

OBITUARY

Michelle Leslie Kirlew, 43 passed away on February 26, 2016 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Michelle was born December 7, 1972 in Newton Memorial Hospital. Michelle is survived by her husband, Sergeant 1st Class Michael Kirlew, United States Army and 3 children, Trevor, Madison and Mackenzie Kirlew, her mother Shelly Carpenter Chiniewicz and step-father Anthony Chiniewicz. She was predeceased by her father Michael R. O'Mara Jr., maternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Ford Carpenter, and paternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Michael R. O'Mara Sr. Michelle is also survived by three sisters, Kelly Ann and her husband Daniel Zenes, Colleen Newton and her partner John Caemmerer, Melissa O'Mara, and two brothers, Michael O'Mara and his fiance Shana Finnerty and John and his wife Kaitlyn O'Mara. Michelle leaves behind a large, extended family including nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and in-laws. Michelle also leaves behind an extended military family and many friends. Michelle was raised in the Hackettstown, NJ area and was a graduate of North Warren Regional High School, class of 1991. Michelle was passionate about her family and loved with all of her heart. Her husband and "babies" were the light of her life. She was a dedicated military wife and proudly supported the Army at posts in Fort Campbell, KY, West Point, NY, and Tucson, AZ. Michelle was insightful and compassionate with a contagious smile and the kindest of souls, all of which drew people to her. To know Michelle was to love her. Michelle was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer 26 months ago and fought each day with grace and dignity and won by living in spite of cancer. A memorial service will be held at Pantano Christian Church, 1755 S Houghton Rd, Tucson, AZ 85748 on March 12, 2016 from 10am until 1:30pm. A celebration of Michelle's life will be held at the American Legion, 494 Willow Grove St, Hackettstown, NJ 07840 on April 2, 2016 at noon. In lieu of flowers, please make donations payable to the UA Foundation-Pancreatic Research and mail to UA Foundation, P.O. Box 210109, Tucson, AZ, 85721-0109, www.uafoundation.org or The Lustgarten Foundation, 1111 Stewart Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714, <https://www.lustgarten.org/donate>

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NAME: Kirlew, Michelle Leslie (nee O'Mara)

DATE OF DEATH: February 26, 2016