

## In Memoriam

### Laurie Brewer

Laurie Brewer, Arrington, Tenn., 68, passed away on October 29, 2021, at Vanderbilt University Hospital after a long, valiant, and inspiring struggle with a rare blood cancer.

She was born Laurie Kelly on August 26, 1953, in Troy, Ohio, to the late Patsy Ruth (Van Fleet) and Mack Wayne Kelly. She grew up in Springfield, Ohio, and graduated from Shawnee High School in 1971. Shortly thereafter, she moved to western Canada with her family and then returned to Ohio to marry Rick Brewer the day after Christmas in 1971.

While Laurie and Rick raised their family, she earned degrees in nursing from Ohio State University in 1979 and Antioch College in 1997. She received a master's degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix in 2004.

During school, she worked in medical centers serving Findley and the Miami Valley and was director of the cardiac catheter lab at Springfield Mercy Hospital. Brewer was also a director at New Hanover Regional Health Care Systems in Wilmington, N.C., and St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville, Tenn. Most recently she was director of solutions trust for Hospital Corporation of America in Nashville.

The Brewers also operated Laurick Jerseys with their family. A practical and early person, Laurie could be found feeding and milking cows, driving tractors, and doing whatever needed to be done to operate the business. The Brewers were active on the show circuit, exhibiting regularly at state fairs and the All American Jersey Show. Among the standouts are Laurick Berretta Calais, 2000 All American Junior Two Year Old, and Laurick Master Elle, 1994 Ohio State Fair Grand Champion. Laurick Giller Missie was All-Canadian Senior Two-Year-Old in 2011 and topped the Franchise Kind Sale in 2014 for \$24,000.

Brewer was a competitive euchre player and supported many sports teams, from youth to vintage baseball. For 20 years she cheered the Nashville Sounds and was a season ticket holder for Nashville Predators, naming the family's border collie after their mascot, Gnash.

Laurie loved deeply and had a fierce sense of social justice. Her greatest joy came from sons, Matthew and Lucas, and five grandchildren. Her home is a testament to the things that gave her peace and gratitude: rooms line with family photographs and porches facing wooded hillsides and flower gardens she tended. She was courageous in her showdown with

her final adversary, T-cell prolymphocytic leukemia, and helped to administer a Facebook group "You are Not Alone" for other patients and caregivers.

In addition to her husband of 49 years, Rick, sons, Matthew (Melissa) Brewer of Danville, Ohio, and Lucas (Mary) Brewer of Lewisburg, Tenn., and grandchildren, she is survived by a brother, Michael (Beverly) Kelly of Marietta, Ohio; a sister, Jody (Chris Dale) Kelly of Terrace, B.C.; three nieces and a nephew; sisters-in-law, Deborah (Brewer) Atherton and Barbara (Brewer) Carmichael, and mother-in-law, Julie Brewer, all of Springfield.

Memorials may be made to the TPLL research project at the University of Toronto, led by Professor Patrick Gunning (<https://uoft.me/UTM-TPLL>).