



Emily Jane Butler

April 28, 1973 - October 10, 2023

Emily Jane Butler, born April 28th, 1973, passed away on October 10, 2023 at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Emily was 50 years old.

An artist and dreamer at heart, Emily was a talented painter and a holistic health coach. She studied Spanish in Spain, the Impressionist Art movement in France, spent her 30th birthday in Italy, and lived for several years in Portland, Oregon. Emily volunteered for a time as a docent at the Portland Art Museum and the Children's Museum in Indianapolis. She was also a talented flamenco dancer, a self-described "foodie," and an excellent cook. She has lived in Bluffton, Indiana for the past ten years.

Emily was an adored daughter, sister, aunt, cousin, and friend known for her delightful laugh and quick sense of humor. She lived a life of optimism, gratitude, love, and joy, and believed that challenges in life were opportunities for growth.

In her final week at Lutheran Hospital, after each difficult treatment or procedure, she took her caregivers' hand in hers, looked them directly in the eye and thanked them for their kindness and service to her. Her family shares her gratitude for her comforting care and wishes to thank the friends and family who have been, and continue to be, so supportive during this time. Emily is survived by her parents, Tom and Maureen (Thomas) Butler, her sisters Mary (Scott) Harpin and Margaret (Peg) Horner, two beloved nieces and dozens of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 A.M. on Monday, October 16,

2023, at St. Joseph Catholic Church with Father David Violi celebrating mass. Visitation will be held from 10 A.M. to 11 A.M., the time of mass, at the church. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wells County Foundation. These contributions will fund a college scholarship in Emily's name that will be awarded to a Wells County student courageous enough to study art, and to continue to use their creative talents to make the world a more beautiful place. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the Butler family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1300 North Main Street
Bluffton
Bluffton, IN 46714

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1300 North Main Street
Bluffton
Bluffton, IN 46714

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Emily Jane Butler*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - October 16, 2023 at 11:58 AM

AR

“ *It's about two years past Emily's passing, I didn't know of this. I did a quick search for her today to see her artwork, and this showed up. I am so deeply saddened and wanted to send my sincere condolences. I knew Emily in Portland and we stayed in touch for a few years after. She was a very special person. I admired her abilities in cooking, writing and art. She came to visit me when I was very sick one time and living alone. Her calm and caring presence was very healing. I know she is with all of us in spirit.*

*Sincerely,
Addie Rementer*

Addie Lynn Rementer - March 28 at 09:56 PM

KK

“ *I was shocked and saddened to hear this news. Emily was the one who introduced me to doTERRA essential oils, for which I will always be grateful. May God bless her family and friends with comfort and peace.*

Kim K. - October 24, 2023 at 05:15 PM

JG

“ Tom & Maureen, I am so very sorry for the loss of your beautiful daughter. Sending prayers for peace and comfort to you and your family.

Jody Gates - October 21, 2023 at 11:53 AM

JT

“ My condolences to you on your loss. I knew Emily slightly when she lived in Portland, but even so her warmth was obviously abundant, as it is in these wonderful photos of her life on this tribute wall.

Jim Tata - October 17, 2023 at 06:11 PM



“ I'm heartbroken. Emily was a treasured friend in Portland for all the years she lived here. I have so many stories about her. Sent a card to your house in Bluffton and writing a longer letter with some of those stories. Reading about how she took the hand of all her caregivers in the hospital and thanked them made me cry all the harder. So like her. I will never forget her.

Marian Pierce - October 17, 2023 at 04:47 PM

Sonya DeCristo

“ I knew Emily at the time we both lived in Indianapolis/Broadripple. I'll never forget her playing Prince "Party like it's 1999" on New Years Eve. We spoke a little and hoped to connect again when she visited Colorado Springs. She was an inspiration to me when it came to anything about art, design, and health. Truly a beautiful spirit. She will be missed. God bless.

Sonya DeCristo - October 16, 2023 at 11:24 PM

BP

“ Emily was a sorority sister and roommate in Indy. We haven't kept in touch over the years, but Emily's name evokes memories of her great laugh, big smile, and kind and gentle spirit. Sending thoughts and prayers for Emily's family and close friends at this sad and difficult time.

Brigette Prater - October 16, 2023 at 03:42 PM

 Lisa Winkelman

“ I was a True Value employee from 1986 to 1990. I remember Emily as a beautiful little girl coming in the store. She was always dressed so cute and proper. I am so sorry for your loss. My heart and prayers go out to you all.
Lisa Kemp

Lisa Winkelman - October 16, 2023 at 01:30 PM

AC

“ Emily was someone I got to know online, as a teacher, friend, and mentor, since 2017. Through the years, I was blessed to know such a compassionate and caring individual - she cared for all living things in such a deep manner that I've never known in any human being. I learned much from her and will forever treasure her teachings and her friendship. I am truly grateful to call such an amazing person, my friend. Emily will be missed, and her memory will live on in the hearts of the many whose lives her beautiful soul has touched. My deepest condolences to the family.

- Anthony

Anthony Dela Cruz - October 16, 2023 at 12:05 AM

JT

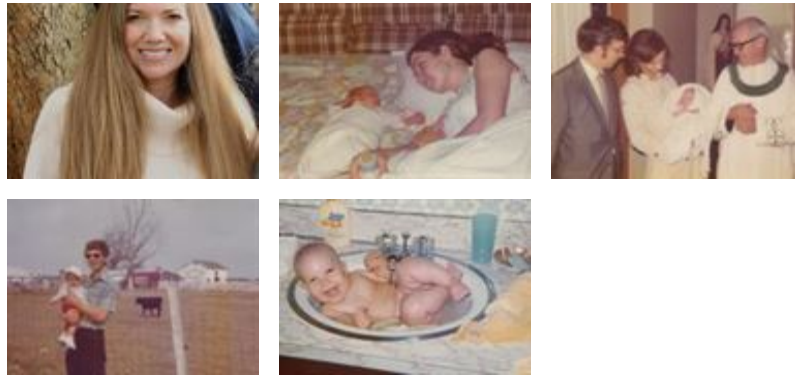
“ *Julia Tobias lit a candle in memory of Emily Butler*



Julia Tobias - October 15, 2023 at 05:02 PM



“ *101 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - October 14, 2023 at 01:38 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Emily Jane Butler.*



October 14, 2023 at 09:33 AM

ES

“ Words cannot describe what I am feeling. My deep condolences to the entire family.



I want you all to know that Emily was the dearest of friends. I shared everything with her. The distance between Sweden and USA had no impact on our friendship. We shared experiences, feelings and support through hundreds of emails, voice messages and Skype calls, during the 6 years we have known each other. So what I feel right now is beyond words.

I'm so grateful to have had the privilege to know Emily and her beautiful soul.

Emily will always live in my heart...❤️

Loving regards

Eva Soderlund (Sweden)

Eva Söderlund - October 14, 2023 at 09:14 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Emily Jane Butler.



October 14, 2023 at 04:05 AM

AZ

“ Anthony & Zaynah purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Emily Jane Butler.



Anthony & Zaynah - October 13, 2023 at 11:09 PM

QS

“ I feel blessed to have known Emily as a fellow artist and friend in Portland. She was a bright light, who always had a kind demeanor and sense of humor, even when she was not feeling well. I will always cherish the time we spent together, especially painting outdoors on the Oregon Coast where we camped and shared beach house rentals. Rest in peace, sweet Emily.

Quin Sweetman - October 13, 2023 at 05:01 PM

MR

“ On behalf of the McArdle family, know of our deepest sympathy and condolences. Lifting you all in prayer.
Mary McArdle Ramirez



Mary Ramirez - October 13, 2023 at 11:32 AM

JP

“ I am heartbroken to hear of Emily's passing . She was such a wonderful person, who will be greatly missed. My condolences to the family during this sad time. Sincerely, Joan Phelps.

Joan Phelps - October 13, 2023 at 11:16 AM

JM

“ Emily and I shared a special time together where the sweetness of her soul was evident. I loved learning about all the things she has experienced in her life and grieved at her health challenges. She is in a special place now free from pain and able to embrace her family from an even greater sphere. Love to you all. Joan Moon

Joan Moon - October 13, 2023 at 10:10 AM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Emily Jane Butler.



October 13, 2023 at 05:26 AM

JE

“ I am so sorry to hear of the death of your daughter, Emily. She is the same age as our daughter Jenny, who currently lives in Portland, Oregon. I did not know your daughter, but she sounds like such an amazing and delightful person who was a friend and inspiration to many.

Janet Meschberger Egolf - October 12, 2023 at 09:55 PM

GF

“ *Dear Butler Family*

I am so sorry for your loss. I am honored to have known Emily and meet your wonderful family. Although we have not kept in touch, I will cherish the great memories Emily and I shared together. Continued thoughts and prayers to your entire family!

Guy Faulkner



Guy Faulkner - October 12, 2023 at 08:57 PM

NH

“ *You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*



Natalie Hay-Bassett - October 12, 2023 at 07:26 PM

RM

“ *I am shocked and saddened to learn of Emily's passing. We were last in touch just weeks ago. I will always remember her fondly - so many fun conversations in the time I knew her, and I found her to be a remarkable woman in many ways. I will miss her. - Rebecca Montrone*

Rebecca Montrone - October 12, 2023 at 02:01 PM

LE

“ I'm so saddened to hear of Emily's passing. Emily was one of my best friends growing up in Bluffton and I have so many wonderful memories of her from elementary school to high school to the time she visited me in Chicago in our young 30's. Emily was a gracious friend, kindhearted and cheerful. Even through the many hospital visits she endured as a young kid, she always returned to our friend group with smiles and laughs. It's only now, as an adult, that I can really appreciate what that took for her to head to Riley's and then home again, granting us girls the naevity and peace that everything was okay. I take with me happy memories of times together: sleepovers, dances, football games, art classes, painting windows at local restaurants for various holidays, and decorating hallways for homecoming week. Emily was constantly enthusiastic about life and the opportunities she had. I was so proud to learn of her holistic health journey and she shared with me so much wonderful insight into health during a particular visit to Chicago in 2005/2006.

Emily brought joy and happiness to me and so many others. I have one of her paintings hanging in my home--I am so thankful to have a daily reminder of her wonderful life. My sincerest condolences to her parents and sisters. Love, Lynn (Davis) Eplawy

Lynn H Eplawy - October 12, 2023 at 10:42 AM

“ Dear Butler Family,

I met Emily at Hanover College. We met during recruitment for Phi Mu. We were both in the same class (1995) but she rushed a year later and so it ended up that she became my little sister in the sorority. We joked that it was funny that she was the "little" and I was the "big" because she was actually a month older than me - almost to the day.

Emily was the gentlest soul and, honestly, I don't know if I've met anyone in my life that defines gentleness so perfectly. She was genuine and kind. I knew I could always go to Emily if I needed someone to listen or to confide in; I trusted her completely. Completely.

As things go, we graduated. She moved to Oregon and I was in Kentucky. We saw each other only a handful of times over the years but I so enjoyed the times we did get together. One of the last times she was in Louisville, she drew my daughters small watercolor paintings before she left. For the oldest, she painted a horse and for the youngest a pig (their favorite animals at the time and still). For years those paintings were on the wall by their doors. When I told my youngest (now a junior in college) that she had passed - she immediately mentioned the painting that she made for her.

Emily and I last spoke the fall of 2022 about getting together. I was going to drive up to see her but then I got COVID and that began months of recuperating for me surprisingly. I never made that trip. You always think there will be another month, another year and sadly, in some cases, there just isn't. I have so much regret that I missed the opportunity to see her.

For such a small, sweet, beautiful soul, Emily left a huge imprint on this world. I know I, like so many, will never forget her as she will live on in our hearts.

In the end, there are no words that are quite enough for moments like these. I pray you all feel comfort, peace and love during this time. Please know that Emily and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers in the days, weeks and months to come.

*Love,
Piper*

Piper Clark - October 12, 2023 at 10:17 AM

KR

“ Much of life makes so very little sense.....but we recognize that it is not the natural order for parents to bury their children....everything about just seems wrong.yet it happens and whether it is expected or not, we are always caught unprepared, unsteady to say good bye.



We want to remember everything about our loved one.....life indeed goes on....birds will sing, rain will fall, life changes, everything becomes something different with death.....but friends, family, and the many many people who admired Emily's talents, her open heart,, her brilliant mind, and found comfort and acceptance in her lovely face, that angelic smile, sincerity and thoughtfulness shown for all people.emily dealt with people by making them feel as if they were of utmost worth.....her kindness, her vast abilities her gentle caring of all living things. And that glorious laugh and perfect smile made so many things "right".....our lives are better for having known her.....the world is better for her being a part of it.....Emily will be missed in spring when the potential of life is fully visible.....her mind will be missed for sure.....and that perfectly lovely face in sync with the one of a kind way of laughter.....i am so very sorry she is no longer here, but I am incredibly grateful that was here for the short time she was.....Emily butler left her mark and impact on so many people.....she was loved and did love. Others.....and she loved life.....and people.....and nature.....and all living creatures.....Emily was an unusual young woman in the very best sense of the word.....she was her own person, with her own thoughts and values.....people who make the world considerably better by being here, are treasures that we lose when they are gone.....but our tribute to them is remembering them and keeping them a part of life by telling the stories and sharing the memories

Kreigh - October 11, 2023 at 09:56 PM

SH

I remember my 33rd birthday, Emily and I were at an event at the Art Center in Bluffton, we had spent the entire evening together eating, laughing and enjoying the festivities. We were walking home and saying our goodbyes when I realized it was my birthday at 10 o'clock at night. 😭 we laughed so much that night, mostly at my expense. We couldn't believe that I totally forgot it was my birthday until 10 PM. I guess we didn't check out cell phones back then like we do now days. Emily and I were together for New Years one year and we were saying how we didn't need a "man" to have a nice New Years. We both were single at that moment in life; we decided to watch a movie unfortunately we couldn't figure out how to use the dvd player or hook it up to the TV or computer 😭 we joked about how we might need a man for those things. Lol I guess neither one of us were into watching very much TV.

We spend another New Years together and had lots of friends and family at the Party and no we didn't watch a dvd or TV that night. Emily was in my first Art Gallery Opening when I had "The View Art Gallery". Downtown Bluffton upstairs at Ella's Art. Her art was so beautiful and I was so proud of her; she was so talented and beautiful inside and out. What a special person to have so much going for her. We had many nice times at The Street Fair, New Years, Big Long Lake, playing cards, doing art, cooking some amazing meals and enjoying chai tea. She taught me so much about Health, eating well, oils and taking care of myself.

I will miss pontoon rides with you, all the long conversations, and your positive energy, your calmness, your healing touch. I'm praying for your family and friends. You were such a special person that will leave such of an impact on so many.

Love you Dear Friend

sherri_bulger@yahoo.com - October 12, 2023 at 09:53 AM

SH

“*Dear family, it is with great sadness that I hear of Emily passing. I would often stay with Jeff and Cindy when back in Bluffton. I would always park by her back door and her cat would often go under my car when it was out on the leash. And I enjoyed our conversations with such a sweet and kind soul, she will be missed. May you find refuge in our God. Shane*

Shane - October 11, 2023 at 07:53 PM

GK

Tom and Maureen. I was so sorry to read of your daughter's passing. Although I didn't know her, it is very obvious from other comments that she was an exceptional young lady.

I am so sorry for your loss and wish you nothing but the best as you work your way through this difficult time. May your family find strength and rejoice in the many fond memories I'm sure you have of your time together with Emily.

Gene (and Ruthann) Kyle

Gene Kyle - October 15, 2023 at 11:48 AM

RS

Reading these shared moments with Emily is such a joy. She is a heroic figure in my heart. That she powered through her trials and battles and yet shown such beauty and light is etched in my mind and burns a very needed inspiration going forth. It was a gift to know her. A real blessing. We shared a passion for Art and painting and spent many a blissful hour roaming the beautiful landscape of Oregon. Her touch was soft the strokes of color laid down as though hovering in the air. That she looked like an angel to match is a vision in itself. The true heart of an artist is the poetic soul and that is timeless and that she shared that with me is a treasure of immeasurable value. I miss you Emily 🎨❤️🎨 . Roderick

Roderick Smith - December 04, 2023 at 08:03 PM