



Annie Kotich

February 27, 1974 - December 5, 2023

There are people you meet, people you know, and people you will remember. Ann Marie “Annie” Kotich is one that you will remember. Born February 27th, 1974 in Topeka, KS, Annie fought the odds from that day on. A life full of grit, Annie would refuse to say “I can’t” for anything. Following a career in corporate business, Annie returned and graduated Washburn University with a BA in English Education and a BBA subsequently serving as a middle school English and Reading strategies educator in the Wichita and Kansas City Metro Area. During her time working in metro areas Annie believed that graphic novels were a way to capture a student’s love for reading. As Annie would say, “When students are given a voice and a choice, they tend to flourish.”

As a teacher; perspectives from parents, fellow teachers, and principals mattered little when they didn’t know best. Annie was not afraid to stand up and fight when administrators cared more about score cards than students while she loved and cared for the children in the classroom. Annie stood up for what WAS RIGHT and inspired creativity, knowledge, and hard work. Her passion exuded beyond curriculum, she loved students, clearly evident by her being awarded the once-a-year recognized “Sunflower Award” in 2020 after being nominated by a student for making an impact in their life. It was no surprise that the award was nominated by the students she taught rather than any governing board.

In her off hours, Annie enjoyed writing young adult fiction, a perfect cup of coffee, and taking her late boxador Gatsby on walks around the city. Ever the fashionista and Edgar Alan Poe enthusiast, Annie journeyed the world spending time with her beloved nephews and nieces but always ensuring she was the best dressed in the room.

Annie passed away on December 5, 2023 after battling cancer for over two years and giving cancer one hell of a fight; the only way we knew she would. She passed peacefully surrounded by her mother, Linda, and her siblings Victoria, Michael, Rachel, and Mark. She leaves behind her loved nephews and nieces of Michael and Tammy Kotich; Tristan (17), Phoenix (14), Layla (12), Leilani (2), Maverick (7 months) and of Rachel Kotich; Ramona (15), and Carmen (10).

The rosary will be prayed at 5 p.m. Thursday, December 21, and family will greet friends after until 7 p.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd. Topeka KS 66614. Mass of Christian Burial will be Friday, December 22, at 10 a.m. at Christ The King Catholic Church, 5973 SW 25th St. Topeka KS 66614.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the grant that Annie's family has created called "Annie's Write Up" to promote students' creative writing and inspire young writers to achieve their dreams. You may send donations to the funeral home or go to the GoFundMe page set up by her family. - www.gofundme.com/f/annies-write-up

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Rosary

DEC **21**. 5:00 PM (CT)

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

Visitation

DEC **21**. 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC **22**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church
5973 SW 25th Street
Topeka, KS 66614

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Annie Kotich



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - December 20, 2023 at 03:17 PM

TH

“ You are missed everyday. 💕 TH 02/27'24



TH - February 27, 2024 at 01:19 PM

DB

“ Prayers with the Kotich family. I grew up as a neighbor of the Kotich's and i vividly remember playing basketball in the driveway with Mark, Michael, Rachel and my brother Jeremy while Annie and Victoria were eating fried chicken sitting in lawn chairs. Annie reached out to me during a really tough time in my life and it meant so much to me. I'm so sorry for the loss of such a sweet person. God Bless you all

Derik Brauner - December 27, 2023 at 04:20 PM

VK

Thank you Derek for the sweet comment and memories of Annie 💕

Victoria Kotich - December 27, 2023 at 10:49 PM

AM

“ Alyssa M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Annie Kotich.

Alyssa M. - December 21, 2023 at 04:38 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Annie Kotich.



December 21, 2023 at 04:38 PM

SS

“ Susan Simmons purchased the Fall Fantasia for the family of Annie Kotich.



Susan Simmons - December 18, 2023 at 02:34 PM

MH

“ Melisa Humphreville lit a candle in memory of Annie Kotich



Melisa Humphreville - December 18, 2023 at 11:36 AM

LK

“ *Lisa Kemper purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Annie Kotich.*



Lisa Kemper - December 18, 2023 at 09:37 AM

DF

“ *I never met Annie but she sounds like an amazing woman. Linda and family, I'm so sorry for her passing but know she was surrounded by loving family members.*

Diana Frownfelter - December 12, 2023 at 09:36 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Annie Kotich.*



December 12, 2023 at 11:09 AM

DA

“ *On behalf of the Topeka Public Schools District, we extend our condolences to your family. We are deeply saddened to learn about the passing of your beloved daughter, Annie Kotich who was a friend to many across the Topeka community. The Kotich family has been involved with Topeka Public Schools in a variety of ways and we know how close the Kotich family members are, you are a special family. We extend our deepest condolences. We want you to know that we are thinking of the Kotich family who are in our thoughts and in my personal prayers at this difficult time.*

Dr. Tiffany Anderson - December 11, 2023 at 03:24 PM

VK

Thank you Dr. Anderson for the kind words about my sister. She was one of a kind.

Victoria kotich - December 12, 2023 at 01:19 PM

MW

“*Dear Linda--so sorry to hear of your dear daughter passing-- I know this is the hardest thing ever to deal with as I also have lost a dear child. I pray that God sends you His peace & comfort that will enable you to move forward. My prayers & sympathies are for you & your dear family. Marcia*

Marcia Wade - December 11, 2023 at 09:22 AM

DB

“*Damon Brooks lit a candle in memory of Annie Kotich*



Damon Brooks - December 11, 2023 at 09:04 AM

SS

“*Susan B Simmons lit a candle in memory of Annie Kotich*



Susan B Simmons - December 11, 2023 at 08:57 AM

KB

“ I didn't personally know Annie but felt the love of those who did. Her mom's eyes light up every time she speaks of her family and lately our conversations featured Annie in her battle with cancer. She will be missed by family and friends. Her mother lost a piece of herself but I am positive Annie's determination and impact will live forever in those who knew her. May her family/friends find a small comfort knowing she changed the world and will live on in the people she loved.

Kelli B - December 10, 2023 at 01:25 PM

JC

“ I remember waiting for the school bus down the street from Annie. She and Victoria were ALWAYS together, and I remember thinking to myself...what a very special bond they have. I send prayers to Annie's family and special prayers for Victoria. Im so very sorry for your loss and I continue to pray for God to comfort you all.

Janelle Cruz - December 09, 2023 at 05:51 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Annie Kotich.



December 09, 2023 at 04:02 PM

CB

“ Carol Yankey & Shirley Brogna planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ann Marie "Annie" Kotich.

Carol Yankey & Shirley Brogna - December 09, 2023 at 04:02 PM

SB

“ Shirley Brogna lit a candle in memory of Annie Kotich



Shirley Brogna - December 09, 2023 at 09:13 AM

JW

“ Linda and family, My heartfelt condolences. May God wrap you in his loving arms and give you comfort. Your in my prayers.

Janet

Janet Wickham - December 09, 2023 at 02:11 AM

TI

“ TIMOTHY lit a candle in memory of Annie Kotich



TIMOTHY - December 08, 2023 at 07:22 PM