Kathryn Stopper*



**Christina Sites** - September 04, 2013 at 10:34 PM

KN

“ *Kate was a wonderful Band Director here in Oxford. She loved and was loved by her students. She inspired them, especially our daughter Ashley, who Kate chose to be Drum Major in her last year here. She inspired Ashley to follow in her footsteps, even attending Syracuse for Music Education. We will miss you Kate.*

*Kim and Donna Nichols*

**KIM NICHOLS** - September 04, 2013 at 08:42 PM

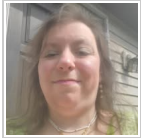


“ *Jamie Halligan lit a candle in memory of Kathryn Stopper*



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**Jamie Halligan** - September 04, 2013 at 07:35 PM



“ *Sheryl Celentano lit a candle in memory of Kathryn Stopper*



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**Sheryl Celentano** - September 04, 2013 at 06:34 PM



“ *Jennifer Rios lit a candle in memory of Kathryn Stopper*



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**Jennifer Rios** - September 04, 2013 at 03:11 PM

LV

“ *Debbie, Carl, and Colin,  
I am very saddened to hear of Kate's passing. I am in awe of all of her accomplishments as an adult. I was very aware of how gifted she was as a child. I am convinced she showed profound strength and perseverance these last few years. As your former neighbor, I was probably one of Kate's first babysitters, watching her at the age of three and a half. I can only hope that your memories and faith will guide you and help you move forward. You have a very special angel to guide you now.  
My deepest sympathy,  
Lisa (Vacco) Dickerson*

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**Lisa Vacco-Dickerson** - September 04, 2013 at 01:14 PM

TB

“ *Kate, You were a true inspiration to so many. You will be truly missed.*

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**Teresa Brussell** - September 04, 2013 at 08:53 AM

CM

“ *Deb, Carl & Colin,  
Sending our deepest condolences to your entire family. May all the wonderful memories you have of Katie help you get through this difficult time.*

*With sympathy, Cheryl, Mike, Jessica, Michael and Bryan Maratea*



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**Cheryl Maratea** - September 04, 2013 at 08:34 AM

JA

“ Jennifer Albers lit a candle in memory of Kathryn Stopper



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**Jennifer Albers** - September 04, 2013 at 08:25 AM

HK

“ Kate was a great friend and a wonderful person. I admire her strength and her energy, and I've missed her since she left Oxford! I had the pleasure of working with her as a fellow music teacher... our county's first joint concert... it was so much fun! My sympathies to her family, and wishes of peace to you.

*Heather Kriesel*

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**Heather Kriesel** - September 04, 2013 at 07:38 AM

GR

“ I never got to meet her personally but from all I have read about her and from her dad she was an extraordinary young woman. My sympathies to her family.

*Gary Ritter*

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**gary ritter** - September 04, 2013 at 07:10 AM

KS

“ I remember the adorable christmas cards of Katie and Colin...such a warm lovely smile and such ambition for too short a life! My sympathies to Carl, Debbie and Colin. Your cousin, Kris

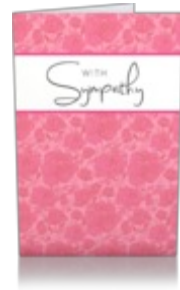


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**Kristen (Stopper) Sulzman** - September 04, 2013 at 06:11 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Kathryn Stopper.



September 04, 2013 at 12:40 AM



“ Fran Moore lit a candle in memory of Kathryn Stopper



**Fran Moore** - September 03, 2013 at 08:46 PM



“ Our hearts go out to Kate's entire family and her friends. You are all in our prayers.



*The Ross Family  
Megan, Eli, Finley, Katie, and Merry*

**Megan Ross** - September 03, 2013 at 08:06 PM



“ It was a pleasure to know Kate and to work with her both as a fellow faculty member and as a Band Booster Mom. Her courage and dedication will always be remembered here at Oxford Academy. My thoughts and prayers are with you all!

**Paula Williams** - September 03, 2013 at 03:59 PM



“ Elizabeth Young-Bouley lit a candle in memory of Kathryn Stopper



Elizabeth Young-Bouley - September 03, 2013 at 02:29 PM



“ Cheryl's Sympathy Box was purchased for the family of Kathryn Stopper.



September 03, 2013 at 02:00 PM



“ It was my pleasure to work with Kate at Oxford Academy. She had a passion for her music and her students. She has been missed by her friends here at Oxford but her musical educational efforts will live on in all the students she touched with her short time in Oxford she was a true light in their lives and the lives of her fellow faculty members.

Kathy Hodge

Kathleen Hodge - September 03, 2013 at 01:08 PM