



Katherine Jean Davis died Thursday, November 15th, at the age of 27. In her honor, we celebrate her life and exemplary character while mourning the loss of a beloved wife, daughter, sister and friend. She was a loving, strong, loyal, confident, assertive, and sincere young woman who was tremendously devoted to her loved ones. Katie had a passion for life, knew where she was going, and how to get there. She was remarkably sure of who she was and what she believed, yet was always concerned about the well-being of others.

Everyone remembers Katie for her loyalty and love for her family. She loved family activities and gathering people together, be it a birthday, concert, or a weekend at the cabin in Lincoln. Katie approached life with enthusiasm and encouraged others to adopt the same no-nonsense attitude that came so naturally to her. She was kind, selfless, and always had the best intentions.

An important aspect of this familial devotion was an infinite willingness to pass on thoughts and advice. A born problem-solver, Katie simply did not accept excuses and would do anything to help someone work through an issue. Katie was wise beyond her years; a mentor and role model for her siblings and cousins. She was the one with all the answers and it seemed as though she could be trusted to handle any situation with a clear eye and common sense. She was strong-willed and boldly shared her thoughts, although occasional unsolicited advice and an authoritative voice that made one “sit up and pay attention” earned her the nickname ‘General Jean’ from her brother Shawn. Kate could be demanding, but one always knew that she said the things she did because she truly wanted the best for others. She made people feel special.

Katie wasn't shy about sharing her opinion, but she also wasn't shy about her tender feelings for her family. She was always there for Shawn, Evin, and Ellen. Though she and Jon built a life in Bozeman, involvement in family life was one of Katie's dearest priorities. She loved her little sister so much. Despite a ten-year age difference, they enjoyed a unique and close relationship. Katie always made a point to be in Great Falls for important events in her sister's life. She was always there when Ellen went to the prom so that she could help her sister get ready and make the night special. Shawn calls his big sister his best friend and remembers her as incredibly strong and a person with whom conversation was natural. Katie has played an important role in the lives of both of her brothers. Evin spent the past summer at Jon and Kate's house in Bozeman. Jon has always been Katie's rock. Ted cherishes his firstborn child and would call her up for advice, which she has always given so freely. Katie's relationship with her mother Mary Kay has been an inspiration to the entire family, especially Katie's aunts. They shared a special connection and spent many hours sharing thoughts, laughing and crying together, and having fun. They enjoyed gardening and flowers, photography, and traveling. Mary Kay was the Maid of Honor in Katie and Jon's wedding, a rare honor for a mother.

Katie was born on February 15, 1980. The eldest of her family and the first of twenty-five grandchildren, Katie was a role model. She attended C.M. Russell High School in

Great Falls. It was there that she met her high-school sweetheart and soul mate Jon, when they went to the prom together sophomore year. Katie found a new home in Bozeman after moving there to study Graphic Design at Montana State University. She graduated in the spring of 2003.

Katie Mitchell became Katie Davis when she married the love of her life on June 13, 2003. They had a fairytale wedding in the Montana countryside - except for the fact that Jon ran out of gas on his way to the wedding ceremony. Katie loved Jon passionately and was proud of him and the life that they built. They were a team and spent all their time together, both at work and play. Katie became an entrepreneur when she and Jon opened their first Helly Hansen store in downtown Bozeman in the spring of 2003. She was incredibly hard-working and ambitious. Today they own and operate stores in Bozeman, Missoula, and Boise.

One of the most memorable experiences of Katie's life was her semester abroad in Italy. This experience sparked a love of travel, which remained one of her hobbies. Katie's favorite color was green although she could never pass up a pair of bright red shoes. She loved spending time with her dog, Kaia. She also loved music, although her dad and brothers sometimes gave her grief because of an affinity for techno music. Katie also made an effort to stay in touch with her cousins.

Katie's untimely death has left a void in the lives all those who knew her, especially her husband and partner, Jon Davis; her loving parents Ted and Mary Kay Mitchell, her younger brothers and sister Shawn, Evin, and Ellen, and her Grandparents Vern and Joanne Waldenberg, Jack Mitchell, and Carol VandeVeegaete. She will be sorely missed by all the members of her immediate and extended family and friends. Katie stood tall; her shadow is long, and her light will be kept alive in memory.

To celebrate Katie's life, there will be a memorial service at the Dokken-Nelson Funeral Home at 113 S. Wilson Avenue in Bozeman on Monday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m. There will also be a Funeral Mass at Holy Rosary Catholic Church at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 20th.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the following: In honor of the extraordinary love and care that Katie received at the Bozeman Deaconess hospital, donations may be sent to the Bozeman Deaconess Hospital Foundation, 931 Highland Blvd, Suite 3200, Bozeman, MT 59715. To honor Katie's love for her dog Kaia, donations may also be sent to Heart of The Valley Animal Shelter at 1549 E. Cameron Bridge Rd., Bozeman, MT 59718.