



## **Kelly Lynne Forrest**

October 29, 1957 – April 19, 2005

Kelly, a beautiful baby, was born in Olean, NY to Bill and Bonnie Forrest (Corbett), followed a year later by the birth of her only sibling, Kirk. Although both were born in Olean, they were raised on a small farmette near Holley, NY. Kelly was a vivacious girl, popular among all at school and was known as the yearbook photographer in her junior and senior years. After graduating from high school, she attended Genesee Community College, SUNY Brockport, and Syracuse University.

During this time, she received an internship in Washington, DC at the Smithsonian Institute, working at the “Castle” in media production. This started Kelly on her pursuit of media interests, eventually leading her to Boston, MA. There she began as a receptionist in an advertising agency, but before long had taken a position in the same agency as a novice media buyer. One thing led to another and eventually she decided she wanted to come “home” to Rochester – and found a media position in a local agency there. From Rochester, on to Syracuse, to a better position and another different environment. A few years later, off to Boston again – each move taking her up the ladder in her career. Lo and behold, years later, the agency she had worked for in Syracuse needed a media person in Rochester. You guessed it – back she came to Rochester. Finally, in 2000, she decided it was time to scope out the West Coast. An agency in San Francisco made her an offer she couldn’t refuse, as Broadcast Media Director, so all her belongings (including car) were packed up and shipped to SF. She wanted to live away from the city, and found a place in Petaluma. She felt it was worth the long trip every day just to be out in a small, picturesque town in northern California.

Although Kelly never married, she had her own close family. Her brother Kirk married Jody in 1986, and then presented Kelly with two nieces – Erin Elizabeth (born in 1988) and Chelsea Rae (born in 1993). Kirk, Jody, Erin and Chelsea were so important to Kelly -- and they all feel the same about her. Kelly and Kirk were always close – they were only 51 weeks apart in age (Irish twins, they always said). When Kirk married Jody – Kelly simply gained a sister. And those nieces (Erin & Chelsea), they were the light of her life. It’s impossible to relate to others how much we all miss Kelly.

On April 17, 2005, Kelly was walking to the bus stop in Petaluma for her daily trip to San Francisco and work, when she collapsed – the victim of a Pulmonary Thromboembolism. Kelly had led a full life and was taken very quickly from all of us. But, if she’d had a choice, that’s the way she would have wanted it. Kelly was predeceased by her father, when his small plane crashed into Lake Ontario on March 17, 1981. Kelly was the strong one then, the one that helped her mother and Kirk through that terrible time.

Oh, Kelly, we all miss you so much, but we’re so grateful to have had you as part of this earthly life.