



## Michelle Lauren Gray

November 21, 1984 - December 29, 2024

Michelle Lauren Gray (Auntie Shell) passed away early on the morning of December 29, 2024, after her third battle with cancer. She was 40 years old. Michelle is survived by her mom and stepdad, Julie and Steve Ekkelkamp; her brothers, Ryan (Adrienne), Phillip (Natalie) and Kenneth (Ashely) Gray, her nieces, Makayla, Evelyn, Ruby, Sofia and Paloma and her nephew Ira.

She was preceded in death by her dad, Kenneth Gray, her close childhood friend, CJ Allen, and her beloved blonde lab, Bridget.

Born in Bellingham and raised on the shores of Lake Whatcom (her happiest place), she spent her childhood traipsing through the woods, building forts, swimming and sunbathing. Michelle attended Western Washington University and Whatcom Community College. She enjoyed working as a Physical Therapy Assistant, helping her clients regain their mobility and strength. Michelle was brave and “tough as nails,” always holding her own. She inherited her father’s quick wit and throughout her life, gained the wisdom and resilience of someone who often had the wind in her face.

It’s no secret that “Auntie” was Michelle’s most prized title. Her nieces and nephew were her heart. She took extra care to make each of them feel seen, heard and adored and they all knew their Auntie Shell would do anything for them. She was the cool Auntie every kid dreams of.

Michelle had a devoted group of lifelong friends (Christie, Darcy, Diane, Gina and Jamie) who she described as her soulmates. They kept her laughing and always showed up. Michelle loved her friends deeply. Their love and support of Michelle was unmatched and meant the world to her.

Aside from being a devoted Auntie and friend, Michelle enjoyed paddle boarding, skiing, eating delicious food, laughing, needling and spending time with those she loved. She made every Christmas magic for her nieces and nephew. Her signature drink was a French 75 and at one point she required each of her visitors to bring her a Watchamacallit.

We, her family remember Michelle (Auntie Shell) as a class act, an intent listener and careful observer. We will never forget the intense love and bond she had with her mom. Julie's support was unwavering, and she never left Michelle's side. Michelle was tough but never without love. One final reminder from Michelle – Wash your hands!

A service for Michelle will be held at Moles Funeral Home on Lakeway on January 11, 2024, at 2pm. A reception will follow at the Majestic on N. Forrest from 6-8pm.

# Tribute Wall

TK

“ I went to High School with Michelle and Kenny and Michelle always and will have a big smile on her face. She will always be missed and loved, she was a great to everyone and everything. Give CJ a hug for me in Heaven Michelle...

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**Tiffani (Higgerson) Kim** - January 15, 2025 at 12:00 AM

NA

“ Julie and Family,  
I was so saddened to hear the news of Michelle's passing. May God comfort you and hold you close. Our family's sincere condolences,  
Nancy & Perry Almassy

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**Nancy D Almassy** - January 08, 2025 at 12:00 AM