

Kayla Whitney

April 28, 1991 - March 14, 2022

Kayla was the loving and beloved daughter of Paul Whitney and Mary Perrone and dearest and loving big sister of Colin Whitney. Kayla will be sadly missed by her aunts, uncles and cousins.

Kayla was bigger than life itself. She lived more in her 30 years than most people live in 100. Kayla was a relentless traveler. She lived the last five years in Colombia, teaching English while working on establishing a company which provided translating and editing services. Kayla was caring, loving, generous, and deeply empathetic. Extremely outgoing, she loved meeting new people of all cultures and backgrounds and making new friends. Educated at The Academy of the Sacred Heart, she was steeped in the knowledge that social awareness impels a person to action. That belief was reinforced at the University of Michigan through their Community Action and Social Change Minor program, which she embraced. Over her lifetime, Kayla volunteered at a school for special needs students at the Kennedy Center in Pontiac, served in the Best Buddies Friendship Program, which provides friendship to those with developmental disabilities, participated in the Camp Kesem program, which supports children whose parents are affected by cancer, made two trips to the Amazon with others from her school to deliver medical supplies and build a fresh water treatment facility. She lived with a family in Ghana while working at a school for special needs students. Rather than take a spring break, Kayla instead chose to volunteer at Misericordia Heart of Mercy in Chicago, which

cares for children with developmental disabilities. She counseled children who had been incarcerated at the Washtenaw Detention Center. She worked as a teacher's assistant at Northwood Preschool in Ann Arbor, a preschool that catered to the needs of children from immigrant families. She tutored students with learning disabilities at Community High School in Ann Arbor. Kayla also served as Vice President of the Bone Marrow Match program at U of M. In short, Kayla sought opportunities at every turn to serve others less fortunate and make the world a better place. Kayla will be missed by all those fortunate enough to have known and loved her.

Friends and family will gather on Saturday, March 26 from 9 AM until the time of a 12:30 PM Memorial Service at the Wasik Funeral Home, Inc., 49150 Schoenherr Rd. (n. of 22 Mile Road) Shelby Township.

Kayla's family has requested that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations addressed to the A.S.P.C.A. or The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in her memory would be preferred.

Cemetery Details

Cremation

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

MAR 26. 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township
49150 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315
(586) 532-8600
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

Memorial Service

MAR 26. 12:30 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township
49150 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315
(586) 532-8600
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

JB

“ I still remember when I met her. She was always smiling and glad to teach her native language to non native English Speaker like me. I had the pleasure to called her teacher, when she was in Santa marta Colombia. My heart is broken, I just thank God for the chance to meet her and learn many many things thanks to her. To her family and parents, I'm so so sorry. Send you a hug from Colombia... :(



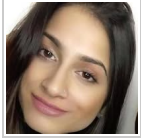
Jesus David Botto - August 27, 2022 at 12:36 AM

CP

“ Rest In Peace, beautiful soul ♡♡



Chanel Pattah - March 27, 2022 at 03:05 PM



“ 19 files added to the tribute wall

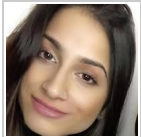


Radhey Raval - March 26, 2022 at 05:50 PM



“ 33 files added to the tribute wall

Radhey Raval - March 26, 2022 at 02:53 PM



“ 33 files added to the tribute wall



Radhey Raval - March 26, 2022 at 02:53 PM

Kendal Noonan

“❤️



Kendal Noonan - March 26, 2022 at 02:44 PM

EU

“ *Reina, thank you for your love, friendship, kindness and many laughs.*

We always expressed how much we meant to each other and I will always cherish that and all the beautiful moments we spent together, including the many adventures we went on.

I miss you so much. I find myself still watching out for your good morning messages and I keep picturing us in that little treehouse in the mountains from our last trip together. 💙

So lucky to have met you and even more lucky to have formed such a beautiful friendship with you.

Will always love you, my beautiful friend and reina.

-Emanuel



emanuel urbina - March 26, 2022 at 09:36 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kayla Whitney.



March 26, 2022 at 01:05 AM



“ [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Kayla Whitney.

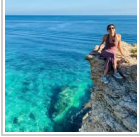
March 25, 2022 at 04:14 PM



“ 386 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. - March 25, 2022 at 02:37 PM




“ I don't think I can find the words to describe the pain and void I am feeling, how much I miss you. You gave me my faith and trust back in friendships and unconditionally loving and being there for one and another. I thought we would grow old together. There wasn't an image I had of the future where you weren't in. You were convinced we would grow old like Grace and Frankie. We were just not sure which country or city we would make unsafe. For the past 5 years you have grown into one of my most important, favorite and precious person in my life. Every memory I have of the past 5,5 years, in one way or another you are part of, from the long and boring lockdown days celebrating Birthdays in front of the camera with each other, evenings overlooking Santa Marta from our apartment to all those trips we have made together from Mexico, Ecuador to the Dominican Republic. Me on a scooter you on the backseat or driving around in golf carts or cars. I think you trusted my driving skills way too much. I will cherish these last days we have spent together driving around in the Dominican Republic and where we have had an amazing lunch on a deserted beach and probably the most romantic lunch I have ever had with someone for always. In the past few months you decided to resent me many photos and videos of all these beautiful moments and I thought those would be the perfect ones to attach to this message. I know you loved these.

You are mu number one too. I love you so much my beautiful Kayla.



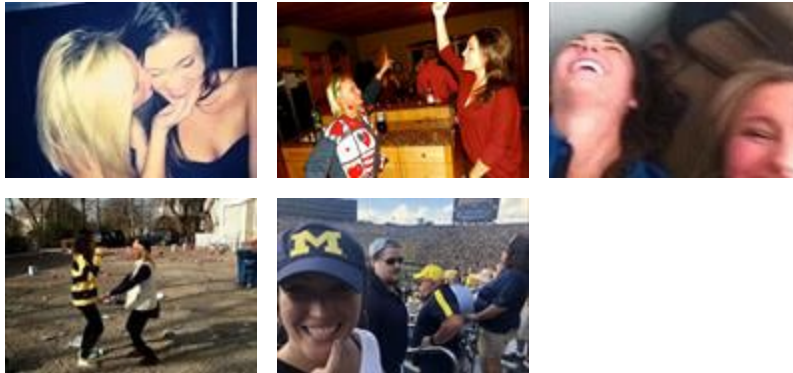
Lisa Crooy - March 25, 2022 at 08:45 AM

 Kendal
Noonan

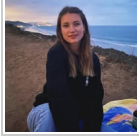
“ *My heart is hurting with losing you, Whittlez. I just can't believe it. There are so many things we have to talk about, and it doesn't seem real.. everyone who knew you, loved you. The way you spent your life makes me want to be a better person.*

I will think of you often, my gorgeous friend. I love you ❤️

My deepest condolences go out to your mom, dad, and brother. And everyone else who loved you. Kayla has been a great friend to me for so many years, and I will miss her tremendously.



Kendal Noonan - March 25, 2022 at 02:02 AM



“ *Kayla, I remember when I met you in Colombia and experienced the fastest friendship of my life - it was immediately clear to me, and to everyone who got to meet you, that you were one of a kind. I didn't think your heart could get any bigger, and then you would consistently amaze me with how much love you had to give. Your endless warmth, empathy, and infectious generosity has had such an impact on my life, and I will hold our adventures and misadventures close to my heart. I will miss you deeply and love you always. Sending my deepest condolences to your family.*



Mollie Putnam - March 24, 2022 at 03:05 PM

Sara
Kathryn

“ Kaykay <3 my fellow mitten lover (go blue) & red wine connoisseur, I am shattered by this news. We became instant friends in Colombia as I immediately gravitated towards your kind spirit, keen sense of humor, and contagious light. Your drive and open heart guided you to so many places and touched so many across the world. Kayla is a once in a lifetime friend. I will carry you with me always. Thank you for always reminding me to follow my heart and do what makes me happy. I miss you so much. Nos vemos algun dia y compartimos una botella de vino tinto, mi reina pa' siempre. TQM.



Sara Kathryn - March 23, 2022 at 11:42 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Kayla Whitney.



March 23, 2022 at 11:22 PM

TB

“ I will always cherish the fun times we shared together in Colombia, and while back-packing through Panama and Costa Rica. You were a one-of-a-kind free spirit with a warm & kind heart. I will be forever grateful to have met you and to have had our paths cross in life even for a short time. Eternal love and light, Kayla. You will be missed. Sending immense condolences to her family and loved ones. Xo



Tamara Broussard - March 23, 2022 at 05:45 PM

SA

“ I was incredibly lucky to have met you in Colombia where we shared the adventure of living in a new country together. It immediately became clear to me that you were fiercely loyal, strong and one of the most kind and fun loving people I would ever meet.

In my mind you were always glowing with energy, life and love and that's exactly how I'll remember you. The pupils that you taught adored you, just like I'm certain so many of the people you've supported over years have too. I'll keep your infectious lust for life with me wherever I go. I'm so grateful to have had you by my side at a time when we were so far away from home. You will be sorely missed Kaycita Xxx



Sophie Anderson - March 22, 2022 at 02:27 PM

AH

“ *The world was better with you in it. You were a constant source of joy and laughter to everyone you met. You were kind, empathetic and selfless to your core. I won't forget all of our life talks, travels and constant laughing whenever we were together.*

Words can't do justice in describing what an incredible person and friend you were. I will miss you so much Kwhit.



anapaola house - March 22, 2022 at 02:32 AM

CB

“ *The joy, kindness and hope in the heart of Keyla always teach me about the good things on earth. As her "colombian mother in Popayan" like she used to call me, I'm having a broken heart. I just want to share my condolences with their family, specially with their parents.*

Cecilia Benachi - March 21, 2022 at 08:44 PM



“ *Embarking on our adventure in Colombia, I never thought I'd meet someone as incredible as Kayla. To know her was to love her, and she had a way of making every situation fun, showing love and compassion to anyone she came across, and a sense of adventure and purpose to help others around her and experience the world.*

I'm so grateful for our friendship, and you'll always be one of the people I love most. You left an indelible impact on the world, and handled the worst of situations with tenacity and grace, and I am so proud of you. I'll forever cherish our memories, travels, haykay adventures, conversations and time together.

*I miss you dearly, but you are so loved. I'll always carry you in my heart and emulate your selflessness, lust for life and fun spirit, because I know that's what you would've wanted. Love you forever
reina, Hayley*



Hayley Shapiro - March 21, 2022 at 01:37 PM

MS

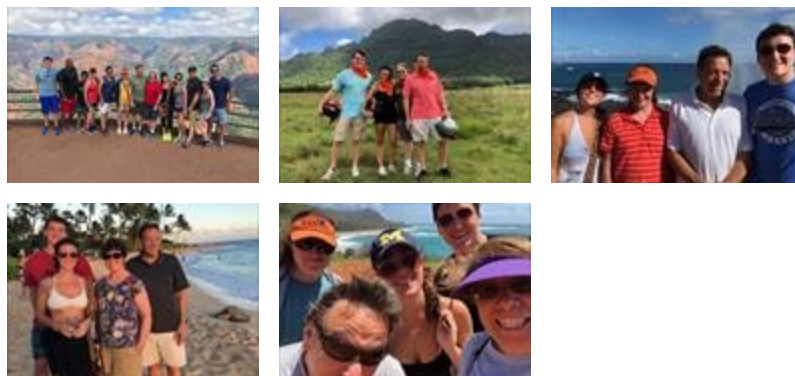
“ *Kayla, mi amor, I don't have the words to express how grateful I am to have met you and to have shared sunset drinks, walks in Minca, Netflix and popcorn nights, beach and pool days, and a million other wonderful, fun, life-affirming memories with you. Everywhere you went you lifted people up with your smile and Santa Marta wouldn't have been the same without you. Your friendship was truly a blessing and I'll miss you x*



Maija Sequeira - March 20, 2022 at 10:24 AM

GW

“ *15 files added to the tribute wall*



Gina Whitney - March 19, 2022 at 08:37 PM

GW

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Gina Whitney - March 19, 2022 at 08:34 PM

DC

“ *In the short time I knew her, she showed such grace and light. To say I will miss her is an understatement. Mr. Whitney, I am so very sorry. I loved getting to know Kayla. She was truly an angel on earth.*

Dawn Cicero - March 19, 2022 at 07:39 PM