



## Kimberli Dene Kunkel

January 8, 1969 - December 13, 2023

Kimberli Dene Kunkel, 54, of Tampa, FL passed away on December 13, 2023, at Melech Hospice House in Tampa. She was born on January 8, 1969, to Sandra Bevington and Randy Kunkel in Bluffton, IN.

Kim had a huge personality. When she entered the room, the atmosphere shifted to accommodate her. As she used to say, “people like me”, and she wasn’t wrong! She was so funny – every topic was an opportunity to poke a little fun. Honestly, almost nothing was off limits and then she’d laugh so big that she drew people in like a moth to a flame.

She also fancied herself as a loud, off-key singer of improvised songs. She would make them up on the spot and sing them at the top of her lungs, just to hear you laugh.

What she had the most of though, was love. Usually unconditional love, even though she admitted there were a few times she should have had some conditions in place.

She loved family and spent her life creating family-like environments with everyone she knew. Losing her only child Tyler Noble in 2012, reinforced the need for strong bonds in her life. She made a conscious decision to live her life in joy after he passed away. Kim had the realization that she could decide her emotions and feelings, so her choice was to live in joy with the absolute faith that she’d one day be reunited with Tyler.

Kim started her professional life as a cosmetologist at her dad’s salon. The stories they would share about that time in their lives are hilarious. Imagine

water fights across the stations, attempting to catch a flying bat upstairs or selling through yet another over ambitious order of liters.

After working behind the chair, she moved into salon consulting. Using her uncanny people-sense in conjunction with systems and guidelines she led many salon companies and service providers to prosperity.

The most life altering and educational occupation she ever had was as a cancer patient. In her words, "it was the biggest performance of my life". She said that the diagnosis of B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Ph+ on December 14, 2019, made her a better person because it changed the way she loved and magnified the value of her days and her relationships. Kim never asked, "why me" during her illness, she only stated "why not me"? Her tenacious fight to live lasted four years during which her faith never wavered. Kim is survived by her mother Sandra Bevington, father Randy Kunkel and her bonus mother Sharon Kunkel. Also, her brother Kevin Kunkel of Tampa, FL, sister Missy Huss of Bluffton, IN, and granddaughter Nataley Noble of Port Richey, FL, along with many other family members and friends.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 P.M. on Thursday, December 21, 2023 at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, and for one hour prior to the service. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Friday, December 22, 2023 at the funeral home with Tony Garton officiating. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery.

Memorials may be made in Kim's memory to Friends Who Care Cancer Relief Foundation and can be directed to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can share memories and online condolences with the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124  
Bluffton, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 21. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

## Visitation

DEC 22. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

## Funeral Service

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DEC **22**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Kimberli Dene Kunkel*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - December 21, 2023 at 04:08 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.*



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December 21, 2023 at 09:15 AM



“ *Hugs, Deb, Ellen, Calla and Carrie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.*

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**Hugs, Deb, Ellen, Calla and Carrie** - December 21, 2023 at 09:15 AM



“ 31 files added to the album *Life Tributes*

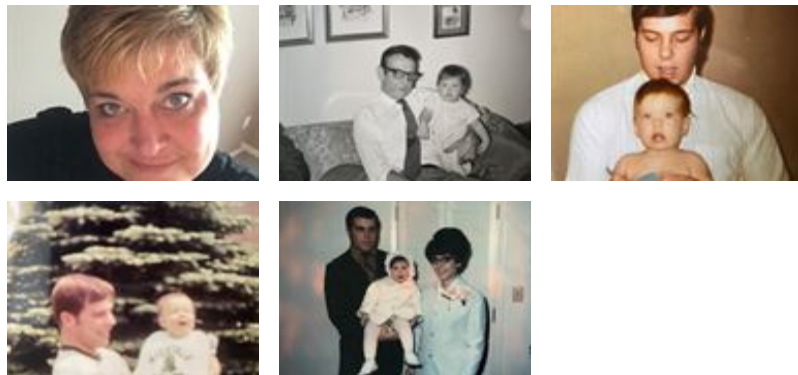


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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - December 20, 2023 at 08:00 PM



“ 119 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - December 20, 2023 at 10:49 AM



“ Jo & Mike Brooke planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.

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**Jo & Mike Brooke** - December 19, 2023 at 07:32 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.*



December 19, 2023 at 07:32 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.*



December 19, 2023 at 05:22 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.*



December 19, 2023 at 04:26 PM



“ *Charlie, Evan and Grace Soto planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.*

**Charlie, Evan and Grace Soto** - December 19, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.*



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December 19, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *David & Stacy Hodges planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.*

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**David & Stacy Hodges** - December 19, 2023 at 10:44 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.*



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December 19, 2023 at 10:44 AM



“ *Love, Scott & Brady Snider planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.*

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**Love, Scott & Brady Snider** - December 18, 2023 at 10:30 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.



December 18, 2023 at 10:30 AM



“ Love, PCI Academy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.

Love, PCI Academy - December 18, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.



December 18, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.



December 17, 2023 at 06:22 PM

JP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



jeanette petersen - December 17, 2023 at 03:17 PM

JP

“ jeanette petersen lit a candle in memory of Kimberli Kunkel



jeanette petersen - December 17, 2023 at 03:16 PM

CM

“ Courtney M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.

Courtney M. - December 17, 2023 at 01:02 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.



December 17, 2023 at 10:58 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.*



December 17, 2023 at 08:25 AM



“ *Such a huge loss Randy. My deepest sympathies to you & your family.*  
*Diane Brickley Oetting*

**Diane Oetting** - December 17, 2023 at 08:14 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.*



December 16, 2023 at 07:57 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.*



December 16, 2023 at 07:11 PM

KH

“ *Kay Hartman purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Kimberli Dene Kunkel.*



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**Kay Hartman** - December 16, 2023 at 07:50 AM

SK

“ *Sending our love and sympathies. Didn't know Kim that well but still remember when our Kim would get calls from boys looking for her. Our Kim is 6 yrs younger. Steve and Cindy Kunkel*

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**Steve Kunkel** - December 15, 2023 at 10:44 PM

TM

“ *Praying for her family and friends.*



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**Teresa Moser** - December 15, 2023 at 01:55 PM

JP

“ *jeanette petersen lit a candle in memory of Kimberli Kunkel*



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**jeanette petersen** - December 15, 2023 at 12:11 PM

MF

“ *Marna Frantz lit a candle in memory of Kimberli Kunkel*



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**Marna Frantz** - December 14, 2023 at 04:35 PM

LS

“ *Prayers for family and friends*



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**Lisa M. Satterfield** - December 14, 2023 at 05:55 AM