



Melissa Eileen Preston

January 19, 1971 - May 5, 2014

Melissa Eileen Rockwell Preston, 43, passed away on May 5, 2014 in Morrisville, NC. She was born January 19, 1971 in Yakima, WA to John Roger Mills and Patricia Darlene Gliddon Rockwell. Melissa graduated from Bridgeport High School and Washington State University with a degree in Apparel Merchandising. She also attended schools in Twisp and East Wenatchee while growing up.

In 1996, Melissa married Jonathan Preston of Mansfield, WA. During her career she held fashion-related positions with Columbia Sportswear, GAP Inc., Banana Republic, Adidas and Nike. She and Jon lived five years in China while Jon worked for Intel and Melissa worked briefly for Nike of China. Melissa was proficient in Mandarin Chinese and returned often to China after starting her own jewelry business, Rockhill Design.

Melissa touched lives. She was beautiful and happy and her infectious laugh was only outshined by her wonderful smile. Always fun, always kind, always late, she created communities of friendship wherever she lived. She will continue to gently touch our lives through her three precious children, and through the unique memory each of us carries in our heart.

Melissa is survived by her children: Nicholas, Jackson and Samantha, all of Camas, WA; her parents, Mike and Patricia Rockwell of Vancouver, WA;

brothers, Matthew Clarkson (Cheri), Camas, WA, Eric Clarkson (Neva), Vancouver, WA, Casey Rockwell Mills (Rebecca) Harrah, WA, and sisters, Michele and Denise Rockwell of Bellingham, WA. She has numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

She is also survived by her in-laws: Edward and Sheila Preston, Mansfield, WA; Susan Girardot, Michone Preston (Dan Wetzler) and Tiffany Preston (Chris Cable), all of Spokane, WA and Siobhan Strang (Scott), Chugiak, AK.

Her sister, Renee Rockwell, preceded her in death. Her husband, Jonathan, is deceased.

Mass of Christian Burial to be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thurs., May 22, 2014 at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 17010 NE 9th St., Vancouver, WA 98684. Burial will take place following the service at the Camas City Cemetery, 630 NE Oaks St., Camas WA 98607. There will be a public visitation on Wed., May 21 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at Evergreen Memorial Gardens, 1101 NE 112th Ave., Vancouver, WA 98684. Rosary will follow at the funeral home at 7:00 p.m.

A Celebration for Melissa will be held Thursday, May 22, 2014 at Camas Meadows Golf Course, 4105 NW Camas Meadows Dr. from 5:00–8:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

Tribute Wall

HI

“ We remember the family with fondness and send our very deep regrets to Nicholas, Jackson and Samantha on the loss of their parents.

Hilary - June 01, 2014 at 09:28 PM

KC

“ Melissa and I worked together in the early 1990's at the Onion Bar and Grill. Everything I've read so far about Melissa is so true! She was a bright light, always laughing and always smiling! We were best friends during that time, we worked together, ran together and mostly laughed together. We ran her first Bloomsday together and celebrated with icy margaritas afterwards. I'm so sorry to hear about her passing. I will remember her children in my prayers.

Kari Caruso - May 29, 2014 at 11:11 PM

DV

“ I was lucky and blessed to have the opportunity to meet Melissa. As Samantha's teacher, we worked closely together. In the short time I knew her, she showed me so much love, kindness and appreciation. She was a beautiful woman, with a beautiful soul, and her smile and laugh were infectious. I see so much of her in Samantha, and I know that her legacy of love and laughter will live on through Samantha, Jackson and and Nick. My thoughts and prayers are forever with Samantha and the rest of Melissa's family.



Darcie Vyner

Darcie Vyner - May 23, 2014 at 05:14 PM

DV

“ I knew Melissa for just a short time as Samantha's teacher, though in that short time, she showed me what a wonderful person she was, and how much love she had in her heart. I see so much of her in Samantha, and I know her legacy of love and laughter will forever live on. My thoughts and prayers are forever with Samantha, and all of Melissa's family.



Darcie Vyner

Darcie Vyner - May 23, 2014 at 05:10 PM

PL

“ *Patty Luthi lit a candle in memory of Melissa Eileen Preston*



Patty Luthi - May 23, 2014 at 12:35 PM

CH

“ *How could this possibly happen to someone so nice as Melissa ? There is no answer because she was a beautiful soul on this planet who never had a bad thought about anyone in her life. The World is a much sadder place today because this precious flower is no longer blooming. I just hope her kids and family can find the strength to overcome this tragedy by always thinking of the wonderful times we all had for too short a time !! I really feel honored to have been her friend and Coach !!!!*

Rest in Peace Pooh !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Coach Holt - May 22, 2014 at 01:11 PM

SC

“ I am so sorry, and thinking of your families right now. I lived next door in the rental my first year of teaching in BP. What a wonderful family, and I am saying a prayer for all of you. Sincerely, Sue (Slaugenhaupt) Clouse. (Still teaching, in Chelan now.)

Sue Clouse - May 22, 2014 at 10:26 AM

AW

“ When a special someone is taken from loved ones we can only hold onto the memories to get past these times.....Pooh was just an infant the first time I babysat her and the three boys for Pat. Over the years of sitting for the family in Bridgeport and when they moved to Twisp.. Time passes, Melissa grew up and had children of her own and yet you remember them still as the little ones you watched over. Pooh thanks for touching my life.

anita wesselman - May 21, 2014 at 09:00 PM



“ To our classmates, Matt and family, Rocky and family and Michele and family,
We are mourning your loss today and we are with you in spirit as you lay Melissa to rest.
Love, The Bridgeport Class of 1981

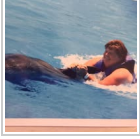
Melissa Fennen - May 21, 2014 at 09:01 AM

RS

“ Roy Scott lit a candle in memory of Melissa Eileen Preston



Roy Scott - May 20, 2014 at 09:41 PM



“ *Melissa played softball for me BP (Bridgeport-Pateros) and earned the nickname of "Coach Rockwell", she was a heck of a shortstop and yes always late for the bus on Saturday mornings, Jenny would have to run to her house and get her out of bed as the bus waited, but well worth the wait. Melissa would climb on the bus in her PJs and blanket. RIP you amazing young woman!!*

Sheri Mortimer - May 20, 2014 at 02:54 PM

DL

“ *Candy and I are blessed to have known Pooh as our neighbor and daughter's best friend. We got to watch her grow up as she spent a lot of time at our house. We got to watch her excel at all sports at Bridgeport High School. We got to hear her laugh, she could always bring a smile to your face just hearing that laugh. The Lord must have needed someone to brighten up heaven when he called you home. Rest in peace Pooh, and may God comfort your family and friends and help us all through this troubled time.*

Dan & Candy LaRoche

Dan LaRoche - May 20, 2014 at 02:01 PM

NK

“ *We will forever be Shanghai Soul Sisters; I will forever smile and make people feel welcome; it is what we did! I will forever pray for your children...I will forever hold my memories of the endless hours of fun we had tightly and know that you showed so many how to love life and live it completely; you were the light that shined so brightly at church; you were the laughter that every car ride, bike ride, run, coffee chat or costume party needed...you were just what Shanghai needed- just what we needed while in Shanghai....Love You Girly!*

Nicole Kopicki - May 20, 2014 at 10:55 AM

JS

“ *My deepest condolences to Melissa and Jon's children and families.
I will be keeping them in my prayers. Julie (Cavadini) Symonds*

Julie Symonds - May 19, 2014 at 11:41 PM