



## Jessica Owens Pliskin

August 31, 1984 - June 26, 2021

Jessica Owens Pliskin, 36, of Corvallis, passed away on June 26, 2021, after an extended illness. She died peacefully at home in Hospice care, surrounded by her loving family. She was born at Corvallis Good Samaritan Hospital, on August 31, 1984, to Leslie (Les) A. and Nancy O. Pliskin, and became a “big sister” to Benjamin (Ben) in 1987. She attended Corvallis Montessori School, Mt. View Elementary, Cheldelin Middle School, and was a 2002 graduate of Crescent Valley High School. She received a B.S. in Biological Sciences from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Throughout her all-too-short life, Jess, as she was known to family and friends, made many lasting friendships. Some descriptions they shared of her are: a dear friend; had a beautiful smile; delightfully humorous; my best friend; compassionate; intelligent and a valued team member; adventurous; felt emotions deeply; passionate about wilderness conservation; and, always so happy at a live concert of a favorite musician.

Jess’ love of the natural world and animals, especially horses, started on the family farm in Soap Creek Valley. From an early age she loved to draw, mostly horses, and was a gifted artist. She was an active member of the Benton County 4-H Horse Program for 9 years, culminating in competing in National 4-H Horse Bowl and attending National 4-H Congress. She became an accomplished Dressage rider, competing at Third Level, in the NW with her beloved thoroughbred “Higgins.”

Jess found her professional niche at Hewlett-Packard Corvallis, as an Environmental Engineering Program/Project Manager for HP Inc. She especially valued the comradely of her team, mentorship from her managers and working with people from a variety of countries. Outside of work, Jess found joy and peace hiking trails in local forests and on Oregon beaches, leaving behind a portfolio of striking photos taken along the way.

Jessica was loved beyond words and will be missed by so many. In her absence, she would want us to live in ways to protect our health, our relationships and our planet. She was preceded in death by her grandparents Robert J. Owens, Betty T. Owens and Irving Pliskin. She is survived by her parents, Les and Nancy, brother Ben, sister-in-law Whitney Heffernan, niece Eleanor "Ellie" Pliskin and infant nephew William Pliskin; grandmother Mildred Pliskin; several aunts, uncles, cousins; and her "adopted" Oregon family.

Donations may be made in her memory to Greenbelt Land Trust Inc. of Corvallis, The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation (ocean conservation, land conservation, indigenous people), or Sturge-Weber Foundation. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

# Tribute Wall

CG

“ Nancy and Les, I'm clearly very late in learning about Jessica's passing. I was hiking the other day and was astonished to see the bench in her memory. I am so sorry. Losing her must be incredibly hard. There are no adequate words. My heart goes out to you.

*(I wanted to send a card, but I'm not sure of your address - I hope you receive notifications when messages are posted here.)*

*Cyrel Gable*

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**Cyrel Gable** - March 24, 2022 at 03:54 PM

ME

“ Les, I was so sad to read about the loss of your daughter. Sending you and your family big hugs and heartfelt prayers.  
*Melinda Johnson*

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**Melinda** - July 20, 2021 at 02:21 PM

TR

“ Les and Nancy we are so saddened to hear of your loss. we hope you find some peace in knowing Jessica was loved and she cherished living in our lovely soap creek valley  
*Trish Greenfield and Denny Ellis*

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**trish** - July 18, 2021 at 02:39 PM

TT

“ Nancy, Les, and Ben, I'm so sorry to hear about Jessica's passing. I think of so many smiles and discoveries I had with her as a child. Horses, 4-H, exploring. She's was a gift of a friend. I am praying now for your family. *Taylor Turkington (Wilson)*

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**Taylor Turkington** - July 17, 2021 at 11:23 PM

SD

“ The last time I got to see Jessica, she listened to me at a time truly needed. She truly listened and was so kind for it. We knew each other since at least middle school at Cheldelin and through Crescent Valley but kept in touch through social media. Her photos of nature are so beautiful. I'm so sorry for your loss, Jessica will be in the hearts of everyone who knew her. Rare, honest, and kind. Sending all my love, Sabrina Dedek



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**Sabrina Dedek** - July 17, 2021 at 06:45 PM

WM

“ Nancy, I was so sad to hear about Jessica. I know how much you love her and cared for her; I wish I could have met her since she sounds like a wonderful person who made the world a better place. My condolences to you and your family. Wendy McKee

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**Wendy McKee** - July 15, 2021 at 08:55 AM

JR

“ Nancy, Les, Ben & Pliskin family, we are so very sorry to hear about Jessica. Our deepest condolences & our prayers to all of you at this very difficult time. Reinke family

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**Jeanne Reinke** - July 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM

PC

“ Dear Nancy and Pliskin Family,  
I am so sad to hear about Jess. She was such a bright star! I remember her love of nature and horses from our conversations in biology class at Crescent Valley. She was one of my very favorite students. I always looked forward to seeing her smiling face, and her enthusiasm for learning made teaching a true joy. My thoughts are with you in this incredibly difficult time.  
Peace,  
Peg

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**Peg Cornell** - July 14, 2021 at 10:01 AM

TS

Nancy, Les & Ben: Words don't come to me right now as I contemplate Jessica's death. She was such a special person, who was a gift to all of us who knew her. She enriched the Benton County 4-H program and I look back at her time in 4-H as special. I am saddened by her short time on this earth, but know her light and love are still with us. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Love, Tammy Skubinna

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**Tammy Skubinna** - July 15, 2021 at 02:45 AM

SL

I was so very sorry to learn of Jessica's passing. I know that words are not necessarily of tremendous comfort at times like this but wanted to express my deepest condolences. Sincerely, Steve Lundeberg

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**Steve Lundeberg** - July 15, 2021 at 12:28 PM

CS

Nancy, Les and Ben---I was so very sorry and sad to learn about Jessica's passing. She was indeed a shining light in the Montessori classroom, always interested and learning, and easy to love. My thoughts are with all of you in this very difficult time.

Cindy Scott

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**Cindy Scott** - July 15, 2021 at 01:42 PM

MY

*Nancy and Family - Our thoughts are with you all as you grieve the very sad loss of Jessica. ❤️ Dan & Mary Yates*

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**Mary Yates** - July 15, 2021 at 02:25 PM

JM

*Les and Nancy, so very saddened to hear of Jessica's passing. We understand the pain you are going through as we lost our daughter last year. May all of your wonderful memories of Jessica help ease the pain. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Jerry and Ruth Mock*

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**Jerry Mock** - July 17, 2021 at 01:05 PM