



## Shelly Allen

January 15, 1963 - June 27, 2019

On the evening of Thursday, June 27, 2019, Shelly Ann (Gwillim) Allen passed away, after a long battle with lung cancer. She passed with her husband and three children by her side, peacefully, with no pain. She lived an exemplary life of leadership and of loving others. Her strength, optimism, and silliness will leave an imprint on all who knew her.

Shelly grew up in the small towns of Carlinville and Johnson City, Illinois. Striving to make the most of her life at a young age, she enlisted in the United States Air Force, ultimately garnering appointment to the US Air Force Academy. While there, Shelly excelled in every aspect of cadet life, serving in various leadership capacities throughout. Here she built life-long friendships and ultimately fell in love with her husband. Shelly served the USAF for five years of active duty and fifteen years of reserve service—for which she earned the rank of Major.

Shelly was blessed with three adoring children, pursued a multitude of career endeavors, and continued to be a friend to all. She loved people as they were and inspired them to be their best selves. Whenever a need arose—be it words of encouragement, a warm meal, a bed to sleep in, or otherwise—she was prepared to address it with grace. She was particularly keen to welcome into her home international students, hosting youth from Colombia, Pakistan, and China.

Shelly's love and kindness could not be intimidated, creating ripples across our country and world. She will be dearly missed, and continue to serve as an inspiration to many. She is survived by her husband, Steve, and her three children, Jake, Jessie, and John—as well as family across the country, friends across the world, and a dog and cat, both of which she deeply loved.

A celebration of her life will be held on July 27, 2019, at 5:00 PM at Next Level Church in Matthews, North Carolina.

Shelly's family has given the family of Lowe-Neddo Funeral Home the privilege of caring for her and for them.

If you would like to make a donation to the International Cancer Advocacy Network (ICAN) in her honor, please visit <https://askican.ejoinme.org/MyPages/GeneralSupport/tabid/146481/Default.aspx>

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

JUL **27**. 5:00 PM (ET)

Next Level Church  
4317 Stevens Mill Road  
Matthews, NC 28104  
hello@nextlevelchurch.org  
<https://www.nextlevelchurch.org/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Shelly Allen*

October 05, 2023 at 07:26 AM



“ *Shelly Allen*

October 24, 2022 at 08:52 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shelly Allen.*



July 25, 2019 at 01:54 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shelly Allen.*



July 25, 2019 at 01:48 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Shelly Allen.*



---

July 22, 2019 at 05:36 PM



“ *Richard Spekner & Family purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Shelly Allen.*



---

**Richard Spekner & Family** - July 17, 2019 at 01:52 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



---

**steve allen** - July 04, 2019 at 08:47 AM



“ *I worked with Shelly at Queen's Grant. She was always so polite and friendly. May God wrap your family in His loving arms during this day and the seasons ahead.*

*Becky Brown*

---

**Becky Brown** - July 03, 2019 at 11:21 PM

BM

“ I was a cheerleader with Shelly at USAFA. I will always remember her as a fun-loving, positive, hard-working person who got along well with everyone. My husband Dennis and I enjoyed catching up with Shelly and Steve at reunions as we are also one of the few married couples from the class of '86. I know Shelly was loved and will be missed by so many of our classmates, and we will do our best to honor her at future reunions.

---

**Bridget Malfer** - July 03, 2019 at 09:37 PM


JA

“ When we were kids, Mom made me, Jake, and Jess all take swimming lessons. I've talked to both of them about it, and the three of us agree we all hated taking swim lessons. But I'll always remember them fondly because at the end of every lesson Mom would be there, arms and legs spread wide to catch me with a towel (like a wild animal), and she'd wrap me up in a big bear hug to dry me off. "This is the best part of being a mama," she'd always say. She never cared that I usually got her business clothes sopping wet. The most important thing in her world was always the three of us kids. It's quite the legacy to live up to, but I know I can do it because I learned from the best.

---

**John Allen** - July 03, 2019 at 09:31 PM

MG

“ Not a day will pass that i wont be thankful that i was given the chance to be your brother, Love ya sis ! 

---

**Mickey Gwillim** - July 03, 2019 at 07:14 PM

SJ

*Shelly, our friendship was short lived here on earth and we met during some trying times, however we shared our faith and love of the Lord, and one day will share eternity with our Father. I was blessed to have met you. 🙏💜🙏. Susan Johnson*

---

**susan johnson** - July 03, 2019 at 09:14 PM