

Where do I even start? How do I stand up here and tell you all about this amazing person who was Jennifer Wiederholt-Pine without keeping you here for hours?

Jenny was born on November 7, 1980. She was 44 years old and a Scorpio. Some of the traits of Scorpios are strong personalities, they are confident, reliable, and have a natural magnetism that easily draws people to them. They are loyal, compassionate friends, and are fiercely protective of what they love. That sure sounds like Jenny to me.

Growing up, it was just Jenny and me. We were each other's best friends and we never really fought like some siblings do. Probably because Jenny was my personal slave, and I could get her to do anything for me.

Growing up in Miesville was great. This is a wonderful, close-knit community. We know everybody, and are related to some of you, too. One of Jenny's friends told her that before she dated any boy, she should ask Grandma Harriet if they were related! I think mom told her we were related to every boy in a 20-mile radius so she should plan on not dating until she went off to college.

When you live in a town with one street, you become best friends and partners-in-crime with every kid that lives in town. We had countless laughs and memories with Dena, Kay, Dan, Nate, Kevin and Noel.

Life in Miesville was a blast. We were always up to something. Playing ball, ping pong, building forts and tree houses, growing our own corn in the backyard, well it was only one corn stock, but we were proud. Lots of fun memories.

Plus, we had the bonus of living so close to Welch Village Ski Area or as our mom called it "the best babysitter in the world." Jenny loved to ski and probably skied five times a week. We even had a few fun ski trips out west with Uncle Sliv, and Ryan and Sean.

Even at a young age Jenny had to be doing a zillion things at once. A winter day found her at school for 7 hours, then jumping on the school bus to take her to ski practice at Welch. She'd get picked up at 5 o'clock, would eat in the car while on her way to basketball practice in Hastings from 6-7:30pm and then off to Burnsville for her indoor soccer game at 8pm.

Her high school years were just as busy. She had schoolwork, soccer, basketball and her friends. And on the weekends our slave-driving parents had her making salads and bussing tables at the restaurant. She did love working there. However, she believed she was the hardest working employee and she wrote a

letter to our dad and Uncle Johnny listing all the reasons she deserved more than minimum wage. Well, she got the raise! A tough negotiator even at age 15!

After graduation in 1999 she headed to Winona State. She studied hard, played soccer, worked at the college part-time and came home on the weekends to waitress. It was then that we realized she had inherited the Wiederholt speed gene and had a gift for talking her way out of everything. We learned she was on a first name basis with a few of Minnesota's finest highway patrol officers. Driving home late one night after a soccer game Dad got pulled over. Dad was talking fast and furious explaining how they had just come from their daughter's soccer game at Winona State and had to hurry home to lock-up the restaurant. Luckily, they didn't get a ticket. But as the officer handed them the warning he said, "by the way, your daughter Jenny drives a lot faster than you."

In four years of her commuting back and forth to Winona we only saw one ticket. We only knew this because someone sent our mom the section of the Red Wing paper that had listed recent speeding tickets. The paper read: Jennifer Wiederholt, Hastings, speeding, 946-30... A misprint for sure—should have been 46 in a 30. There was a discussion about the cost of car insurance and maybe a need for a governor on the gas pedal. She was always speeding everywhere and still sometimes late.

Jenny inherited our dad's love of horses. They traveled together to shows in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. It happened a few times where she was at a soccer tournament in the morning, she'd jump in her car to get to the show arena where dad had her horse saddled and ready to show. She'd run her pattern, jump back in the car and head back to the soccer field for the next tournament game. She was just always on the go. With her horse she won many trophies and this year she would have been awarded the 2024 top rider in her class in the North Central Reining Horse Association at a banquet this coming weekend.

Jenny graduated from Winona with a Major in Marketing and a Spanish Minor. Right after graduation Steve Yuoso, a former basketball coach, recruited her to work for Blue Cross and Blue Shield. From there she went to GMAC. This is where she met her future husband, Mike Pine. In 2013 she started her own insurance agency, Onyx Benefit Advisors. Fast forward to 2016 and she was approached by Kraus Anderson to buy her agency. Which she did and went to work for them. She truly cared about her co-workers and clients - many would become like family to her. With her hard work and drive she exceeded her sales goals each year.

As many of you know ...Jenny LOVED TO SHOP (which we blame her aunt Jan for!). She was a true “fashionista.” and her shoe collection rivaled the shoe collection of Imelda Marcos. I can’t help but think about the UPS, Fed-Ex and Amazon drivers. If they get paid by the package, they are all taking a pretty significant pay-cut.

Jenny worked hard by day, but the nights and weekends were about the kids. Driving them to practice, to their games, to friends’ homes or picking up more kids to bring back to the Pine Zoo. Then you throw in Mike and a couple schnauzers, and it was a crazy household.

Jenny was kind, loving, smart, quick-witted, competitive, a true friend, a cheerleader for every child she coached or anyone she worked with. She was the true definition of a team player.

This amazing woman that we call mother, daughter, sister, wife, auntie, granddaughter, niece, friend, co-worker, and coach will be terribly missed. A void in our hearts that we can never fill.

We would like to tell you that this outpouring of love our family has received has been overwhelming and we thank you all for that. Although we know that Jenny would be looking down saying “Come on you guys! Must have been a slow news day!”

Courtney, Chase and Colin – she loved the three of you more than anything in this entire world. You were her whole heart.

So always, always know that you were loved to the moon and back and that she will always be watching over you. If you listen carefully, you will hear her say “I will love you always, be strong, work hard, help others, be a team player, and remember, kindness is free. And, lastly, “GET OFF THOSE PHONES!”