



Mrs. Monica Lynn Bird

September 30, 1981 - August 8, 2025

Monica passed away at home with family after a courageous battle with cancer.

Monica was born in Germany into a Royal Canadian Air Force family that eventually settled in Winnipeg where Monica finished school, worked and attended university. She wanted to be a teacher and loved to work with children. While attending the University of Winnipeg, Monica nannied for a military family and it was this family that arranged a blind date between Monica and Jeff at one of the grandest Mardi Gras parties ever. It was meant to be, they had found their soulmates. They were posted from Winnipeg to Kingston for one year and then to Fredericton. Monica finished her education degree at the University of New Brunswick. They were then posted to Edmonton where Monica completed her Alberta teaching certificate and taught French at Guthrie School at Canadian Forces Base Edmonton.

Monica and Jeff were married in High River in 2009 and were then posted back to Winnipeg where they started their wonderful family. Four kids later and moving on from military life, they moved back to Southern Alberta in 2016 and built their forever home on the family farm in 2017-18 where they welcomed the fifth and final addition to their beautiful family in 2019. Monica raised her family with a wicked sense of humour, music and dancing, a lot of colour-coded lists, and amazing cooking, especially kids' birthday cakes! Monica

treasured the fact that she could be at home to raise their kids and as they aged she was excited about the opportunity to teach again. Monica was diagnosed with cancer in late 2021 and had to postpone her plans to return to teaching so that she could focus on battling this disease. She was determined not to let cancer rule their lives and last year she was healthy enough to substitute teach for several months and loved every minute of it.

Monica loved to travel and her and Jeff were lucky enough to travel the world over the years. During Monica's battle with cancer she fought hard to stay healthy enough to continue traveling and their family was able to enjoy many camping trips, a trip to Mexico, a 15th wedding anniversary in Tahiti and Bora Bora, a family bucket list kayaking adventure in Johnstone Strait, and a trip to Belize. Monica and Jeff also traveled to Japan and Spain to search out hopeful cancer treatments and clinical trials.

Monica is survived by her husband Jeffry and her wonderful children Samantha, Zachary, Andrew, Julianna and William; by her parents Janet and Walton Williams, sisters Melissa and Stephanie (Sean) and their families of Winnipeg; and Joanne and Michael Bird, Matthew (Suzanne) and Jennifer and their families; and by the many nieces and nephews that call her Auntie Mo.

Monica fought her battle with strength and grace. We are grateful for the love and support she received along her journey and none more important than the professional care, compassion and humour provided by the wonderful team at the High River Cancer Clinic. Thank you.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, 19 August 2025, at St. James Parish, 338060 - 32nd St. East, Okotoks at 10:00AM. A private family interment will follow at the Gladys Union Cemetery. For those unable to attend, the service will be livestreamed via Monica's Tribute Page at www.lylereeves.com.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Monica's name to the Cancer Clinic Fund or the Maternity Fund of the High River District Health Care Foundation.

To send condolences and view Monica's Tribute Page please visit www.lylereeves.com .

Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass)
403.652.4242.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

AUG **19**. 10:00 AM (MT)

St. James Catholic Church
338th Ave & 32nd Street East
Okotoks, AB T1S 1A3 (CA)

Tribute Wall



“ *Lyle Reeves Funerals created a Webcast in memory of Mrs. Monica Lynn Bird*



Lyle Reeves Funerals - August 13, 2025 at 05:29 PM



“ *Our sincere condolences. We hope your memories will comfort you.*



Doug & Wendy Kennedy - August 21, 2025 at 09:55 AM

SB

“ Yesterday, we said goodbye to our beautiful and courageous Monica. She was the an instrumental part of our lives, and she will always be remembered for her zest for life and the amazing love she shared with her family. She may be gone, but she will live in our hearts forever. Her spirit will always be with us, and her legacy will remain with the five beautiful children she and her loving husband, Jeff, brought into this world together.



Heaven has received a true angel. Please watch over her as she rests in peace.

Shawna and Malcolm Bruce & Family. □

Shawna Bruce - August 20, 2025 at 07:02 AM

JN

“ My sincere condolences and prayers to Jeff and Monica’s beautiful family. Monica and I met because of the same battle we were both facing. Monica, so generously, met with me over coffee in High River and, with inspired honesty, shared her insights, hopes, and advice regarding medication side effects and the journey we were both on. I felt so privileged by her kindness. She is my inspiration and will always be in my heart.

Jennifer Nielsen - August 19, 2025 at 02:31 PM

BC

“ Dear Jeff, Samantha, Zachary, Andrew, Julianna and William,

Our condolences to you for the loss of your beautiful and amazing wife and mother.

I didn't meet Monica until after her diagnosis. Her shining enthusiasm for life and her love for her children and husband were immediately evident. Her love for teaching and joy in the classroom were inspirational. I was very saddened to learn of her death. Our thoughts are with you during this difficult time.

Brenda Clayton

(on behalf of Cholangio-Hepatocellular Carcinoma Canada)

Brenda Clayton - August 19, 2025 at 01:22 PM



“ We are so saddened by this loss. While we didn't know Monica closely, we saw the love she poured into her children, and always admired her strength. We are holding her family in our thoughts during this difficult time.

Becky Bilkowski - August 19, 2025 at 11:47 AM

WF

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Jeff ,his children ,and the entire family. Monica was a wonderful mother and a beautiful soul who could light up a room with her smile and sense of humour. She will be sorely missed. Rest in peace dear Monica.

Uncle Wayne Foley

Wayne Foley - August 19, 2025 at 09:38 AM

CG

“ *Our sincere condolences to Jeff and family.*



Candace and Jason Gillanders - August 19, 2025 at 08:35 AM

CG

“ *We met Monica in their early years of courtship with Jeff. From the beginning, you guys were a perfect pair. Fortunately, we got to spend time with you both early on before growing families and career directions took us to different parts of the continent. We had a healthy competition going for the largest family until you all pulled ahead with baby number five. Monica cheekily shared the news with us, making us laugh out loud. We always enjoyed Monica's wittiness and fun-loving spirit. That spirit will surely live on through you, Jeff, and through your beautiful family. We will cherish the memories and know you will too. Love, The Griffiths Family (Craig & Olivia, Luke, Simon, Noah & Sarah)*

Craig and Olivia Griffiths - August 18, 2025 at 10:22 PM

DL

“ *David Laycraft lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Monica Lynn Bird*



David Laycraft - August 18, 2025 at 06:51 PM

HF

“ *Hall Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Monica Lynn Bird*



Hall Family - August 18, 2025 at 01:08 PM

GD

“ *What's going on in Heaven?*

If I had to list the 2 most difficult jobs in the world it would be a Mother and a Soldier. Both require complete sacrifice of one's time and body. To be able to be either of these is remarkable enough on its own.. but for someone to have been a Mother and a Soldier takes a very special person indeed. I've often questioned God's plans or motives when we witness this kind of loss.. makes me wonder what kind of chaos is going on up there that He should require a Soldier Mom to come up there and straighten it out. I wish I had these answers but I don't.. all I can say for certain is... there is some kind of plan at work. In the meantime.. know and trust that your family and community are always closer than you think.. so never hesitate to ask for anything.

Our deepest condolences to Jeff and the entire extended Bird and Williams family.

Gerald and Sheri Dijkstra

Gerald and Sheri Dijkstra - August 18, 2025 at 10:27 AM



“ It is never easy to say goodbye, especially to our Monica. Monica was a pivotal piece of our childhood❤️ She cared for us throughout our posting to Winnipeg. She taught me to ride a bike without training wheels, jammed with my sisters and I to Mambo Number 5 in her car, read “Charlotte’s Web” to us for the first time, made ghost lollipops at our 8th birthday party, is the reason I became a teacher, used to carry all three of us up to bed at the same time and so much more. She was and will always remain so dear to us Bruce Girls. There are not enough words to say how grateful we are to have been touched by Monica’s amazing in our lives. We truly wouldn’t be the people we are today without her. We are so grateful that Mum and Dad set up Jeff and Monica all those years ago. ❤️

We have so many fond memories with Monica but my sisters and I unanimously have a favourite that we’d like to share now. Our parents were on their house hunting trip to Toronto and Monica and Jeff were taking care of us. All of the neighbourhood kids decided that we were going to play army, and that because we lived in the corner house, our backyard was the perfect place to do this. It was street vs. Street. Monica and Jeff spent the whole day picking the perfect rocks and helping us wrap them in copious amounts of gun tape to make “grenades” and then helping us plan our battle strategies. After several hours, as kids do, all of us got hungry. Monica told Jeff that there were hotdogs in the freezer and he comes back with a pack of 8. Monica sent him to the store to get more and for the next little bit, they cooked hotdogs for every kid in the hood! At the end of the night, all of us were in our “trenches” and I looked back to see Monica and Jeff sitting on the front stoop with our dog, Celt. It was a really good day and all of us still remember it fondly, after all these years later.

We love you, Monica ❤️ You will always be with us in our hearts ❤️ We are sending all of our love to the Bird and Williams ❤️ Monica was every kind of special.

Alexandra Lessard - August 17, 2025 at 07:01 PM

BF

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Bird families.*



Barb Andersen & family - August 16, 2025 at 09:56 PM

CB

“ *Cathy Bradley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Monica Lynn Bird*



Cathy Bradley - August 16, 2025 at 06:12 PM



“ *Our deepest condolences to Jeff and the children. We hold you close in our hearts. Jody and Mark Hoogwerf*

Jode HG - August 16, 2025 at 05:07 PM

CH

“ *Cheryl & Eric Heinz lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Monica Lynn Bird*



Cheryl & Eric Heinz - August 16, 2025 at 11:47 AM

BG

“ *Buck & Pam Groeneveld lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Monica Lynn Bird*



Buck & Pam Groeneveld - August 16, 2025 at 01:14 AM

RC

“ *The Rob Connor Family sends our heartfelt sympathies to all the families of Monica. What a strong, determined and brave young woman. She will live on with all the memories and stories you will share with each other. Hugs to you all* 🧡💖🧡



Rob and Vickie Connor - August 15, 2025 at 10:15 PM

JR

“ *The Robins family would like to express our deepest condolences to Jeff and the Bird family on your loss.*



Jim Robins - August 15, 2025 at 07:55 PM

AD

“ *My Sincere condolences Mike and Joanne, Jeff and family at the loss of your dear Monica. Although I didn't know her, the tributes say it all. So sad for all of you!*

Arlayne Davies - August 15, 2025 at 03:03 PM



“ *Memories of your sweet smile and laughter will forever be in my heart. As a young girl I always admired your kindness and loving energy. While we did not get to spend much time together in our adult years, I know in my heart your loving energy will be felt through the love shows by everyone you affected with your loving grace.*

My condolences and prayers of strength, love and light to your family and any and all whom are hurting

Julie Mondor - August 14, 2025 at 03:09 PM

LM

“ *Thinking of you Mike & Joanne, Jeff and family on losing your loved Monica. Condolences to all of you.*

Lloyd & Nancy MacKillop - August 14, 2025 at 10:45 AM

JS

“ *The Stewart family would like to share our most heartfelt sorrow in this time of loss. We remember Monica as a young girl growing up and we remember her very fun wedding to Jeff. Know that all of you are in our thoughts and in our prayers. I have had the great pleasure of being friends with Monica's parents and hearing all of the news of her wonderful family over the years. May you rest in peace Monica.*

Jodeen Stewart - August 14, 2025 at 05:46 AM

MK

“ *Our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family Jeff.*

Mike and Cathy Kendal - August 13, 2025 at 06:59 PM

CL

“ *Camille & Steve Laycraft lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Monica Lynn Bird*



Camille & Steve Laycraft - August 13, 2025 at 05:27 PM

RJ

“ *Deepest condolences to the family - Susanna and I were blessed to be with her and Jeff in their early days of marriage where their love for one another and passion for life shone. She will be missed, but not at all forgotten*

Ryan Jurkowski - August 13, 2025 at 01:42 PM

NH

“ *Joe and Selma have spoken so fondly of Monica, I know she was a real blessing to the Bird family. We are heartbroken for Jeff and the kids and are thinking of you all with much love and prayers. The Humfrey family*

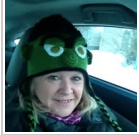
Norma Humfrey - August 13, 2025 at 12:57 PM

BM

“ *Bert Montgomery lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Monica Lynn Bird*



Bert Montgomery - August 13, 2025 at 09:02 AM



“ *Deepest condolences to the Williams family... met Monica at a few events over the years and she was lovely. So very sorry to hear that she has been taken way too soon. All the best to you all at this difficult time .*

Jill Shortt - August 13, 2025 at 08:15 AM



“ *I worked with Monica at Guthrie School. She was an amazing human; down to earth, caring, and always ready to pitch in and do her part (actually more than her part). When Monica and Jeff moved to Winnipeg it seemed like she was always telling me, I'm having a baby! Lol And I would joke that she was “adding another bird to their nest” ! More recently since her diagnosis we connected over messenger. I would ask how she was and she would always say, she was doing fine . She was more concerned with how my family was doing. She answered any questions about her cancer openly and honestly and never shied away from the bad stuff. She was a strong , loving person that loved Jeff, her children, and all the family so deeply and you could hear it in every story. Another beautiful angel to watch over you all. You will be missed!□*

Darlene Torok - August 12, 2025 at 11:04 PM

KB

“ *A long, hard, and incredible battle, fought by one of the strongest, wittiest, and family-oriented women we know.*



katelyn ball - August 12, 2025 at 10:17 PM

JK

“ *Though we have noted Monica but we feel like we know her well, as her proud parents Wally and Janet had shared lots about her and her family. She was a great person who was loving, caring and very courageous. We are deeply sorry for your loss and our deepest condolences.*



jennifer and Karoline Klug - August 12, 2025 at 10:17 PM

WS

“ *Sending much love and so many hopes and prayers to family and friends dealing with Monica's loss*

wendy schaub - August 12, 2025 at 09:07 PM

JB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jennifer Bird - August 12, 2025 at 09:04 PM

DD

“ *Daryl & Janet Davies lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Monica Lynn Bird*



Daryl & Janet Davies - August 12, 2025 at 08:56 PM

SM

“ Steven Muth lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Monica Lynn Bird



Steven Muth - August 12, 2025 at 05:40 PM

NC

“ So very sorry for your loss. Truly devastating to lose such an amazing human. Although I have not seen her in many years, she is one of my favourite people I have ever met in my life. Always the light of any room, so positive and caring. The way she lived her life was an inspiration to all. RIP my beautiful friend. You certainly touched many lives and will always be remembered. All my love sent your way xoxo

Nikki Carew - August 12, 2025 at 05:25 PM

JB

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



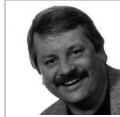
Jennifer Bird - August 12, 2025 at 04:24 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Lyle Reeves Funerals - August 12, 2025 at 03:49 PM



Colleen & I are so sorry for your loss Wally, Janet and family. Our hearts, thoughts & prayers are for you today.

Brent Dayton - August 13, 2025 at 04:42 PM



“ *Toni Groeneveld lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Monica Lynn Bird*



Toni Groeneveld - August 12, 2025 at 01:59 PM



“ *Tammy Meadows lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Monica Lynn Bird*



Tammy Meadows - August 12, 2025 at 12:15 PM

TM

My heart is with you the Bird Family at such a difficult time. Monica was such a lovely person , a great mom , wife who had such great strength and determination. She always smiled and made you feel special . I admired her positivity throughout her battle . It was an honour to meet her and get to know her .

Tammy Meadows - August 12, 2025 at 12:20 PM

DH

Our hearts are deeply saddened that healing was not the result in her cancer battle. Monica's victory was in the way she lived in spite of it, always with courage and enjoyment of life. Our love and prayers are with all the family, Uncle Dave & Linda

David Hardy - August 13, 2025 at 04:46 PM

AF

Our condolences to you Mike Joanne and the entire family. thinking about you during this difficult time. Alan and Sandy Froese

Alan and Sandy Froese - August 17, 2025 at 02:55 PM