



## Terri Ann Dawson

December 31, 1957 - November 27, 2021

Terri Ann Dawson (Kennedy) passed away on Saturday Nov 27, 2021 at OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford with her husband and family by her side. Terri was born on Dec 31, 1957 in Dixon and quickly became the classic over-achieving first born. Always a straight A student, Terri did everything with intention and determination. After graduating from Dixon High School in 1976, she attended Illinois State University with her best friend Tami Rich (Goral). Terri and Tami quickly signed up for an exchange semester adventure at the University of South Florida Tampa. This is where she was first diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at the age of 18. After then finishing her Bachelor's Degree in Business at Northern Illinois University in Dekalb, Terri went on to have a successful career at Canon USA, MCI and then Calcitek in the Chicago area. On June 12, 1978 Terry Dawson set eyes on Terri at the Trailside in Dixon and knew immediately that he would marry her one day. Finally in 1993, after years of close friendship, Terri and Terry became an official couple and eloped to Arizona on Mar 2, 2000. Their very first romantic getaway together was to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota and from that moment on Terry took care of Terri's every need. Her family will be forever grateful.

Despite the incredible medical challenges Terri faced during her 45-year battle with T1D, she always served her family, friends, and community with a generous spirit and loving heart. For years, Terri volunteered for Sauk Valley Community College's Project V.I.T.A.L. where she tutored adults towards earning their GED and improving overall literacy. Terri was an avid reader and

lifelong learner. Terri was the very grateful recipient of two separate kidney/pancreas transplants via organ donation in 2004 and 2009. Most notably, Terri spent her years being the dearest confidant to all of those in her fiercely loyal group of friends and family. She was a second mother, aunt, and sister to many and despite having plenty of problems of her own, Terri listened intently and gave support and advice generously. Terri is survived by her loving husband Terry Dawson, brother Patrick Kennedy of Dixon, sisters Cathy (Jim) Jecklin, of Dixon, Julie (Mike Carlberg) Kennedy of Fishers, Indiana, nephews Jake Jecklin (Chrissy) of Clarksville, TN, Mitch Jecklin of Fayetteville, NC, Kellen Kennedy of Boulder, Colorado and Brooke Kennedy of Fort Collins, Colorado. Terri was preceded in death by her parents Barbara Kennedy (Huggins) and John W. Kennedy both of Dixon. A celebration of Terri's life will be held Saturday May 14, 2022 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at 107 W 1st St, Dixon, IL (next to Salamandra Restaurant). In lieu of flowers, we kindly ask that you make a donation in her honor to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund at [www2.jdrf.org](http://www2.jdrf.org). Arrangements by the Jones Funeral Home in Dixon.

# Previous Events

## A Celebration of Life

MAY 14. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Salamandra Restaurant Gathering Place  
107 W 1st St  
Dixon, IL 61021

# Tribute Wall



“ *Terri Ann Dawson*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Terri Ann Dawson*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I remember Terri so fondly. It gave me great pleasure to be able to care for Terri for her first Kidney pancreas transplant, and her spirit touched me deeply! Her drive, determination and compassion was so catchy and just being part of her journey has shaped me in my nursing career. This world has lost a very special lady and I want you to know she will always hold a special place in my heart ❤️*

**heather engen** - December 02, 2021 at 08:40 PM



*Oh Heather, I absolutely remember you from her first transplant. Thank you for caring for our Terri ❤️*

**Julie Kennedy** - December 03, 2021 at 02:00 PM



“ *I have known Terri since she was a toddler and watched her grow into an exceptionally kind and beautiful person. Although her life wasn't easy she was always gracious and always smiling. To Terry and Cathy, Pat and Julie I send my condolences and love.*

*Pat Lohse*

**pat lohse** - December 01, 2021 at 03:02 PM

JK

*Thank you, Mrs. Lohse.*

Julie Kennedy - December 03, 2021 at 09:11 PM

SC

“ Terry and Terri`s family, you have our condolences on the passing of Terri. Of the few times we met her, with her easy-going personality, you could not help but become friends. She will be missed. Steve and Sherri Cooper.

steve cooper - December 01, 2021 at 12:15 PM

SF

“ Tim and I are so sorry to hear of the loss of Terri. Our thoughts and prayers go out to your family.

sue fane - November 30, 2021 at 10:00 PM

DA

“ Terri was great friends with my friend Tami, they were quite a team. I was fortunate enough to know Terri on a small scale when Tami would meet us throughout the years with Terri by her side. Knowing her was liking her... immediately she would draw you in with her warmth and smile. I was aware she had many medical issues but she never let on that she was troubled or in pain. She will be missed by many, myself included.

Denise Adams - November 30, 2021 at 08:33 PM

BG

“ Terri was an exceptional young lady. We were fortunate to have her close to our family for 60 years. Her courage and wit while dealing with her medical issues was amazing. Many good memories among the sad. She will be missed. Condolences to Terry and family.

*Betty and Gene Goral*

Betty Goral - November 30, 2021 at 11:21 AM

JK

Thank you, Mrs Goral. Your family was a true bright spot in her life ❤️

Julie Kennedy - November 30, 2021 at 01:46 PM



“ Terri was a beautiful person: wise, funny, and caring. She was the person that everyone went to for advice and perspective. She will be missed by so many. Love to Terry, Cathy, Patrick, and Julie.

Jo Jordan - November 29, 2021 at 12:59 PM

JK

Thanks again for your kind words, Jo. She loved you ❤️

julie kennedy - November 30, 2021 at 08:05 PM

 Sue  
McCoy

“ So sorry to hear of Terri's passing-she was a terrific person with a great sense of humor. I know that Terry and her family will miss her dearly.

Sue McCoy - November 28, 2021 at 08:55 PM

JK

Thank you, Sue ❤️

julie kennedy - November 30, 2021 at 08:04 PM

JG

“ *She was such a beautiful, loving, kind soul, her personality and sense of humor was bigger than life. To Terry, siblings, and all her family and friends I am sorry for your loss, she will be greatly missed. My prayers are with you all, God Bless,*  
*Judy Grubb*

Judy Grubb - November 28, 2021 at 04:55 PM

JM

*So sorry to hear of Terri's passing, I remember when she & her folks lived on Brinton & mckenney. And knew both Pat & Duke , as they raised their kid's on Bradshaw& dixon ave. I got to know Terri, through my life long friend terry, who I had the good fortune of being his classmate at st. Mary's for eight years . We remained friends, these past 60 years, and Terri was a welcome addition, to that close set of friends terry and I have kept these past 60 years. My deepest sympathy to my dear friend , as well as Cathy& Jim, pat and Julie.*

joe McGrath - November 29, 2021 at 03:28 PM

JK

*Thank you, Joe* ❤️

Julie Kennedy - November 30, 2021 at 12:42 PM

JK

*Judy, thank you for your kind words about Terri. We are all very sad.*

Julie Kennedy - November 30, 2021 at 12:43 PM

SI

“ *She truly was beautiful inside and out! Thinking of you all!*

Sarah Imfeld - November 28, 2021 at 04:36 PM

JK

*Thank you, Sarah* ❤️

julie kennedy - November 30, 2021 at 08:03 PM