



Dr. Kathleen Richards

August 10, 1952 - May 7, 2023

Dr. Kathleen Richards of East Stroudsburg, PA, went to be with her Lord on May 7, 2023 at the age of 70. Dr. Richards is survived by her only child, Dr. Rebecca Padot, her son in law, Chris Padot, and her grandchild, Mira Faith Padot. She has one living sister, Gina Conroy (Jim Nowen). She is predeceased by her late husband, Stephen J Dreyer and by her siblings Anita Rose Balint, Dr. Lois Estok, Richard Tammara, and Jack Tammara. Dr. Richards was born and raised in Manville, NJ. She died of Mesothelioma, a cancer caused by asbestos.

Dr. Richards attended Manville Public schools and graduated Manville High School in 1970. She graduated from Douglass College with a BA in Biology. She received her Master's degree in Biochemistry from Rutgers Graduate School. Since she was 7 years old, Dr. Richards always wanted to be a doctor. She attended New Jersey Medical School in Newark, NJ. She completed her residency in Family Medicine at Somerset Medical Center Family Medicine in 1987 and became Board-Certified in Family Medicine. She opened her solo Family Medicine practice in Manville, NJ. Dr. Richards practiced in Manville until 2005 (she was known as Dr. Kowal then). She was amazed at how much physical disease is caused by psycho-social-spiritual problems. At age 52 she entered the University of North Carolina Psychiatry Residency program and completed her residency. She became Board-Certified in General Psychiatry. She finished her career by working as a

Psychiatrist at the Salisbury VA in Salisbury, NC where she helped veterans recover from their emotional wounds. She also taught medical students and residents. After retirement, Dr. Richards moved back to the Northeast to help care for her precious granddaughter, Mira.

Dr. Richards had a special interest in Grief Recovery and became a Grief Recovery specialist. She led many small groups, as well as patients through the Grief Recovery process (The Grief Recovery Handbook). In fact, Dr. Richards felt she helped more patients with the Grief Recovery model than she did with all her degrees. Dr. Richards also had an interest in childhood attachment. She was certified as a Circle of Security facilitator. Dr. Richards led many parent groups using this model.

Dr. Richards was also a Master gardener. She loved garden design and designed her last two homesteads.

Viewing will be held at Ketusky Funeral Home, 1310 Brooks Blvd., Manville, NJ 08835 on Friday, May 12, 2023 from 4PM to 8PM and again on Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 9AM – 10AM. Funeral service will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 10AM, also at Ketusky Funeral Home. Interment will follow at New Cemetery in Somerville, NJ.

Cemetery Details

New Cemetery

Bridge Street
Somerville, NJ 08876

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 12. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Ketusky Funeral Home
1310 Brooks Blvd - PO Box 747
Manville, NJ 08835
(908) 575-8512
info@ketusky.com
<https://www.ketusky.com>

Funeral Service

MAY 13. 10:00 AM (ET)

Ketusky Funeral Home
1310 Brooks Blvd - PO Box 747
Manville, NJ 08835
(908) 575-8512
info@ketusky.com
<https://www.ketusky.com>

Tribute Wall

PW

“ I am so sorry to hear about the passing of this amazing lady. We shared many experiences together when she lived in Chapel Hill. I will always remember her brilliance, perseverance, incredible love and loyalty to her family, her joy and hopes for granddaughter, Mira, and mostly her unshakable love and devotion to the Lord. I often thought of her as a “real doctor,” as her medical knowledge was surpassed only by her love and genuine concern for the patients in her care. Our loss, but heaven’s gain.

Pam Wexler - July 11, 2025 at 12:58 PM

LW

“ Kathleen was married to my Brother Stephen J. Dreyer. She was the best thing that happened for him. I have always liked her and treated her like she was my sister. She will be greatly missed by me. I want to let her Daughter know that the kindness she showed me and my family was greatly appreciated . My Prayers are with you. Leslie A. Woodworth

Leslie Woodworth - April 02, 2024 at 04:42 PM

NI

“ I am so sad to hear of the passing of Ms. Kathy. I was her neighbor and have had the pleasure of overlooking her beautiful garden for the past three years. She was a lovely lady who often helped me out (as an unprepared college student,) digging my car out from the piles of snow when I had no shovel, gloves, or snow boots. I have had nothing but pleasant encounters with her and send her family prayers and sympathy.

Nicole - August 05, 2023 at 08:36 PM

LR

“ Sending my deepest condolences to Rebecca, Chris, Mira and Family.
I worked with Dr. Richards at the Salisbury VAMC. She was a wonderful Psychiatrist and dear friend. She was an excellent mentor and taught me so much about mental health. When Dr. Richards retired, she moved home to be closer to her daughter, granddaughter, Mira and family. They meant so much to her. May Kathy's legacy and precious memories live on in your lives forever!

Love and prayers,
Landrea Rhyne

Landrea Rhyne - June 04, 2023 at 10:53 PM

LR

“ Landrea Rhyne sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Kathleen Richards



Landrea Rhyne - June 04, 2023 at 10:24 PM



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

May 17, 2023 at 03:26 PM

CK

“ *Rebecca, Chris & Mira:
My Prayers are with you at this difficult time. I
have many wonderful memories of Mom over
the years . My sincere condolences to you
and family. Love & Prayers. Aunt Caroline
Kowal.*



Caroline Kowal - May 16, 2023 at 10:50 AM

AN

“ *Kathy understood that the practice of medicine is both art and
science. Her kindness will never be forgotten. It was a blessing to
have known her. Heartfelt condolences to the family. -anon*

anon - May 11, 2023 at 09:54 AM

JB

“ *Joan E Blackman purchased the Lavender Reflec
tions Spray for the family of Dr. Kathleen
Richards.*



Joan E Blackman - May 11, 2023 at 08:58 AM

AP

“ Kathy touched me with her concern and expertise as I struggled to regain my footing after losing an academic job and a marriage. We stayed in touch over the years when I was always inspired and amazed at her dedication to the enrichment of others' lives using her keen intellect in the science and compassion of medicine. She was an angel on earth, and is now at her Lord's side where I hope to join her one day.

An admiring fellow physician and surgeon, Drew Jones. Frederick, MD.

Andrew R Jones, MD, PhD - May 10, 2023 at 09:26 PM

DE

“ When I worked with Dr. Kowal, I was only 15 years old. The staff then, Cheryl, Carolyn, Mary, etc. were amazing and we were all family. During the flood, I was with her when she moved her practice into Somerville where she started from zero again and we worked hand in hand with her late husband Steve who helped tremendously during the hard times. If she was not speaking about Steve, she never skipped a beat talking about her daughter Rebecca. If I am not mistaken, she used to work and be on air with Zarepath Radio. She loved her daughter and nothing else in the world mattered. Although my time with her was brief, and I was so young, I have kept the friendships I made with several of the patients and value that. Dr. Kowal, thank you for giving me the chance to work with you while I was so young and to show me how to treat people. I am 37 now, and will never forget where I started. God Bless, be at peace and enjoy your new life now with Steve!

Daniel M. Erickson

Daniel M. Erickson - May 10, 2023 at 03:04 PM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Kathleen Richards.*



May 10, 2023 at 12:26 PM