



Molly M. Hall Buehner

August 3, 1959 - March 31, 2023

Our good golly, sweet Molly Hall, 63, of both Springfield and Petersburg, passed away Friday, March 31, 2023. She was born on August 3, 1959 to James Winford and Juanita Medows Hall. She married John Buehner on April 7, 1990 in Springfield, IL.

Molly was a pillar of her family, a devoted wife, mother, daughter, sister, and aunt. Adventurous, fun-loving, ambitious, and boisterous, she was dedicated to her family, passionate about her work, and committed to serving her community.

Molly is preceded in death by her mother and father, and she leaves behind her husband, John Buehner, their daughter, Allison Buehner, and her three sisters, Beth Kiningham, Rebecca Rowe, and Priscilla Reynolds and their families.

Molly was a loved member of the Petersburg community, moving with her mama and sisters to the town from Arkansas when she was in third grade, and later graduating from PORTA high school in 1977. She participated in her church's choir and bell choir, madrigal performances, and was a foreign exchange mother to two PORTA students, Vivi and Natalia.

She graduated Eastern Illinois University on a debate scholarship. Molly spent

14 years in radio and television news starting at WTAX, then working as a reporter and anchor at WCIA, where she met her husband John. Then, she became the Statehouse Capitol Bureau Chief for WCIA and WMBD. Shortly after becoming a mother, she worked at Illinois Power before shifting to nonprofit work, and retired in the spring of 2020 after 18 years as the Executive Director of the Energy Education Council, a national nonprofit she built from a small University of Illinois initiative, that served electric utilities and their customers.

She was an award-winning communicator, including national recognitions such as Clarion Awards and the Telly Award. Molly is also a graduate of the Institute of Organizational Management (IOM) and a Certified Association Executive (CAE).

Molly held leadership roles in her volunteer board work as well, serving as president of the Illinois News Broadcasters Association, Illinois Society of Association Executives, Unity Church of Champaign, IL and Springfield, IL, Central IL Public Relations Society of America, Association of Women in Communication National and Springfield, IL, and historic New Salem Lincoln League.

The visitation will be held at Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg, IL from 4-7pm on Wednesday, April 5th. On Thursday, April 6th, a visitation will be held at 10am preceding the funeral services at 11am at Central Presbyterian Church, 210 W. Douglas Petersburg, IL. Burial will follow at Oakland Cemetery in Petersburg. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.hurleyfh.com

Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg, IL is assisting the family with arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Oakland Cemetery

Petersburg, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 5. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg
122 West Douglas Avenue
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-2500
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Visitation

APR 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Central Presbyterian Church of Petersburg
210 W. Douglas
Petersburg, IL 62675

Funeral Service

APR 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

Central Presbyterian Church of Petersburg
210 W. Douglas
Petersburg, IL 62675

Burial

APR 6 (CT)

Oakland Cemetery
Petersburg, IL

Tribute Wall

KB

“ Sorry to just now learn of Molly's passing. Great past friends of both Molly and John. From college days with John at TV 10 at Illinois State University to working on video projects for Molly in the early days of Safe Electricity. My thoughts and prayers to all family and friends ... Kevin Bernson

Kevin Bernson - August 19, 2023 at 02:24 PM

DH

“ Thoughts and prayers to Molly's husband and children, extended family and friends. I remember Molly being a progressive political force in high school, e.g., by organizing a debate between advocates for Carter and Ford. I was shocked and flattered that she asked this shy farm boy to participate. But I did and gained a lot from this experience. She was also a staunch supporter of women's rights. I have always considered her a friend and wished we'd stayed in better touch. In any event, she will be missed and remembered by many.

Douglas Hinrichs - August 04, 2023 at 10:07 PM

CL

“ I can't share one particular memory or moment with Molly but I will tell you she was always kind and caring for the 20 yrs I knew her!! I saw her in multiple places including her home and Molly was the same Molly every time, everywhere! How I will truly miss this power of light!

Cammi Lance - April 12, 2023 at 01:58 AM

JT

“ To the family of Molly Hall: My deepest sympathies. What a vibrant, positive woman. As an Extension Educator I provided several programs for the staff at Energy Education Council and was always greeted with such a pleasant smile and remarks from Molly. I'm sure she will be greatly missed by all. Sending prayers for peace as you go forward.

Judy Taylor - April 10, 2023 at 02:02 PM

DP

“ Molly was such a bright light in the world - and she was so helpful to me when I was starting out in broadcast journalism. I admired her grace, dignity, sense of humor, strength, and commitment to principles. I think of her often and am so sorry for her loving family that will miss her dearly. Dana Perino

Dana Perino - April 08, 2023 at 11:52 AM

JH

“ Although I didn't have enough time to get to know Molly well, I join the many in expressing shock and sadness at her sudden passing. I will miss her enthusiasm and heart-driven efforts on behalf of the Unity Church. I also join the many in surrounding all of you - her family and friends - in prayer. In sympathy - Jean Hembrough

Jean Hembrough - April 07, 2023 at 02:57 PM

LE

“ To Molly's family. I can't believe she is gone. I have so many great memories of our times together with her and the family. She was a great friend and I already miss her.

Linda Eilks - April 06, 2023 at 11:31 AM

DC

“ Prayers and Condolences to John and Alli.. RIP Molly!!! What A Beautiful Soul...

Denise Capps - April 06, 2023 at 12:44 AM

CH

“ My heartfelt condolences to Molly's family and all those who love her. I had the pleasure of working with Molly at Illinois Power, and later during her time with Safe Electricity. I was always impressed with her talent, insight and professionalism. Even more important, Molly was consistently kind and calm, even in the stressful world of PR. Molly was a bright light and a very sweet spirit, and I will miss her.

Celeste Huttes

Celeste Huttes - April 05, 2023 at 02:58 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.



April 05, 2023 at 11:07 AM

BH

“ Becky Lober Hendricks purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.



Becky Lober Hendricks - April 05, 2023 at 10:34 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 05, 2023 at 07:57 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 04, 2023 at 10:34 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 04, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 04, 2023 at 02:27 PM

CS

“ Candy Swanborn purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.



Candy Swanborn - April 04, 2023 at 01:05 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.



April 04, 2023 at 12:51 PM

IA

“ Illinois News Broadcasters Association purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.



Illinois News Broadcasters Association - April 04, 2023 at 11:36 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.



April 04, 2023 at 11:19 AM

DN

“ *John and Allison,*

I am incredibly sorry to hear the news of Molly's passing. She was a great person, and I loved her zest for life and her love for the association community.

I appreciate her guidance during my years at ISAE.

Destiny Nance-Evans

Destiny Nance-Evans - April 04, 2023 at 09:47 AM

CT

“ *I am so sorry to learn of Molly's passing. You are in my prayers.*
Carol Timms

Carol Timms - April 04, 2023 at 09:21 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 04, 2023 at 01:58 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 03, 2023 at 08:54 PM

MW

“ *Carley, what a wonderful role model and loving aunt you were blessed with! Your LLCC family is thinking about you and always here for you. I am praying for you and your entire family as you endeavor to share precious memories and try to adjust to life on earth without beautiful Molly. May you be surrounded by loving arms and hands during this time of loss. Marina*

Marina Wirsing - April 03, 2023 at 06:08 PM

TS

“ *The Swanborn purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



The Swanborn - April 03, 2023 at 06:05 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 03, 2023 at 05:39 PM

CS

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Enjoyed working with her through ISAE. My deepest sympathy.*

Carol Shirley - April 03, 2023 at 05:37 PM

AB

“ Abdul purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.



Abdul - April 03, 2023 at 04:56 PM

JS

“ Rebecca and Family,
I'm very sorry to hear of Molly's passing. I have many fond memories of bygone days with you and she. Molly and i recently reconnected via Linkn and she warmly greeted me.
Joe Stannard

Joseph Stannard - April 03, 2023 at 04:41 PM



“ Solar Angel Statue to Send as Unique Sympathy Gift Remembrance was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.



April 03, 2023 at 04:09 PM

LE

“ John and Allison - I am stunned and so sorry to hear of Molly's death. She was always such a vibrant and energetic person! I have fond memories of spending Christmas with you all. Molly always brought a gift for everyone! My condolences to you and all the Hall sister. 🙏💔🙏 Pastor Leah

Leah Elrod - April 03, 2023 at 03:28 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 03, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *Ron wesley Petersburg new molly and John when I was a security at state capitol. My condolences to the family.*



Ronald G Wesley - April 03, 2023 at 01:49 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 03, 2023 at 01:47 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 03, 2023 at 01:02 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 03, 2023 at 11:48 AM



“ *ISAE Board of Directors and Membership purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



ISAE Board of Directors and Membership - April 03, 2023 at 11:45 AM



“ *You Bloomington-Normal AWC Chapter purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



You Bloomington-Normal AWC Chapter - April 03, 2023 at 10:50 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 03, 2023 at 10:46 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 03, 2023 at 10:32 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 03, 2023 at 10:06 AM



“ *So very sorry to hear this. I remember Molly from the time you all moved here from Arkansas through our college years. She would give me rides home from EIU when she was headed back to Petersburg. Beautiful lady inside and out!!! Rhonda Davis*

Rhonda Davis - April 03, 2023 at 09:57 AM



Molly was beautiful inside and out. She was an excellent leader as president of the board of the Illinois News Broadcasters Association, an organization to which she remained loyal. She and John were generous donors to the INBA Foundation which supports scholarships for aspiring journalists. She made cash donations and often bid on scholarship auction items, often just to support the cause. She supported so many journalists young and old by offering good advice or mentorship. She was the ultimate servant leader. I will miss her dearly and know many of her broadcasting friends feel the same.

Colleen Reynolds - April 03, 2023 at 02:14 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 03, 2023 at 09:57 AM



“ *Dave and Kelly Brandon purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



Dave and Kelly Brandon - April 03, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Larry Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Molly Hall Buehner*



Larry and Mary Hundt - April 03, 2023 at 07:52 AM



“ *Momma T, Jake and Tony purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



Momma T, Jake and Tony - April 03, 2023 at 07:45 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 03, 2023 at 06:12 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Molly M. Hall Buehner.*



April 03, 2023 at 12:51 AM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Molly. I met her when I interned at Channel 3. She was very kind and always helpful to me- helping me edit stories and giving good advice. Prayers for you John, Rebecca, and all of Molly's family. - Brenda Banister Knollenberg*

Brenda Banister Knollenberg - April 02, 2023 at 10:22 PM