



Rachele O'Brien

July 21, 1967 - October 31, 2025

Rachele Corinne O'Brien (Shafer) passed away, with her family at her side, on October 31st, 2025 at the age of 58.

"Shelly" was born in Royal Oak, Michigan to Patricia and Richard Shafer on July 21st, 1967. She resided in Royal Oak her entire life, graduating from Dondero High School in 1985. In the years following, she attended Oakland Community College with her mother, where she met her future spouse, Patrick O'Brien. They fell in love, settled into their Royal Oak home, and were married on June 27th, 1992. They welcomed their first child, Connor, in 1993, and second, Maryn, in 1997.

Shelly became a devoted wife and mother who loved spending time with her family. She was involved and approachable, emphasizing the importance of kindness, personal passions, and having fun. These priorities carried over to all of her closest relationships, whether friends, family, or coworkers. She was beloved by all who knew her.

Always willing to help, she made time for anyone when asked. She had strong convictions, and would candidly express her opinions on the topic at hand, whether asked or not.

She was incredibly dedicated to her occupation as a steadfast legal assistant.

Professional and committed, going above and beyond every day for over 25 years with her legal family. She developed many close relationships during her career.

Her dependability wasn't exclusive to other humans. Her love of all creatures was reflected in her activity with local rescues, whether working reception at a veterinary office, feeding stray cat colonies, or adopting another new pet. Her cats were her favorite animals to care for, she adopted a total of twelve in her adult life. She was always welcoming to those in need.

When she wasn't spending time with her furry friends, you could find her engrossed in a true crime book, trinket shopping at an estate sale, or playing trivia games with her son, Connor. She always had a passion for identifying antiques and artwork, and even dreamed of starting her own store.

She loved nature, camping, going to the beach, bird watching and spending time at the river. She filled her property with pollinator friendly plants and was building a native species rain garden in her front yard. She always tried to make a difference in the world.

Shelly is survived by her husband, Patrick; son, Connor; daughter, Maryn; brothers Brett and Shannon (Carmen); mother, Patricia; step-father, Rich; step-mother, Lois; and step-brother Randall (Aileen), along with her lifelong friends and extended family. She was preceded in death by her father, Richard.

An informal Celebration of Life to honor Shelly will take place from 2:00pm - 5:30pm on Sunday, November 30th at American Legion Hall #374: 2079 12 Mile Rd, Berkley, MI 48072.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributing to her family's fundraiser to

assist with her medical expenses: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/shelly-obrien-memorial>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV **30**. 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM (ET)

Berkley American Legion
2079 12 Mile Road
Berkley, MI 48072