April Sings... a lot.

In loving memory of Monica Walsh Rinier MacGregor

I've never been good at limiting myself to 133 characters, so this may be less brevity of wit than you're accustomed to from Monica.

Monica, impecably dressed as always, with her mother.

This past weekend, we as a family lost Monica. What we didn't immediately realize was that we weren't the only ones who lost her. We knew she was passionate about her Twitter activity, but we didn't know that she had amassed so many dear friends and followers. To be so loved by nearly 70,000 people is a true blessing and she was always so happy when she talked about her Twitter family. I don't know how she kept up with so many people, but from what I see, she did and she was special to you. We definitely wanted to make sure we communicated with you as we know many of you have been grieving alongside us.

It was touching to see so many "wearing" her avatar in tribute.We had been working up to posting something about a hashtag to gather all the good wishes, condolences, and compliments for Monica under, so we were so
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mischievous streak, very strong opinions, and a certain charismatic quality that made people listen when she spoke. She was very family oriented, like most of our family. Her closest friends were among her family.

Monica, easy as ever, with her mother and 3 of her 5 sisters.

She did not have an easy life in the last 15 years, losing her mother was devastating. Then she lost her father, brother, and husband all in the same year. Then, not too long after, she lost a young niece she was extremely close to. It was not an easy time for any of us, but she felt it keenly. When she moved from California to Pennsylvania to be closer to her sisters and her daughter, she had lost most of her exuberance. But when she found twitter, it seemed to spark something and bring her out of her shell and give her excitement about life again. We are as touched as she would have been at the torrent of tweets and tributes.

Monica with her mother and her favorite brother.

Monica left us on Saturday, February 7th. We truly wish we knew the exact cause, but a full autopsy was not given to us. But it was either due to complications arising from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or a refusal to receive proper medical attention after a fall the previous week. This staunch refusal of medical attention was something characteristic of her and we truly wish we'd been more insistent that she accept that help when she needed it. It was shocking and sad, but we keep trying to find hope somewhere in it.
Monica passed on the liturgical feast day of St. Colette, namesake of her younger sister, housemate, and constant companion Colette (who wants you to know she always enjoyed hearing about especially amusing quotes from Monica’s followers and how special they were to her). We take that as a lovely sign to assure us that Monica is in heaven, happy until we all meet again. One quote about St. Colette is that “she was not only a woman of sincere piety, but also intelligent and energetic, and exercised a remarkable power over all her associates.” If that doesn’t describe Monica as well, then I don’t know what does.

Baby Monica striking a glamorous pose.

Her daughter, Debbie, as well as the rest of us, will miss her presence. “Bossy Monica” was a fitting name for her and she knew it. Even writing this, I can imagine her over my shoulder, telling me what pictures to veto. But that bossiness was tempered with a sweetness and she could go from willfulness to laughter in under a heartbeat.

I believe she is in good company with a husband, a brother, a young niece, and her parents waiting to welcome her. It’s only we who are mourning.

There will be no viewing as per Monica’s wishes and her remains will be cremated and buried in California with her late husband. Her funeral mass will not be immediate due to extenuating family circumstances so that the
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California side of her family can come to say goodbye and so we have time to send her off in the style she would have wanted.

If any of you who live in the Delaware County area would like to participate in this celebration of her life and faith, it will be at her childhood parish.

Saturday, February 28th, 2015, 11:00 AM
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
316 East Broadway Avenue
Clifton Heights, PA 19018
(directions here)

Monica, looking mischievous, second from bottom left

Monica, grinning with her growing family (just 7 more to come!), far right.
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Monica with her younger sister, Cathy.

We'll miss you, Monica.

Her sister, Colette, wanted to add the obituary she wrote for The Delaware County Times.
Monica H. Walsh-MacGregor

Monica H. Walsh-MacGregor (Twitter: aka “Bossy Monica, Mrs. Darcy, @Le-
marquand”), our beauty queen, died suddenly on February 7, 2015 (feast day of St. Colette).

Monica was the 2nd daughter of 13 beautiful children of late Ray-
mond and Renee Walsh, of Laguna Niguel, CA and widow of Paul Mac Gregor of California. She is sur-
vived by her beloved daughter Deborah Fecho, lived with Colette and Joe Ko-
zlowski, and many sisters and brothers, nieces and nephews, including great.

She always talked about her daughter Debbie. She recently spoke of April W.,
Patrick W., Joey G., Freddy G. and Madeleine W. and Jessica and also her re-
cently deceased cousin Jimmy Mullen and niece Renee Grandizio.

She prayed for her sisters Cathy, Regina, Colette, and her brother Michael.

She also had a huge fol-
loving at Twitter, under the user names listed above, that became her family as well towards the end of her life.

Her following at Twitter, amazed and overwhelmed on causes that spoke to her. When she could not right a wrong, she left it to “Karma Cafe” as she called it. She was proud to be non-politically correct in her stand-
ings.

She had an outgoing personality and could be quite a character.

She truly loved finding the Twitter World and was happy she found herself using her writing skills and many more of her talents, leading up to a following of 90,000 followers — including some big-shots, and she loved them all.

She put a lot of research and time into picking just the right photos, quotes and articles to please her fol-

owing. They were family to her in her last days.

Monica had made a lot of new plans for 2015, however, they have been cut short when she was called home to God on February 7.

A Funeral Mass is being held on Saturday, Feb. 28th, at 11 a.m., Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 316 E. Broadway Ave., Clifton Heights, PA 19018.

Mass cards are appreciated, however, in lieu of flowers due to the Lenten season, the family is not...
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40 comments:

kyleemckinney February 15, 2015 at 12:42 AM

April, I cant thank you enough for keeping #BossyMonica's Twitter family in the loop. You can't imagine how many of us have now had 'the talk' with our loved ones in letting our Twitter friends know if something should happen. Not only that, but after your "Twitter family meant the world to her" tweet, hundreds sat down and wrote thank you tweets to our followers, to make sure they knew we appreciate them in our life - even if we never meet. BossyMonica had that way about her. I never met her, never even spoke to her outside of Twitter, and was stunned to realize how much losing her affected me. To be that affected by someone you've never met - it speaks quite a bit to the person's affect on your life. She will be remembered by so many of us who were lucky enough to have had just a part of her in our lives. Her love for God, her deep faith, her unwavering commitment to conservative causes and her banter will leave a deep hole in our daily lives.

Again, thank you so much for allowing us the honor of joining your family in missing, and in honoring the memory of BossyMonica.

-KyMcKinney @bloggingly

Reply

Replies

April Walsh February 15, 2015 at 2:25 AM

Thank you so much. We truly have been touched and even overwhelmed by how many people have tweeted in tribute.

Out of the family, Monica and I were the only ones with an active internet life. I did manage to get access to her accounts to keep them open from my end, but it took time, so I take the same lesson you have. I want to make sure, should anything suddenly happen to me, it's easier for my loved ones to notify those I am close to online. My friends aren't quite as many as my Aunt Monica's -- just fellow nerds who enjoy the same nerdy things I do on blogging sites. But there is no line between them and my "real life" friends for me and, in some cases, they know me better just from giving me advice on my life from an outside perspective when I can't see the forest for the trees.

I am deeply mourning for her loss, but I always prefer, as a woman of faith, to believe everything that happens is for the good. If this helps people consider their internet family or even, I truly hope, helps people accept the help they need or go to the hospital instead of insisting they're okay as I wish my aunt had done, then this will be for the good. We never know what ripples our actions and events will make. As they say, it's n God's time, not ours.

"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you—oracle of the LORD—plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope."

— Jeremiah 29:11
Anonymous  February 15, 2015 at 3:08 AM

Thank you April, for allowing Monica's 'Twitter Family' to share in this most difficult time, with you & your family.

Her influence will be felt for a long time to come.

It is saddening to learn of the losses she suffered in the past years, some of us too keenly know, how painful & debilitating such trauma can have on one's spirit. That Monica overcame her grief and found again, a zest for life and others, to share her passions of right and wrong, in contributing to HELP restore good honest decency in our world, with humor, snark, wit and knowledge, speaks volumes of the inner strength she possesses.

One of the cutest tributes from Twitter I saw, was a cartoon of 'Bossy Monica' at the Pearly Gates exclaiming to St. Peter... "What no coffee? No Twitter"?

(;o)

’Twas a gift to have glimpsed such a Lady as Monica, and to be one of her many many Tweeps in Type.

Den Zegen, Blessings without end...

@BlueGood2

Reply

Replies

April Walsh  February 15, 2015 at 3:24 AM

Thank you so much for sharing in this with us.

I have been trying to keep track of the tweets in tribute to her, but I haven’t yet seen this cartoon (by the way, her coffee fixation is shared by me, my father/her brother @kwalsh5506 and her parents). We really would love to see it. If you could tweet it to me (@AprilmWalsh) or paste it here, I’d be much obliged.

We really so miss her and are comforted to be joined by so many.

Reply

Anonymous  February 15, 2015 at 7:05 AM

So glad you posted this. I didn't know Monica well, but I always noticed her tweets and I remember when she first followed me. And there was a certain weight to her tweets. I could tell she wasn't just another person on Twitter. She had something to say and when she tweeted, people listened and responded... lots of them. I feel like I know her a little better now. And I'm glad her twitter family has brought you some joy in what must be a very hard time for you all. God bless you.
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oldhickory49
Reply

- Replies

April Walsh February 16, 2015 at 1:59 AM
Thanks so much. I’m sure she’d be overwhelmed at the response.

Reply

David Prescott February 15, 2015 at 7:43 AM
I was saddened to hear of Monica's passing she was a true Patriot and I was honored to be one of her thousands of followers. I will miss her wit and her passion. people like Monica do not come along everyday.

@prescottgolf014
Reply

- Replies

April Walsh February 16, 2015 at 1:59 AM
She was definitely one of a kind. :D Thanks so much.

Reply

Jaded February 15, 2015 at 7:55 AM
What a joy Monica was and her spirit lives on in those of us who will continue her flight for the America she so loved. God Bless you and your family during this trying time. I like to believe that she was giggling at the trending too :)

Reply

- Replies

April Walsh February 16, 2015 at 2:00 AM
She was giggling for sure. I know she'd have been pleased as punch to see the many sweet things you've all been saying.

Reply

Anonymous February 15, 2015 at 9:49 AM
Thank you so much for including us in her passing as so many of us were truly a part of her life, she will be missed. May you find comfort in this time of sorrow.

Reply

- Replies
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http://aprilwalsh.blogspot.com/2015/02/in-loving-memory-of-monica-wa...
Thank you for this!

Reply

April Walsh  February 16, 2015 at 2:05 AM
It was the least we could do.

Reply

Anonymous  February 15, 2015 at 6:57 PM
Monica's passing was a shock, but I'm not surprised a bit to learn what a fun, friendly, and caring person she was in her offline life. May God in Heaven bless your family and give you peace and comfort as you cope with the loss of your beloved Monica. #MissingHerTweets @RuhRohReuben

Reply

April Walsh  February 16, 2015 at 2:05 AM
Thank you very much.

Reply

Anonymous  February 15, 2015 at 7:10 PM
Thank you for your updates. May Monica find comfort and peace with those who went before her. May we remember to always grab hold of the Lord, like the Bridegroom He is, and walk with Him even inch of the way, everyday... For no one knows when our time comes. Peace in God the Father & the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you. With love & prayers for all of Monica's loved ones, @MissLiberty (Sheri)

Reply

Anonymous  February 15, 2015 at 7:28 PM
PS: As you know, we adore her and will miss her, so much... I was shocked and sobbed. On a side note: She was so passionate and forthright (which we love about her) that she was suspended on Twitter via attacks from people who hate the truth on March 29/30 2013... We call it "Twitter Gulag." Immediately, I knew and "petitioned" twitter on her behalf. She was silenced, but bounced right back, much stronger, wittier, passionate than ever-Amen. Love that lady. Sheri

April Walsh  February 16, 2015 at 2:08 AM
I think Aunt Monica actually told me about that. We didn't talk about our internet lives too often as I'm not political as she was and she wasn't nerdy like me. But she was very up in arms when that happened and, I think, just a little gleeful.
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Grammys. These days it's difficult to express feelings to the opposite gender, especially with stalking, etc. So the best we do is send a few tweets and retweet a lot. It was my pleasure to make a digital St. Patrick's day card off the display window of a hair style shop in downtown Shelby, NC, a picture I took. The theme was very St. Patrick and of course Monica touted being Irish. My dad's dad's lineage is Scottish/Irish and his mother's German. I've like Monica from the git-go, but didn't realize how much until we got the sad news. I'm 63 and very happily married to a wonderful woman. No, I'm not a "Nancy," but the news brought tears to my eyes. Our Monica was just that, our Monica as well as yours. Thank you for this bit of a biography and images. I took screen captures that I'll repost on the anniversary of her passing. I've done this in other forums and it's been well received. Thanks for sharing how discovery of Twitter revived her and her spark. It sure was evident on Twitter, at least that she was full of it, :-). We're all in this together and we're family.

Thank you again for taking time for us, Monica's family is most gracious.

Certo

Reply

Anonymous February 18, 2015 at 10:23 AM
Thank you monica for waking me up thank you for reminding us were we came from i miss your tweets everyday - uncle steve

Reply

zombywolf February 21, 2015 at 2:04 AM
I will miss her tweets...the snarky 1e the most...she was one of first to follow me back when I really began tweeting regularly

Reply

zombywolf February 21, 2015 at 2:04 AM
I will miss her tweets...the snarky 1e the most...she was one of first to follow me back when I really began tweeting regularly

Reply

Anonymous February 22, 2015 at 4:32 PM
I learned a lot about being a proud conservative from Monica's tweets. She was one of my Twitter teachers. Snarky and smart - a killer combo. RIP, Boss.

Reply

Anonymous February 22, 2015 at 8:50 PM
I wish you would have never picked up a cigarette, Monica. Those things are deadly.

Reply

Anonymous February 23, 2015 at 9:51 PM
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