



## Alison Connell

July 27, 1979 - September 10, 2024

It is with great sadness that the family of Alison T. Connell announces her sudden and far too early passing. Alison passed away the morning of Tuesday, September 10, 2024, in Topeka. She was 45.

Alison was born in Topeka, Kansas on July 27, 1979, and was raised in Lafayette, Colorado, but returned home to Topeka at age 19, where she had lived the past 26 years.

Alison worked as an Event Director and Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) for Braden, Heidner, Lowe & Associates for the last seven years and thrived in her job helping organize and oversee large corporate events across the country. Prior to that she was a hotel sales manager at Topeka's Capitol Plaza Hotel. Alison thrived in her job in Topeka and on the road in a high pressure and often hectic job that she loved. She loved her job partly due to the exciting nature of the career, but more importantly because of the numerous coworkers and colleagues in Topeka and beyond that were such a vital part of her life.

-From Alison's work family at BHL:

"Alison was the event director for Braden Heidner Lowe & Associates, but she was a lot more than that to the team. The distinction between clients, partners,

and friends seemed to disappear when Alison was involved. They all became one and the same to her. She took extreme ownership of the events she ran, which is probably why she developed so many friendships among the Braden Heidner Lowe & Associate clients. Alison was the “battery” of BHL. Wherever she went, she became the biggest source of energy. For all the skills and services, she provided, her laugh and her sense of humor was most important and appreciated. We’re realizing how hard it is going to be to replace the enormous work contributions she made at Braden Heidner Lowe & Associates, but it will be a lot harder to replace her energy, wonderful personality.....and that laugh."

Away from work, Alison enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, enjoying dining, drinking, golfing and just plain having fun and enjoying life. Recently her parents moved from Colorado upon retirement, and she had taken great advantage of their new location to spend as much time as she could with them.

Alison's matter of fact attitude and make it happen style assured she was always surrounded by friends who enjoyed the light she brought to their lives. As you read about Alison, you can surely hear her voice telling you how it is and smile a little through the tears as you remember the good times.

At home, Alison's special roommate was her furbaby, Lucy the cat. The two had a bond as strong as they come. Alison adopted Lucy nine years ago as a kitten. Lucy made it very clear early on that she was a solo cat with zero biscuits, patience or attention to give for any humans aside from Alison. Per Alison's wishes, Lucy will be crossing The Rainbow Bridge and will join Alison in eternal rest for adventures and snuggles together. Lucy of course will also be missed.

Alison is survived by her loving mother, Sherry Waterstreet; Rocky Mountain

dad, Jeff Waterstreet; her Kansas Budweiser dad, Mike Connell; her sister and best friend, Amber Connell (Ron); her two brothers, Ronnie Connell (Kerry) and Eric Connell (Shannon); nieces and nephews, Hayley (Noah), Zack (Baylee), Kayleigh, Ellie, Emberly and Bryson; grandnieces, Annie & Vanessa; and grandparents, Ed and Nogie Ritchie and Marge Waterstreet of Florida. Alison is also survived by too many friends to name but you know who you are, and she loved you all.

Celebration of Alison's Life will be 5 p.m. Friday, September 20, 2024, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614, where visitation will follow until 7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please do your part to help the pet population by making donations to Helping Hands Humane Society in Alison's name, and sent in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

SEP **20**. 5:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home  
2801 SW Urish Road  
Topeka, KS 66614  
(785) 272-7888  
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

## Visitation

SEP **20**. 5:45 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home  
2801 SW Urish Road  
Topeka, KS 66614  
(785) 272-7888  
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Alison Connell*



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**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - September 18, 2024 at 03:13 PM



“ *Alison will forever be remembered as energetic, putting people at ease, and being thoughtful with a smile.*

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**Michael Soler** - September 24, 2024 at 06:37 PM



“ *Alison was wonderful to work with! She was always hard working and had a smile for everyone. She will be truly missed. I send deepest condolences to her family.*

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**Ashleigh - KOTA** - September 22, 2024 at 10:03 PM



“ *Mike and family, I am so very sorry to hear about Alison. My thoughts are with your families. Mary Shelton Madden*

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**Mary Madden** - September 21, 2024 at 03:49 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Alison Connell.*



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September 20, 2024 at 04:58 PM



“ *Your Visit Wichita Friends planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alison Connell.*

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**Your Visit Wichita Friends** - September 20, 2024 at 04:58 PM



“ *Uncle Tom Beezley and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Alison Connell.*



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**Uncle Tom Beezley and Family** - September 20, 2024 at 03:31 PM



“ *Uncle Tom Beezley and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alison Connell.*

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**Uncle Tom Beezley and Family** - September 20, 2024 at 03:31 PM

RC

“ *very sorry to her family and friends she was a very nice young lady with a bad golf swing she will be missed by all that knew her raymond crawford*

raymond crawford - September 20, 2024 at 10:36 AM

YL

“ *You're Western Hills 9 hole golf ladies! purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Alison Connell.*



You're Western Hills 9 hole golf ladies! - September 19, 2024 at 09:21 PM

YL

“ *You're Western Hills 9 hole golf ladies! planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alison Connell.*

You're Western Hills 9 hole golf ladies! - September 19, 2024 at 09:21 PM

EB

“ *I had the great privilege of working alongside Allison while I volunteered as part of the Ag Law Association. I treasured her attention to detail, can do attitude, but mostly her million dollar smile. She will be truly missed but never forgotten. My deepest sympathies to her family!*

Elizabeth Burns-Thompson - September 19, 2024 at 02:19 PM

JD

“ I had the opportunity to interact with Alison over the years with her involvement in managing the American Agricultural Law Association. She was always friendly, prompt, and professional - and patient with my delayed submissions of presentation materials. She helped turn what I thought might be a crisis into minor speedbumps.

We will miss her smile and laugh. My heart goes out to her family as they deal with this sudden loss.

John Dillard

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**John Dillard** - September 19, 2024 at 12:57 PM

MP

“ Wow. I would give anything to go back for one of Alison's heart-felt hugs and hear her infectious laugh. She was a beautiful compassionate soul, and I will miss her not only at our conferences, but just her presence here on earth. To Alison's family at BHL, who had the honor of sharing in her joy every day, and to her lifelong family, I share in your sorrow and pray you find peace in your memories. My heart and love goes out to you all.

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**Marcia Payne** - September 18, 2024 at 09:43 AM

TC

“ The Peabody Memphis Sales and Conference purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Alison Connell.



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**The Peabody Memphis Sales and Conference** - September 17, 2024 at 03:28 PM

TC

“ *The Peabody Memphis Sales and Conference planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alison Connell.*

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**The Peabody Memphis Sales and Conference** - September 17, 2024 at 03:28 PM

MB

“ *Michael Buechter purchased the Sweet Tenderne ss for the family of Alison Connell.*



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**Michael Buechter** - September 17, 2024 at 03:25 PM

MB

“ *Michael Buechter planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alison Connell.*

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**Michael Buechter** - September 17, 2024 at 03:25 PM

MB

“ *I had the privilege of knowing Alison through MSPE, planning events and seeing her at conferences. I always looked forward to those times, as she always had a smile and a compliment for me. One of those people where you always felt better after talking with her than before. A beautiful and classy lady inside and out.*

*And really, can you imagine being an event planner through COVID!? She served her clients well.*

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**Michael T Buechter** - September 17, 2024 at 02:55 PM

TC

“ I worked with Alison over the years, seeing her at Board meetings and an annual event in Wichita she coordinated with ease. Such a beautiful soul gone too soon. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

Tina Cox - September 17, 2024 at 02:41 PM

MW

“ I am so saddened to hear this news. I sat on a nonprofit board with Alison years ago, and our paths rarely cross these days. But I loved my time working with her and my heart is heavy today. She was a joy to know. My condolences to her family.

Melissa Wangemann - September 16, 2024 at 10:27 PM

KJ

“ Kimberly J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alison Connell.

Kimberly J. - September 16, 2024 at 12:18 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alison Connell.



September 16, 2024 at 12:04 PM

TH

“ Condolences to Alison's family, friends, and co-workers. I had the privilege of working with Alison last year to plan the KADC annual conference. We communicated regularly, and Alison was always top-notch, ready to jump in, and a great organizer. In Alison's professional world of event planning, things do not always go according to the plan, but that never phased Alison. She always had a smile and was calm under pressure. I will have fond memories of working with Alison--a great and friendly person.



Tyler Heffron - September 16, 2024 at 11:22 AM

B(

“ Although we grew apart, there were so many memories from when we were kids. I cherish that part of my life always. You will be missed friend.



Brenda Maples (Crane) - September 15, 2024 at 12:59 PM

TB

“ My deepest condolences, prayers and love go to Sherry, Jeff and Amber. Years have gone by but, ...I will always remember Alison to be an attractive and cheerful gal with an effervescent personality. I know she is now reunited with Aunt Jill and Grandad W. having a grand time for all eternity.

Love Uncle Tom, FL

Tom Beezley - September 15, 2024 at 12:12 PM

SB

“ *My deepest sympathy to Alison's family. What a wonderful person and amazing friend. I never saw Alison without a huge smile on her face. She didn't know a stranger and loved her family, her friends and her cat Lucy. I will miss her very much! My deepest sympathy to all her family, her co-workers and friends. It is a huge loss for us all. God bless you all. Shari Bennett-Roth*

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**Shari Bennett-Roth** - September 15, 2024 at 11:17 AM

AM

“ *Anika Careaga on behalf of MSPE purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Alison Connell.*



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**Anika Careaga on behalf of MSPE** - September 15, 2024 at 02:28 AM

HA

“ *2 files added to the album Childhood Friends*



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**Honey Ashenbrenner** - September 14, 2024 at 01:04 PM

JL

*Sherri I am so sorry for the loss of Allison. Please accept my condolences and prayers for your whole family.*

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**Janet Leiker** - September 14, 2024 at 01:35 PM

RC

*Mike and your entire family - I am so sorry to hear about loss of your daughter Alison.*

**Rick Condley** - September 14, 2024 at 03:10 PM

EM

“*Mike, shocked to hear of Alison's passing. Years ago she used to wait on us at Tailgators. A beautiful and nice young lady. My sincere condolences to Alison's family and friends.*”

**Eddie Michael** - September 14, 2024 at 11:28 AM

PS

“*My sincere condolences to Mike and Sherri and the entire family. I am so sorry for your loss.*”

**Pat Simons** - September 14, 2024 at 11:12 AM



“*Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alison Connell.*”



September 14, 2024 at 10:54 AM



“*This makes me sad! RIP COUSIN.  
PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY  
WE had so many fun times as kids.*”

**Dawn Cox** - September 13, 2024 at 10:25 PM

MT

“ I met Alison through the Kansas Occupational Therapy Association when I would travel from Boston to present for them. Alison was one of the main reasons I was always happy to travel there. For years I've told people about her and the work she and the team do. I'm so very sorry to hear she is gone, I'm a better person for knowing her.  
Love, Melissa

Melissa Tilton - September 13, 2024 at 07:27 PM

HF

“ Her BHL Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Alison Connell.



Her BHL Family - September 13, 2024 at 04:11 PM

KM

“ Mike and family you have my sympathy and prayers for your loss of Alison

Klarilee A Meseke - September 13, 2024 at 02:51 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alison Connell.



September 13, 2024 at 02:18 PM

PM

“ We got to know Alison when she was probably 19-20. My daughter (Haley) was around 5, loved her back then. When I called to tell her she was shocked as we all are. She always said, she looked like the young Britney Spears. Her laugh and smile was beautiful. We are so heartbroken and shocked for all of you. So so sorry for your loss.

*Pam & Jeff Mesler and Haley*

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**Pamela Mesler** - September 13, 2024 at 01:03 PM

LC

*Mike and family, so very sorry to hear this news. No words...love to you all❤️*

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**Lorrie Clark** - September 13, 2024 at 05:12 PM

EC

*Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to the family and friends of Alison. So sorry for your loss.*

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**Ed & Betsy Clark** - September 14, 2024 at 11:25 AM

JH

“ We are shocked and saddened to hear of Alison's passing! We got to know Alison when she (and her two giant dogs) were our tenant in the garlow many years ago, and stayed friends after. Having been living out of Topeka for many years, we were so glad to have gotten to see her just a couple of weeks ago. Our deepest sympathy goes out to all her family and friends. Love Scott & Julie Holmes

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**Julie Holmes** - September 13, 2024 at 09:24 AM

AK

“ Alison is as beautiful on the inside as she is on the outside. What a beautiful smile she shared with all. Always had a hug at the ready. And her sharp and funny wit she shared with all she encountered. Eternal rest grant unto Alison O Lord and may the Perpetual Light shine upon her. May God grant her pardon and peace.

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**Ann Kirmse** - September 13, 2024 at 09:07 AM

SM

“ One of the most sweetest people you will ever meet. I will miss our conversations and seeing your beautiful face. Maverick and I are always thinking about you. You will truly be missed.

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**Sarah Mummey** - September 12, 2024 at 11:21 PM

HW

“ Alison was such a kind, encouraging and helpful person. I had the pleasure of working with her through KOTA. She was so very good at her job! She had things organized and knew exactly what to do and how to help. I'm forever grateful for her expertise and know how. I worked with her on many events and she always made things so easy and seamless. And if things didn't go right she knew how to fix it. She was always on my side and made me feel comfortable in any situation. I will Miss seeing her and working with her. Her personality was like no other smart and sassy and so much fun. My prayers and sympathies to her friends and family.

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**heather wright** - September 12, 2024 at 10:25 PM

DD

“ *She was a beautiful soul and I'm gonna miss seeing her at B-Dubs...she came in the day before it happened and I will forever remember the last time I saw her and the last conversation we had...never I a million years did I think something like this would happen...but just know I cherished our friendship very much and she has been a big part of I guess counseling in my life and it will never be the same again...I love you Alison and my days are gonna be empty without you but I will think of you always Everytime I look at your table.*



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**Desiree Desch** - September 12, 2024 at 09:48 PM

AD

*Alison was such a beautiful person, inside and out. I enjoyed working with her, and always a bright spot when stopping by in Topeka. I will miss her smile, kind ways, smart wits and energy. You will be greatly missed.*

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**Alisa Drum** - September 16, 2024 at 03:59 PM