



Marise "Risi" L. Compass

May 1, 1961 - December 24, 2021

Marise (Risi) L. Compass

I was born May 1, 1961 (I would say that Mom yelled out "May Day! May Day!"

because she knew how much trouble I would be). I was the third of six children - we

were the local Brady Bunch, except we lived in a much smaller house and had no maid. I

remember spending most of our childhood years playing outdoors when the weather was

good (and sometimes even if it wasn't). A nice big backyard with apple trees (the apples

weren't the tastiest but they were awesome for throwing) and a perfect redbud to climb,

numerous neighborhood kids who were luckily our age to join in our escapades, a big

empty field and parking lot to play ball, and bicycles to ride up and down the street and to

roam beyond - all provided hours of entertainment, and we were set. But we had to find

our own way to keep occupied on stormy, or otherwise indoor days, and I liked to spend

my time reading, daydreaming and creating art - usually drawing. We also played

"School" and I was very often the teacher--and that became my calling, as it turned out.

After working a number of years in newspaper production in Southern California (you

can take the girl out of SoCal, but you can't take SoCal out of the girl--how I loved living

there: being close to the refreshing ocean, hiking the local San Gabriel mountains and the

fascinating deserts, going on spring wildflower excursions, the list goes on and on), I

changed careers and started working with special needs children, most with behavior

disorders, social issues and learning disabilities. What a fantastic job: super rewarding

and full of wonderful administrators, teachers, aides and other staff called to do the same

thing. Eventually I chose to move back to Missouri to help my aging parents, and again I found

work as a teacher. This time I used my SEMO State University degree in Art Education

and became the PreK - 6 Art Teacher at Woodland R-IV School district in Marble Hill for

just over 13 years. Great kids, excellent staff, incredible friends--I loved being a

Cardinal! As I grew older, I became interested in gardening, and spent many hours

preparing, planting, weeding and maintaining my front and back yard flower gardens -

they were my pride and joy as long as the growing season lasted.

I really have few regrets. I wish I had learned to play the guitar sooner and had practiced more. I wish I had asked my parents and grandparents more about their lives and recorded their replies (so I would have written that book I always meant to compose). I wish I had spent less time worrying and more time observing and reflecting. My mantra became "It is what it is." My advice? Do what feels right, don't sweat the small stuff, be kind, tolerant and positive, and encourage and keep your sense of humor. Tell others who are important to you that you love them and show it--you never know if you may get that chance again. I love you all, my students, friends and family - Risi

Survivors include brothers Andrew, Eric (Kyle Owens) and Kevin (Melissa) Rellergert, sisters Julie Freeman and Melanie (Tim) Beard; nephews Christopher and Nathan Rellergert, and nieces Courtney Rellergert and Brittany, Erica and Brennan Beard.

She was preceded in death by her parents Herbert W. Rellergert and Mary L. Chafin.

The family would like to thank all her friends and coworkers for the tremendous love and support given to her during this difficult time.

We would also like to thank the doctors, nurses and staff of Southeast Cancer

Center, St Louis University Hospital and Bone Marrow Clinic, and Southeast Hospice for taking such good care of her.

Visitation will be from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30 at Ford and Sons Mount Auburn Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau.

Memorial service will follow at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, at the funeral home.

The family asks that masks be worn to help prevent the spread of COVID.

Memorial contributions may be made to Southeast Hospice, or Southeast Health Foundation Cancer Care Fund.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **30**. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Memorial Service

DEC **30**. 5:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

MS

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Risi was such a beautiful person. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families at this difficult time.

Mark Stroder and family.

Mark Stroder - January 02, 2022 at 09:33 AM

AB

“ Risi was a kind and gentle soul, who always made time for her students and co-workers. I had the privilege of working with Risi for the 13 years she was our Pre-K through 6th grade Art teacher. I also had the honor of Risi teaching my own son a great love for Art, and he nor I ever forgot the love and support Risi always showed to others. Risi, you will be greatly missed and we loved having you in our lives. May You Now Rest in Peace with our Heavenly Father. God Bless all the family of Risi.

Angie and Jackson Batchelor

angie batchelor - December 30, 2021 at 03:50 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Marise "Risi" L. Compass.



December 30, 2021 at 11:11 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Marise "Risi" L. Compass.



December 30, 2021 at 09:55 AM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss .. my thoughts and prayers goes out to your family 🙏🕊️🙏
Risi was a beautiful person inside and out ..
Rest in peace Risi



Lorene Petitt - December 29, 2021 at 07:17 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marise "Risi" L. Compass.



December 28, 2021 at 12:04 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Marise "Risi" L. Compass.



December 27, 2021 at 10:20 PM

SM

“ *Risi always had a smile every time I saw her. She just was a happy soul. I loved her passion for her family and nephews and nieces. She was truly a wonderful 'May Day, May Day' spirit. Risi, you did do a lot of cool stuff during your short span on earth including the First Fridays we'd occasionally share. Our love and sympathy to your precious family and friends. Dr. Roy and Sande Meyer*

Sande Meyer - December 27, 2021 at 02:54 PM

JP

*Julie and Andy, I am so sorry for your loss of Risi. I have such fond memories of our days at Jefferson Elementary. You were both such kind classmates and your younger sister followed in your footsteps . Please know I am praying for your family at this time.
Judy Bannister Patenaude*

Judy Patenaude - December 31, 2021 at 07:59 PM