



## Tammy R. (nee: Caldwell) Balog

June 24, 1970 - April 26, 2021

Tammy R. Balog (nee: Caldwell), age 50, of Mentor, passed away Monday, April, 26, 2021 at University Hospital, Cleveland. She was born June, 24, 1970 in Cleveland.

Tammy's goal in life was to make the world around her a better place, doing so through love, creativity, intellect, and dedication. She had more friends than she knew, for it was hard not to love her, and we are all better for having known her.

Her home is a reflection of her creativity and taste. Every room has a particular color scheme and design appropriate to its purpose, and if it was no longer to her liking she had no compunction about redecorating and remodeling. Her love of metals—wrought iron, bronze, and copper—is evident in the décor, in bathroom fixtures, sconces, and decorative features.

Tammy's creativity also shone in the kitchen. Though well-known for being picky in her eating habits, she loved to try new recipes, flavors, and techniques to expand her palate and improve her health. If she didn't like something, she would change the recipe if she thought it could be done better or scrap it if she couldn't.

Games were another passion. She loved to play board games and enjoyed table-top role-playing and video games. Her favorites dealt with strategy and puzzles, challenging her intellect to decipher clues and build a stratagem to conquer obstacles.

She earned a Bachelor's Degree in English, stemming from a life-long love of reading. Her shelves are filled with classics, poetry, and fantasy, and she spent many hours deep into one book or another, whether a physical copy or downloaded.

Tammy's coworkers would be the first to recognize her dedication. Her work ethic was beyond reproach as she strove zealously for perfection to make everyone else's tasks easier. Should any family issues arise, Tammy was always the first with a plan and the will to make certain that the situation was handled properly.

Survivors include her husband of 14 years, David F. Balog; parents, Robert and Paula Caldwell; siblings, Christopher (Julie) Caldwell, Cherie (Tariq) Iqbal and Jason Caldwell; mother-in-law, Debbie Neal; life-long friend, Dawn Konscol and cat, Kyo.

Preceding her in death are her dogs, Koga and Shinji.

A memorial celebration in Tammy's honor will be held 4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Monday, May 3, 2021 at Veterans Memorial Park, 5730 Hopkins Rd. Mentor, Ohio, 44060.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made in memory of Tammy to Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter, 9500 Sweet Valley Dr, Valley View, OH 44125.

Arrangements entrusted to the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

Offer condolences at [www.brunners.com](http://www.brunners.com).

# Events

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**MAY** **Celebration of Life** 04:00PM - 10:00PM

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Veterans Memorial Park

5730 Hopkins Rd, Mentor, OH, US, 44060

# Comments

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“ I received a card from the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter.

"Dear Mr. Balog--

We're very sorry for your loss of Tammy. Several people donated to the shelter in her memory."

\*long list of donors\*

"She must have been quite an animal lover. Again, our deepest sympathies.

Sincerely, CCAS"

Thank you all who donated in Tammy's name! We all appreciate it!



**David Balog** - May 27 at 04:14 PM

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“ I woke to this terribly news only this morning. I have known Tammy since I was very young. She was like an older sister to me, friend, confidante, and always and inspiration. Her love of books and poetry was indeed infectious. I have endless stories of years together on Ridgewood Dr and always just assumed that one day we would all meet up and laugh about all the trouble we used to get into as kids. Mr & Mrs Caldwell Chris, Cherie, Jason I am deeply saddened for your loss. You were all very Blessed to have such a wonderful daughter / sister.

**Sam Beskur** - May 22 at 12:01 PM



“ Cousin, I have not seen the Caldwell's in many many years yet my Heart and Best Thoughts pour out to The Family as if it were just yesterday. I am saddened for your loss Caldwell Family.

**Reid Williams** - May 22 at 10:12 PM



“ Hi Reid. Thanks for your thoughts. Its so good to hear from you after all these years. I miss all the insane things we did as kids, and all the Beskur summer picnics your cousin used to have :) Thank you Reid.

**Chris Caldwell** - June 04 at 08:18 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



David Balog - May 04 at 01:05 PM

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“ Thank you all who either came to Tammy's celebration or were only there in spirit!



David Balog - May 04 at 01:04 PM

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“ My deepest sympathy for your family's great loss. Tammy was a wonderfully kind person.



Christine - May 03 at 12:35 PM

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“ Tammy has known me since I was born and has been one of the most influential women in my life. She raised me on the best stories, introduced me to half of the movies and music I love most, and while we might not be related by blood I still consider her to be family. I know she leaves behind so many other lives that she's made better for having been a part of, and will be very missed.

Audrey Koncsol - May 03 at 07:07 AM

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“ Tammy was my godmother, but me and my sisters all called her our aunt. Every single summer I looked forward to staying with her and Dave because they treated me like an equal, which is rare for a kid. I was introduced to so many new things like video games, anime and manga which I still love to this day. Tammy was always a calming presence to me, someone who listened and gave thoughtful responses. She was hilarious, and had the same strange sense of humor as we did. Everyone who knew her loved her, and saying that I'll miss her is a gross understatement. I've known her since I was born, so I've never known a time without her but I can keep her alive through the decades of memories and the love she's gifted me.

**Morgan Koncsol** - May 03 at 12:20 AM



“ We also looked forward to those summers! Spoiling you girls, letting you stay up late, finding fun adventures to take you on--these were highlights in our lives too. Though we didn't see you often enough, you were part of our family.

**David** - May 03 at 07:31 AM

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“ I'm Tammy's brother and the memories to share are endless - from how she organized regular holiday dinners with our family, to how she always stepped up and handled every crisis or emergency situation as needed. She not only always knew what to do and how to do it - but she was already done by the time anyone else thought of it. In many ways Tammy carried our family on her back in ways I didn't even know.

I believe that when someone we love is lost, a piece of us is lost with them - but a piece of them remains. Years from now many of us will still carry a piece of Tammy with us, and with it we will be able to hear her voice - in the echoes of our conversations, and in every thought and experience we shared - Tammy's voice will linger long after she is gone.

But even so, I will very much miss that piece of her that is gone.

**Jason Caldwell** - May 02 at 01:39 PM

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“ I don't even know where to begin about Tammy except that she was one of the most wonderful people I've ever known and a great friend. I worked with her for over 8 years and she taught me so much. I treasure all the moments spent outside of work through the years with her and Dave. I could go on and on about her! She will be deeply missed!



**Kim McNamee** - April 30 at 07:47 PM



“ I have so many more pics, just not on this phone and I don't want to overwhelm the page....although Tammy would expect that of me...lol

**Kim McNamee** - April 30 at 08:14 PM

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“ Bless you Tammy. I met Tammy in 2007 when I joined CBRE and was assigned the ORG portfolio. What a wonderful group with Tammy, Judy, Lori and Kim. They were delightful to work with and the next thing I knew Tammy was organizing a weekend trip to Chicago which is half way for me from Mpls and half way for the Cleveland clan. What a fun weekend and I still have our group photo on my refrigerator. I still think of that trip and how much joy Tammy brought to our group. Louann Nicolai

**Louann Nicolai** - April 30 at 06:55 PM

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“ Godspeed Tammy. I sure will miss those New Year's Eve parties at your place with you, Dave, and ALL THAT FOOD!!

**Dave Krejci** - April 29 at 09:07 PM

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“ I met Tammy in 1989. It was at one of those out of control high school parties that I look back on and cringe. She was 19 and I was 15, so of course I looked up to her. Over the months that followed we became friends. I remember spending that summer riding around in her blue Camry. We just drove and drove, often standing up and hanging out of the sun roof (we were young and well... didn't make great choices). We used to spend a lot of time out at a place we simply referred to as "the lot". It was a parcel of land out in the middle of nowhere owned by another friend with a camper on it. We would spend so many weekend nights out there in the camper. The memory I hold so close about those nights it that it was frequent that Tammy and I would be the first to arrive. Tammy was often nervous about this being that it was dark and isolated. We would quell our fear by singing silly songs- often choosing television theme songs. The theme song to Laverne & Shirley was a favorite.

Tammy was someone that would always be by my side whenever I needed someone. She loved me, even when I was not easy to like. She never wavered. She was always kind and caring. She always seemed to know just what to say to make everything better when in my teenaged brain the world was ending. I am so grateful that I met her and was a close friend during my younger years. I am grateful that I had her as a role model, I wanted to be JUST like her back then. I don't think she realized that, but it was true. She showed me what was just beyond my very small high school world.

Physical distance for many years got in the way, and it was only in the past few years that we reconnected. I was so looking forward to planning a visit to Ohio once travel was not so restricted. My heart is breaking that I won't make that visit to my friend. I will always remember her and keep the memories I have of her as a young, vibrant woman. She was so full of life and a night with her was sure to be an adventure and a great story to tell.

**Erin Bibelhausen** - April 29 at 08:35 PM



“ Hey Erin, I still remember that summer Tammy and I drove out to see you in Missouri! Those were such a good times, just pack up and head for a few days to Missouri? Why not?

**Chris Caldwell** - June 04 at 08:23 PM

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“ I met Tammy in 1999. Over the 20 plus years she became a close friend and confidant. As different as we are we shared so many common interests and beliefs. Be it politics by participating in the March for science or singing the opening song to Air America (Bounce your Boobies), to our love of science fiction/fantasy. XFiles (great story I will share on Monday), Lord of the Rings, Babylon 5 and Of course Star Trek. We made multiple trips to Toronto for Trek Conventions and enjoyed many cups of Tim Hortons! She was so gracious she tolerated me crashing her wedding then laughed when I showered her and Dave will paper hole punch circles in the city hall parking lot. She watched my son Ben grow up and shared so many fun times, though she never stopped reminding me how she got strep throat at one of his skating outings. I can't imagine not being able to pick up the phone and talking to her. I know she will be missed by many, including me.

Judy Simon - April 29 at 07:39 PM

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“ Somehow I'm not as good at adding pics as Tammy would be. Here we go. Found some from March fir Science that Dave and Tammy supported and marched with me at. One from our many NYE gatherings. One from a party I had a few years back.



Patricia Kellogg - April 29 at 07:30 PM

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“ Tammy was my buddy of over three decades of mahem. I spoke to her every day via text, at least if not email and phone. She was a great friend and we had plans in 2021. What a shock to us all that she's gone. I know we are all devistated but remember the love and what we learned from her too short time on earth. I will miss her sorely, as we all will. Condolences to her family, and especially Dave. Pat and Chris

Patricia Kellogg - April 29 at 07:24 PM

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“ Tammy was my soul sister and my master of firsts. 1st to help me learn how to drive ,1st to go with me to the most ridiculous dance clubs ,1st to drink with , 1st to try crazy hairstyles with, 1st to work with in my first job at McDonald's, and to do all the things we would never want our parents to know.  
She knew how to tell the best stories to my kids. Ooga Booga trashcan shall live on forever. She was an even better friend. No one could ever match her. Thank you dear Mara for everything you shared.

**Dawn Koncsol** - April 29 at 06:10 PM



“ I have fond memories of playing Pictionary at your house so many years ago with Tammy. Such simple good times.

**Erin Bibelhausen** - May 01 at 07:58 PM



“ Dawn :)

**Chris Caldwell** - June 04 at 08:25 PM



“ I have so many great and funny memories... we always do reminisce about about blocking the hole in the wall between the two offices on Rockside so Bill Stevens couldn't hear us. The time at Rockside when Gary the IT guy was was there and I lit a cigarette by accident and his eyes almost fell out of his head! Tammy and Lori laughed so hard. We always had a good time. I will miss our dinners.

**Jan DeBenedictis** - April 29 at 06:10 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



**David Balog** - April 29 at 06:05 PM



“ Tammy loved planning Thanksgiving dinners. I think it was both a way to gather the families together and to showcase her creativity in the kitchen. Our best year was when we did all appetizers--21 appetizers! It was fun sampling and grazing throughout the day, but it was a lot of work, especially the twice-baked mini potatoes. I can't remember every recipe, but the sugared cranberry brie crackers and phyllo wrapped asparagus became yearly staples.



**David Balog** - April 29 at 05:55 PM



“ I used to look forward to hearing the menu every year! I love how creative she was!

**Kim McNamee** - April 29 at 06:26 PM



“ Gino Ranieri lit a candle in memory of Tammy R. (nee: Caldwell) Balog



**Gino Ranieri** - April 29 at 05:50 PM