



Mrs. Kathleen Mereda Kelly Brucker

April 5, 2025

Kathleen Mereda Kelly Brucker, 72, of Salem, SC, wife of Steven C. Brucker, passed away surrounded by family on April 5, 2025, at Cottingham Hospice House after a year-long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Born in New Brunswick, NJ, and raised near Philadelphia, PA, Kathleen was the daughter of the late John L. and Mereda Talley Kelly. She spent summers growing up at “The Shore” in Lavalette, NJ, instilling in her a lifelong love of the water, swimming, and any kind of boat ride.

Kathleen earned a B.S. in Nutrition and Food from Drexel University and completed a Dietetic Internship at Barnes Hospital before obtaining her certification as a Registered Dietician. Kathleen employed this certification in her corporate career in the food and nutrition services industry with experiences in hyperbaric medical research, hospital food and nutrition services administration, nutrition education, and corporate test kitchen research, development, and marketing.

After marrying, Kathleen left her corporate career to pursue a new role as wife and mother. She was incredibly thankful for the family’s opportunities to live as “expats” in Australia and Dubai, cherishing the adventures that came with living overseas. During her time as a homemaker, Kathleen took on so much more. Never one to sit still, Kathleen taught swim lessons, volunteered

extensively, and acted as the ultimate caregiver to everyone she met. Kathleen led by example, serving as a Cub Scout Den Mother in Oswego, IL and a Girl Scout Troop Leader in Oswego, Dubai, and Naperville, IL. After retirement, she acted as a Guardian ad Litem advocating for children and youth who had experienced abuse or neglect and led a program that provided swim lessons for students at Keowee Elementary. As a member of Saint Andrew Catholic Church in Clemson, SC, Kathleen served as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, sharing her faith and companionship with those homebound and unable to attend Mass to receive the sacrament.

Kathleen found joy in the little moments of life like dancing in the kitchen, catching up with an old friend, cuddling her kitties, attending a play or concert, or pursuing any of her numerous hobbies including watercolor painting, gardening, or maintaining her Spanish and Italian language-learning practices.

In addition to her husband, Steve, Kathleen is survived by her children: John Brucker (Lyndsay) and Betsy Harris (Rich); siblings: Jack Kelly (Chris), Karen Purple (Bob), Patricia Kelly-Evans (Bill); and countless cherished friends from throughout her various stages of life.

In addition to her parents, Kathleen was predeceased by her brother, Jim Kelly, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends whom she loved.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 AM, Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at Saint Andrew Catholic Church with reception to follow at the church. A graveside service is planned at Calvary Cemetery in Media, PA. Date and time are yet to be determined.

Flowers will be accepted, but in their stead, memorial donations may be made to Hospice of the Foothills, Cottingham Hospice House, Attn: Foundation

Office, 298 Memorial Drive, Seneca, SC 29672.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

APR 9. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Andrew Catholic Church
209 Sloan St.
Clemson, SC 29631

Tribute Wall

JM

“ We are so very sorry to hear of Kathy’s death. May she rest in peace. John and Betsy Moynahan and family

John and Betsy Moynahan - May 17, 2025 at 09:45 PM

SH

“ Shun lit a candle in memory of Kathleen Brucker



Shun - April 16, 2025 at 09:32 PM

JP

“ John P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Kathleen Mereda Kelly Brucker.

John P. - April 11, 2025 at 12:37 PM

JF

“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Kathleen Mereda Kelly Brucker.

John and Lourdes McGinty and Castro family - April 08, 2025 at 10:45 PM

JV

“ We are so happy to have had the opportunity to reconnect with Kathleen and Steve two years ago. We wish we had done it sooner and been able to enjoy more than a few days with the two of them. Even after several years, it was like no time had passed since we last saw them due to our wonderful welcome from Kathleen and Steve. Kathleen was such a gracious hostess and we will miss her.
Jeannette & Marty Vleck

Jeannette Vleck - April 08, 2025 at 07:26 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathleen Mereda Kelly Brucker.



April 08, 2025 at 06:31 PM

BF

“ Brenneis Family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Kathleen Mereda Kelly Brucker.



Brenneis Family - April 08, 2025 at 02:48 PM

TL

“ Tom Claire Jack and Liam planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Kathleen Mereda Kelly Brucker.

Tom Claire Jack and Liam - April 08, 2025 at 01:05 PM

TL

“ Tom Claire Jack and Liam purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mrs. Kathleen Mereda Kelly Brucker.



Tom Claire Jack and Liam - April 08, 2025 at 01:05 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathleen Mereda Kelly Brucker.



April 07, 2025 at 08:48 PM

SK

“ It was a great honor to care for Kathleen and get to know your lovely family my prayers are with you all for peace and comfort



Sandy King - April 07, 2025 at 08:44 PM

LP

“ Love, Jack, Karen, & Patricia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Kathleen Mereda Kelly Brucker.

Love, Jack, Karen, & Patricia - April 07, 2025 at 06:29 PM

LP

“ *Love, Jack, Karen, & Patricia purchased the Bountiful Rose Basket for the family of Mrs. Kathleen Mereda Kelly Brucker.*



Love, Jack, Karen, & Patricia - April 07, 2025 at 06:29 PM