



Jill Recla

April 26, 1985 - February 26, 2023

NORWAY- Jill Marie Recla age 37 of Norway, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, February 26, 2023 at St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay, WI.

She was born on April 26, 1985 in Norway, full of life with many adventures ahead.

Jill was the first born of 3 children, a brother and a sister who loved to make each other smile and come up with new activities that would turn her loving parents hair grey if they actually knew.

She had the best sense of humor, and sent songs to her brother and sister daily...just to fit her mood. She never met a song that she couldn't dance to, and she felt the beat of every song in her feet or in her heart.

Jill had parents that adored her to the end of the Earth. She enjoyed fishing in Alaska with her mom, and a good beer and talking with her dad. Even in her times of struggle, she knew to reach out to either of them knowing that, without a doubt, she would have support whenever she needed it. No matter where she went, she would find a small gift for each of them, or a story of what she was doing. Without question, Jill knew she had the complete and total love of her parents.

Jill was the smartest person in every room, but she never made you feel beneath her. Her niece and nephews related to her on a level that was so easy. Instead of standing over you, she would sit on the floor in her sweatpants to put anyone at ease.

Jill received her bachelor degree in Bioinformatics from Michigan Technological University and her PhD in Functional Genomics from the University of Maine. Post-doctorate, she worked as a Bioinformatics Analyst at the Jackson Laboratory in Maine, where she was a lead researcher into the genetic basis of many diseases. Her passion for helping people not only was in the actions she did daily, but also in her work.

She loved her horse, her cats, anything green or camouflage, and foraging in the woods for rocks or herbal medicine to help with any ailment. She hated to be cold, and always had Chapstick and a pair of sunglasses accessible. Jill enjoyed floating on a tube down the river in the summer, would dive into any pond to save a new fishing lure, and could drink anyone under the table when she was up for a good time.

Jill struggled with mental illness which ultimately led to her death. Even in the darkest of times, she was still determined to continue to help others. She is the definition of a true survivor, because although she is no longer in the body she had, she as a registered organ and tissue donor, will help what was estimated to be over 100 people worldwide. There is no bigger middle finger to the mental illness that consumed her than to live on in many others.

Jill is survived by her parents Dan (Patti Grogan) Recla and Joan Recla; brother Nick (Aimee) Recla; sister Margo (Josiah) Juedes; three nieces and nephews Beau and Julianna Recla and Tucker Juedes; aunt Kathy McLeod; uncles Bruce (Judy Hyland) Recla, Ron (Joann) Groeneveld and Robert (Jean) Groeneveld; and several cousins that loved her.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents Leonard and Genevieve Recla and Gustaf and Bella Groeneveld.

Her family would like to give a special thank you to the team at St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay, specifically Helen and Jon, her nurses, that took the utmost care of Jill and the family. Another thank you to her boss and friend, Carol Bult, who gave Jill the time to heal throughout her struggles.

A private celebration of life and burial will be held at a future date.

Family request that in lieu of flowers, please consider becoming a registered organ and tissue donor at www.donatelifemichigan.org or www.donatelife.net in honor of Jill.

Cemetery Details

Norway Township Cemetery

Norway Township, MI

Tribute Wall

DR

“ *Dan Recla sent a virtual gift in memory of Jill Recla*



Dan Recla - July 22, 2023 at 12:25 AM

DR

“ *Dan Recla sent a virtual gift in memory of Jill Recla*



Dan Recla - June 23, 2023 at 03:13 PM

RS

“ *Rick Smith sent a virtual gift in memory of Jill Recla*



Rick Smith - June 10, 2023 at 06:16 AM

DR

“ Dan Recla sent a virtual gift in memory of Jill Recla



Dan Recla - May 16, 2023 at 06:09 PM

JT

“ I’m so sorry to hear about the passing of Jill. She was such a beautiful person inside and out-I have many fond memories of our time together in high school band and attending Batawagama together. Thinking of your family ❤️

Jill Trumbell - March 17, 2023 at 10:51 AM

RC

“ I would like to express my most sincere condolences to Jill's family and friends. I helped Dr. Jon Geiger run the Summer Student Program at The Jackson Laboratory for 15 years, and had the opportunity to meet and get to know Jill during the summer of 2004 and beyond. What an amazing and wonderful young woman! She will never be forgotten. Rest in Peace, Jill!



Randi Closson - March 17, 2023 at 10:04 AM

JP

“ I am sorry to learn of Jill's passing. I had the privilege of working with her on a very special project for one of her professors when she completed her PhD. She always had a smile and was a pleasure to be around. I am glad our paths crossed and send my sincere condolences to Jill's family.

Jenny Perruzzi - March 16, 2023 at 08:53 PM

SF

“ My deepest sympathies to Jill's family and friends. I had the pleasure of knowing Jill as her insurance agent and the few moments of time that we spent talking about business were enough for me to see her kind heart and deep soul. She will be missed.

Stacy Fletcher - March 13, 2023 at 09:23 PM



“ Rest in Peace my dear sweet niece!!!! Jill was beautiful inside and out! This world has lost a beautiful, smart, kind & loving person!



Joann Groeneveld - March 12, 2023 at 06:46 PM

AL

“ Alexis Lilly lit a candle in memory of Jill Recla



Alexis Lilly - March 09, 2023 at 07:05 PM

AL

“ *Bless you.*

Alexis Lilly - March 09, 2023 at 06:57 PM

DH

“ *Debra Hunter lit a candle in memory of Jill Recla*



Debra Hunter - March 05, 2023 at 10:35 PM

SJ

“ *I missed a great opportunity to meet and get to know Jill. Reading her obit I realize we have so much in common we would've been good friends, even with our age difference. Her Grandmother and my Mother Norina Tomasi were not only cousins but friends. My sister Karen met Jill at the family reunion...how I wish I could've gone.*

I can't even begin to imagine what her parents and siblings are going through. My thoughts and prayers are with them all. God speed Jill ❤️

Sharon Jones - March 05, 2023 at 10:37 AM

KL

“ *To the Recla family. A sad and beautiful obituary. May God comfort and strengthen you at this time. You are in my prayers.*

Kathy Larson

Kathy Larson - March 04, 2023 at 10:38 AM

ST

“ Will forever remember playing foos ball with Jill at Mr. Mike’s with friends.

Storey - March 03, 2023 at 02:29 PM

SA

“ Such a sad but beautiful obituary. Picture her riding her horse on a beach in Alaska, on a quiet peaceful morning, with the sun rising over the calm misty waters of a new beginning. Love to Joan and family.

Steve Atanasoff - March 02, 2023 at 10:51 PM

KM

“ I was lucky enough to be related to Jill. We met at a family reunion. We hit it off right away and became face book friends. I am deeply sorry for your loss. Words just cannot express my feelings for you all. Thinking of you and praying for God's strength to get you through these difficult times. Love, Karen

Karen Morris - March 02, 2023 at 08:16 PM

SM

“ Oh Joan and family, I am so sorry for your loss, and the struggle Jill had with her illness. Our family has experienced these struggles also, but the thing I do know is that as Christians we will be reunited with our loved ones. Death hurts so much...time will make it bearable though. Easter has so much meaning because of the resurrection of Jesus!! I will keep you in prayer and if you need to talk, please call me. Love, Sandy

Sandra L Meier - March 02, 2023 at 12:44 PM

BL

“ So sorry to Dan and the whole clan. Jill's a great kid and like any good Recla good for a good laugh or two. Deeply missed - Love Santa

Brian Lobner - March 02, 2023 at 09:08 AM

JB

“ Some of my best memories from MTU are because of Jill. Oh, the shenanigans that happened, and so much laughter 😊 You will be deeply missed my friend.

Jen Byle - March 01, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ I will never forget Jills sense of humor. Her smile was infectious and her intelligence was unparalleled. The whole world is a little less bright without her in it.

Adam Hayes - March 01, 2023 at 08:52 PM

JL

“ Had the pleasure of playing in the MTU pep band with Jill for a few years. She was a huge personality, a dedicated musician, and a decent person. Many wild adventures from those days.



Jeremy L - March 01, 2023 at 08:14 PM

EM

“ *Jill was one of the first people I met during my interview for the JAX PhD program. She made me feel so welcome. When I then joined the program she always checked on me and helped me settle in when I was having a really hard adjustment period. She made a difference in my life at a very challenging time. She will be missed. I am grateful to have known her.*

Elisabeth Marnik - March 01, 2023 at 07:06 PM

JW

“ *I am so fortunate to have many wonderful memories of the happy times that I spent with Jill. We worked together, we went on lab hikes, I got to meet her horse, Thunder, and she introduced me to Captain Nemo's. I will miss you, Jill.*



Julie Wells - March 01, 2023 at 05:16 PM

AN

“ To Jill’s Family & friends.

I have never met Jill, but I feel connected in that we both have struggled with the ugly disease of mental illness and the belief that death is the only way out. Unfortunately, mental health has never been treated like a physical ailment and many suffer in the prison of their own emotions. It hurts to hear of another wonderful person succumbing to the depths of despair, when there’s so much darkness surrounding you that you cannot see the other side...the side of a loving family and friends that would do anything in their power to help and protect you. The disease takes this perspective away from you and twists it into making you believe you’re a burden and things will never get better. The disease prevents you from appreciating the aftermath of your decision to end your life...the hurt and pain you leave behind. Jill did not intend this, the disease took this insight away.

I really appreciate the fact that you identified what took her life as a way of hopefully drawing attention to the battle that many people face and the hurt that’s left behind. I truly loved your reference that in the end, mental illness lost in that Jill will live on in over 100 other people. What a lovely gift she and your family have. But, a true middle finger 🖐️.

Thank you and many prayers to Jill’s family and friends.

Anonymous - March 01, 2023 at 02:03 PM

MA

Dear Anonymous,

We so appreciate your comments and thoughts. I don’t know your situation, who you are, or what you struggle with, but just know that the Recla family is here for you. Day or night. You don’t have to be alone. You don’t have to struggle alone. We’re here.

Margo - March 01, 2023 at 02:55 PM

DL

Dear Anonymous, What a very powerful tribute! Thank you for this!

Diane Luczak - March 01, 2023 at 03:54 PM

AN

*I wish to remain anonymous so as to protect my children from the true extent of my struggles at this time. I appreciate your comments. I've survived the darkest of times, my own attempts at ending my life, and I'm on much strONger ground now. Somehow I want to make use of my experiences, my survival, and God's Grace at giving me a second life in order to help others, I just haven't found the way yet...just as Jill lives on in others, there's also got to be a purpose in all of our struggles. I'm still trying to find mine.
God Bless*

Anonymous - March 02, 2023 at 05:20 PM

SA

Dear Anonymous, your purpose might be helping to save lives with your words. So moving, insightful, perceptive, brilliant. Keep loving yourself.

Steve Atanasoff - March 03, 2023 at 01:04 PM

AV

“ *Amy VanMeteren lit a candle in memory of Jill Recla*



Amy vanMeteren - March 01, 2023 at 01:09 PM

AM

“ *Amy Van Meteren lit a candle in memory of Jill Recla*



Amy van Meteren - March 01, 2023 at 01:05 PM

KP

“ *Kristen LaValley And Andy Pritchard lit a candle in memory of Jill Recla*



Kristen LaValley and Andy Pritchard - March 01, 2023 at 10:53 AM

ST

“ *Jill was the best of friends. I remember when she gave her dissertation speech for her PhD, and we made buttons that all said her name, and wore them in the audience. It was not just me who loved her, everyone loved Jill. She was quick to help, quick to play and quick to make a friend. To her momma, as one, I am sending you love and strength. To her dad and beloved, and loved siblings, you were the best to her.. she loved you so, so much. Jill helped me in a million ways. One way was to pack a huge truck to help me in a big move. The attached pic is her and my son, jumping for joy, as the closed the truck after a long day of packing. Yes, that was Jill.*



Stephani - March 01, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *To Dan and all of Jill's family, I send deepest sympathy. The story of her life was so beautifully expressed. Knowing Dan in his youth as a classmate, his intelligence, and kindness are seen in her story. With prayers for comfort, Pam Pollard Schumacher*

Pamela Schumacher - March 01, 2023 at 04:01 AM

JG

“ *Jill, my friend, colleague, fellow Tech graduate and Packer fan. I was always happy that I dug into the pool of summer intern applicants and found a fellow MTU Husky to invite to Bar Harbor for a summer’s research. You took that opportunity and turned it into so much more. Your smile, your insights, and your presence will be so missed. To Jill’s family and friends I wish peace, healing, and good strong memories. Rest well and in peace, my friend.*



Joel Graber - February 28, 2023 at 11:44 PM

KB

“ *I had the pleasure of knowing Jill for 7 hours...but those seven hours were full of profound sharing, encouragement, listening, opening up, and diving deeper than the normal person. She felt very strongly and I felt the strength of her convictions. It was a pleasure to get to hear your story, to see into your heart, and to simply know you for the short time I did. I did not see this coming and my heart is so sad about your absence. I wish we had seven more hours together to sit and talk. My prayers are with your family. - Kate (Open Door)*

Kate Burie - February 28, 2023 at 10:23 PM

MB

This breaks my heart. She really was the smartest one in the room and absolutely never made you feel less than. I will always think of her with a smile. I am so sorry for your loss and hope her legacy of helping others helps bring your peace. Megan (Rose) Buck

Megan Buck - February 28, 2023 at 10:41 PM

AP

My deepest sympathies to the entire Recla family. Jill was THE most amazing person and friend! So many memories of our childhood I will cherish forever. Between late nights playing Donkey Kong, riding horses & summer picnics on the farm, collecting eggs for breakfast after a sleepover... THE most epic birthday parties with Creepy Crawlers and art projects.... the list goes on. Fly high and Rest In Peace my sweet friend. You will be SO missed.

Alison Partanen - February 28, 2023 at 11:48 PM

LE

“ I have never met anyone like Jill. Her unconditional love and gigantic heart full of kindness are things we should all strive to possess. In the short time that I knew her, she reminded me of what is possible, not only in relationships, but in the entire world. Fly free, my friend. 🍷🍷🍷

Lisbeth Eyrich-Fischer - February 28, 2023 at 08:19 PM

MG

“ I will forever and always miss you my Cousin Jill The Doctor.



Melissa Groeneveld - February 28, 2023 at 04:59 PM

JC

“ *Joy Carlson lit a candle in memory of Jill Recla*



Joy Carlson - February 28, 2023 at 02:48 PM