



Melody Lynn O'Keefe

September 15, 1950 - July 25, 2025

Melody Lynn O'Keefe passed away at U of M Hospital on July 25, 2025 at the age of 74. Melody was born in Grand Rapids, MI on September 15, 1950. She was the only child of the late Herbert and Ruth (Tiffany) Morton. Melody graduated from Grand Rapids Union High School and attended Grand Valley College for two years. She traveled extensively with her parents, buying and selling antiques for her parents' antiques store, Morton's Antiques. The Mortons were known for their rare collection of brass and copper antiques. They had shops in Marshall and Saugatuck.

In 1972, Melody met her beloved husband, Patrick "Coach" O'Keefe, at a football coaches' clinic in Grand Rapids. When their eyes first met, they fell deeply in love. On July 29, 1972, the couple married. Melody and Pat raised four beautiful children: Dennis, Patrick Jr., Megan, and Collin. The couple would go on to spend 53 years together.

After the kids grew up, Melody accepted a position as an administrative assistant in the Michigan Office of the Attorney General. For nearly twenty years, Melody worked tirelessly in the Consumer Protection Division, where she aggressively advocated for consumers.

Melody was a voracious reader. She enjoyed watching her four children participate in sporting events and actively supported her husband in more than five decades of coaching football and baseball. Many in the Grand Ledge community would consider Melody to be an essential cog in the football and baseball programs, and she heavily contributed to the success of these

programs in helping her husband and players win three state championships. She helped organize the baseball spring training program and led the team on forty-three annual trips to Florida. That was at a time when high school kids did not go to Florida for spring training. Melody was the team mother to 20 or more high school kids, many of whom had never spent time away from their parents. Melody mothered those kids like they were her own.

Melody spent her final years enjoying time with her children and grandchildren. She is survived by her husband, Pat, her children: Dennis (Amy) O'Keefe, Patrick (Dr. Breanna O'Keefe), Megan (Ray) Magee, Dr. Collin (Dr. Rachel O'Keefe) and fifteen grandchildren: Olivia, Reagan, Keelan, Roanan, John, Liam, Aidan, Brynn, Nolan, Paddy III, Emerson, Melody, Ireland, Katie, and Kennedy.

Visitation will be held at Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home—located at 406 N. Bridge St. in Grand Ledge, MI 48837—on Wednesday, July 30th from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. and Thursday, July 31st from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Michael Catholic Church in Grand Ledge on Friday, August 1st. A viewing will be held at St. Michael from 10:00-11:00 a.m. before the funeral mass at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Fr. James Eisele, celebrant. You may watch the funeral mass for Melody at 11:00 am Friday on the St. Michael Church YouTube channel at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/DY0Qr74WK6Y>. Rite of Committal will follow at Oakwood Cemetery, Grand Ledge. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Grand Ledge Bullpen Association, 304 Harpers Way, Lansing, Michigan 48917. Share your memories and condolences online at www.holihanatkin.com

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

299 Halbert Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **30**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services
406 N. Bridge Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 627-2531
jasonbarclay@holihanatkin.com
<https://www.holihanatkin.com>

Visitation

JUL **31**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services
406 N. Bridge Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 627-2531
jasonbarclay@holihanatkin.com
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Visitation

JUL 31. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services
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Visitation

AUG 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Michael Catholic Church
345 Edwards Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Michael Catholic Church
345 Edwards Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Tribute Wall

LT

“ My sincere sympathy to you Pat and all your family. I remember many great times shared at city league baseball games. Melody was always your and your teams greatest supporter. Just saw the news today. Grand Ledge has lost one of it's greatest sports fan, wife and mother.

Linda Taylor - August 04, 2025 at 08:45 PM

PM

“ Coach O'Keefe and family, We are so saddened to hear of your immense loss. Sending our deepest condolences and prayers. Darrell and Pat McNutt

Patty McNutt - August 01, 2025 at 08:28 PM

TF

“ The Bryant Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.



The Bryant Family - August 01, 2025 at 10:44 AM

LA

“ Laura A. planted a grove of 10 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.

Laura A. - July 31, 2025 at 08:22 PM

MD

“ Dear Coach and Family,

I was so sorry to hear about Mel’s passing. I had the privilege of working with her during our time at the Attorney General’s office, and I can say with full confidence—Mel was a force. She had a heart bigger than the bureaucracy we were working in, and trust me, that’s saying something.

Mel was the kind of person who would give you the coat off her back and the shoes off her feet. She worked tirelessly to protect people who had been taken advantage of, and she did it with fierce determination and that unmistakable spark that made you know she meant business.

And let’s talk about that spark—Mel was spunky, feisty, and totally unapologetic about being both. She could cut through nonsense with a single look, and still somehow make you laugh while she did it. I always appreciated her sharp wit, her generosity, and the way she brought warmth into any room. I just loved her.

But what I’ll carry with me forever is how present Mel always was. When I was sick with cancer, Mel showed up—not just in thought, but truly, physically, lovingly present. And when my parents passed away, she and Coach were right there, without hesitation. That kind of loyalty, that kind of heart—it doesn’t just come along every day. It’s rare. And it’s unforgettable.

I will always feel incredibly lucky to have called Mel a friend. Her legacy is one of heart, strength, and a whole lot of sass. The world is a little dimmer without her light.

Mary Gager Drew - July 31, 2025 at 05:18 PM

FM

“ Dear Pat and family,
Please know of my prayerful support for each of you. Melody was a great friend to so many beyond her family. Wish I could be with you to celebrate her life.

Fr Bob McGraw - July 31, 2025 at 02:47 PM

CE

“ My sincere condolences to the family. Prayers for strength and comfort for Mel's family and loved ones. Chy Evans and family

Chy Evans - July 31, 2025 at 02:46 PM

TF

“ The Harkness Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.



The Harkness Family - July 30, 2025 at 08:26 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.



July 30, 2025 at 05:48 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.

July 30, 2025 at 05:48 PM

JS

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. We have fond memories of Melody and her family Rest in peace!

Janice Sykes - July 30, 2025 at 03:01 PM

CB

“ Sending our condolences to Pat and family. Many years of footballers "passed" through our hands. Prayer of comfort.

Chuck & Jeri Byam - July 30, 2025 at 10:48 AM

MG

“ Matt & Alyssa Greene purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.



Matt & Alyssa Greene - July 30, 2025 at 06:41 AM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.



July 29, 2025 at 06:39 PM

JM

“ While I never got the pleasure of meeting Melody, I work with her daughter Megan. I can tell what an amazing person she was by knowing Megan. Please know us at GE Aerospace are praying for all the knew and loved her.

Jennifer Murphy - July 29, 2025 at 05:53 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.*



July 29, 2025 at 05:45 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.*



July 29, 2025 at 03:18 PM



“ *So very sorry for your loss. Prayer to all family in coming days. Peace. Eileen & Robert Clabuesch.*

Eileen Clabuesch - July 29, 2025 at 01:12 PM



“ *To the entire O'Keefe family....you have my prayers and sincerest condolences and sympathy. God bless you all. Love, K.C. Carstens*

Ken (KC) Carstens - July 29, 2025 at 01:01 PM



“ *Walnut Lake Ob/Gyn purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.*



Walnut Lake Ob/Gyn - July 29, 2025 at 12:08 PM

WO

“ Walnut Lake Ob/Gyn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.

Walnut Lake Ob/Gyn - July 29, 2025 at 12:08 PM

KS

“ Kelly & Shannon purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.



Kelly & Shannon - July 29, 2025 at 09:59 AM

PS

“ Coach and Family - you have all been an extension of our Schafer family for so long. You've always been there for us and we will always be there for you. We send you all of our love, strength and prayers. Hugs to you all! Patti Schafer and family

Patti Schafer - July 29, 2025 at 09:36 AM

XR

“ Xiaowen & Rob purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.



Xiaowen & Rob - July 29, 2025 at 09:09 AM

XR

“ Xiaowen & Rob planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.

Xiaowen & Rob - July 29, 2025 at 09:09 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.



July 29, 2025 at 08:41 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.

July 29, 2025 at 08:41 AM

DF

“ Darcy Nikes and Nikes Family purchased the En during Grace for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.



Darcy Nikes and Nikes Family - July 28, 2025 at 10:26 PM

JF

“ Jim, Tom , lynda Pavelka and families purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.



Jim, Tom , lynda Pavelka and families - July 28, 2025 at 04:48 PM

MR

“ Following a very successful season with my PW baseball team, Melody soon sent Coach O'Keefe down to our house with a flower arrangement for Tammie and a message from Melody , who said “A coaches wife needs to be recognized also.”
And on another occasion, after the passing of our daughter Allison, Tammie was walking by the O'Keefes where Pat and Melody were sitting on the front porch. Melody called to Tammie and said “come here you look like you could use a hug.” And gave her a warm embrace.

Mark and Tammie Rademacher - July 28, 2025 at 04:47 PM

LK

“ Lon A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.

Lon and Debbie Katz - July 28, 2025 at 03:59 PM

JA

“ John and Linda Anderson purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.



John and Linda Anderson - July 28, 2025 at 02:45 PM

JA

“ John and Linda Anderson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.

John and Linda Anderson - July 28, 2025 at 02:45 PM

JE

“ Jennifer E. purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.



Jennifer E. - July 28, 2025 at 12:14 PM

AM

“ I worked with Mel for many years at the AG. It was great to listen to her on the phone with consumers. She would tell it like it was especially when it came to gas prices! It was clear that Mel was extremely proud of her family and loved them very much. Rest in peace beautiful lady - give Julie a hug from the CP gang. I pray God comforts Mel's loved ones during their time of grief.

Ann Murphy - July 28, 2025 at 12:02 PM

TD

“ Tom and Patricia Dingler purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.



Tom and Patricia Dingler - July 28, 2025 at 11:14 AM

BH

“ I'm so deeply sorry for the loss of your beloved wife

Brittany Haeck - July 28, 2025 at 09:38 AM

LK

Our deepest condolences to your family.

Lon and Debbie Katz - July 28, 2025 at 03:56 PM

MT

Thoughts and prayers to your family from the whole Tegels family. Dan and Mary Sue

Mary Sue Tegels - July 29, 2025 at 03:54 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.



July 27, 2025 at 08:45 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.

July 27, 2025 at 08:45 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.



July 27, 2025 at 01:05 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Melody Lynn O'Keefe.

July 27, 2025 at 01:05 PM