



## Kristy L. Ropiak

June 27, 1962 - October 21, 2025

Kristy L. Ropiak, 63, of Crystal Falls died peacefully in the comfort of her own home surrounded by her loving family on Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025.

She was born in Ely, MN, on June 27, 1962, to the late LeRoy and Ione (Hederick) Domarus. Kristy was raised in Babbitt, MN, graduated from Babbitt High School in 1980, and married her high school sweetheart, Joe Ropiak, on Jan. 31, 1981.

Kristy and Joe moved to Michigan to be closer to loved ones while raising their family. Ever compassionate, Kristy worked a variety of jobs while caring for their children and pursuing her lifelong dream of becoming a nurse - first achieving her LPN and later her RN degree. She poured her dedication and care not only into her family but also into the community she diligently and proudly served.

Though she was passionate about her work, she found her joy living the Northwoods way of life and caring for animals. She spent time foraging and canning wild berries and mushrooms, boating on all of the local lakes and rivers, and took pride in processing the deer that Joe would bring home from his hunts. Her deep love for animals was evident throughout her life, especially in the ways she cared for and nurtured her dogs, granddogs, and horses.

Above all, Kristy loved to make her surroundings feel like home for those she loved most. There was nothing she cherished more than spending time with family and friends. She enjoyed cheering on her children and grandchildren at their sporting events and wore the title of “hockey mom” with pride. She loved being lakeside at the family cabin, gathering for family dinners and cookouts, and sitting by the campfire. She was always quick with a laugh and great stories - but her purest joy was found in being a grandma.

Kristy’s love and presence will be deeply missed by her husband of 43 years, Joe Ropiak; 4 children, Nicole Wrock, Jonica (David) Rucinski, Peter (Abigail) Ropiak, and Devin (Tony) Lind-Chamberlin; 7 grandchildren, Nickolas Wrock, Leroy Wrock, Josephine Rucinski, Liza Rucinski, Austyn (Kelly) Lind, Ezra Chamberlin, and Avryl Chamberlin; great-grandchild, Finley Lind; 7 siblings, Judy Tilton, Jerry Domarus, Nancy Domarus, Kathy Jackson, Lisa Robinson, Tammy Sarazin, and John Domarus; many nieces and nephews; and a network of friends who felt like family.

Kristy’s family would like to thank the dedicated and compassionate staff of Mayo Clinic as well as all of the family, friends, and community that have offered support.

An intimate Celebration of Life will be held next summer at the family cabin – a gathering of all her favorite people, in her favorite place and season. May we all follow her example and live simply, bloom wildly.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Kristy L. Ropiak online at [www.nashfuneralhome.net](http://www.nashfuneralhome.net). Or sent to Joe Ropiak at 902 Forest Parkway Crystal Falls, MI 49920.

The family has entrusted the Nash Funeral Home of Crystal Falls with the

arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

MS

“ It is with sadness that I read the obituary for Kristy. She will be greatly missed by those who knew her as a girl growing up in Babbitt, MN. My sympathy goes to her husband Joe and the extended family. Margaret Sweet

Margaret Sweet - October 31, 2025 at 04:39 PM

KM

“ Kevin and Rainee Merritt purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kristy L. Ropiak.



Kevin and Rainee Merritt - October 29, 2025 at 11:28 PM

GH

“ I am Kristy's cousin, and we are the same age so hungout with her and Lisa on our trips to Babbitt and Browns Valley. It was also always great to see her at the Hedrick family reunions at the Peterson farm. My thoughts are with her family and friends as I know she will be so missed by all of them!!! RIP, Kristy! Love, Gwen Hedrick

Gwen Hedrick - October 25, 2025 at 06:42 PM

MF

“ Sorry for your loss our thoughts and prayers go out to you uncle Joe & family. Will cherish all the great memories spent with her. Fly High in heaven aunt Kristy 🕊️. 💕 Mela & Tom

Mela Foreman - October 25, 2025 at 01:49 PM

PD

“ Dear Joe, Pete. and family,  
We are so grateful to have been part of your hockey family. Kristy and I screaming for the boys in the stands at all the games. Grad parties and seeing Pete this summer at softball, Cj plays against him at Runkle. I always get that petey smile and a hug. We have many memories and will be praying for all of you.  
Love and prayers  
The Dantes Family

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**Pat Dantes** - October 25, 2025 at 11:55 AM

ND

Sorry for your loss I got closer to Kristy in the past year. I booked a ticket to see her 11/4 we both were so excited. I am so sad we could not meet this one more time. She is with mom and dad and everyone who has passed before her. She will be smiling down at all of us. God be with you Kristy. Nancy Domarus

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**Nancy Domarus** - October 29, 2025 at 01:17 PM