

KELLIE PLACE, 1959-2014

Pneumonia Claims Realtor, Civic Leader

ONEONTA - Kellie M. Place, 55, a leading Oneonta realtor and a civic leader, died peacefully Sunday evening Jan. 18, 2015, at Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown after a brief illness, surrounded by her loving family.

It was reported on her Facebook page that she was stricken by pneumonia.

Born Oct. 31, 1959, she was the daughter of Eugene and Jean (Wheeler) Hyde of Hamilton. She was raised in Hamilton by her mother and her beloved grandparents, Peter and Irma Wheeler. She graduated from Hamilton High School in the Class of 1978 and attended Morrisville College. She married William J. Place, Jr., on July 26, 1980 and they resided in the Oneonta area for most of their married life.

Kellie served her community in numerous ways. She was most recently a "Multi-Million Dollar Top Producer" with Century 21 Chesser Realty in Oneonta; was voted the #1 Realtor in the "Best of the Best" Awards and won the coveted Century 21 Quality Service Award.

She chaired the Town of Oneonta Planning Board for over 25 years. She was a co-founder and the director of administration of the internationally renowned New York Summer Music Festival at SUNY Oneonta, and served on the board of the Community Arts Network of Oneonta (CANO).

She coached youth soccer for over 25 years and was a recipient of the "Volunteer of the Year" award at the National Soccer Hall of Fame. She was co-founder and executive director of the Calico Legends Soccer Club.

Kellie was also a founding member of the grassroots organization, Oneonta Community Alliance for Youth and was also involved and active in local, county and state politics. Kellie will be remembered most for her commitment to her family, friends and the local community. She lived her life always striving to improve the lives of those around her.

In addition to her husband, Kellie is survived by her two daughters, Jessica and Jamie Place, all of Oneonta, as well as by her siblings, Kathryn Hyde and Kennedy Hyde, both of Hamilton, Keith (Mary) Hyde of Rochester, Kristen Tupper of Syracuse, and Kevin (Jeanne) Hyde of Ohio. Also nieces and nephews, Jason Place, Nathan Place, Courtney Place, Amanda Caldron, Heather Place, Christy Comstock, Tony Compson, Shauna Whipple, Colleen Johnson, Patrick Hyde, Shannon Hyde, Matthew Hyde, Sarah Hyde, Bridget Hyde, Nora Kate Hyde and Peter Hyde.

A funeral mass is planned at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 16 Wylie St, Hamilton. The family will be present that morning from 11:30 to 12:30 the Burgess & Tedesco Funeral Home, 25 Broad St., Hamilton, to receive friends.

Contributions in Kellie's memory may be made to CANO, 11 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820