



**Cathi
Woods- Bacher**

10-4-1961

5-16-2020



Following is the obituary read by John Bacher at the service, Friday, May 22, 2020

First, I want to thank everyone for attending today. Unfortunately, with this whole Coved thing we can't get together and have an in person gathering, but I appreciate you viewing remotely.

Second, thank you for all the kinds words that people have shared about Cathi and her impact in their lives. One of my regrets is that Cathi cannot see those comments. She had really struggled during the last 12 months, as her pain increased, with feeling she was not making an impact. I knew that wasn't true, and tried to convince her, but she still struggled.

Cathi's Biography or the story of the woman who loved red.

Cathi Lynn Woods was born October 4th, 1961 in Chattanooga TN and raised in North West Georgia in Mountain View. She served as a page in the Georgia Senate. She attended high school at Gordon Lee in Chickamauga GA. She loved her school and was very proud to attend there. She was active in cheerleading, and the rifle team. She also did modeling with the Teen Board, which lead to a life-long obsession with fashion and looking her best at all times. Anyone who knows her, will attest that she NEVER went out without being made-up and looking like she just walked off a photo shoot from Vogue magazine. (which she read religiously to see the latest fashion trends.)

She moved to Jackson Mississippi for her senior year of high school and was always crushed that she did not graduate from Gordon Lee. In 2019, we went back to Gordon Lee for the 40th class reunion and she was given an honorary diploma. Cathi was over-whelmed and touched by this. Thanks to Jan Wright for making that happen.

She spent a few years in Mississippi and Louisiana working before coming back to the Tennessee area and attending Trevecca Nazarene College studying marketing. She eventually ended up working for Estee Lauder, continuing her on-going love affair with make-up.

In 1989 she got pregnant with her son Joshua and was forced to leave Estee Lauder. Soon after having Joshua, Cathi started working at a Pregnancy Resource Center. She started as a receptionist and was soon running the center, leading her to study management techniques and develop leadership skills. She continued working with Pregnancy Centers off and on for almost 30 years.

Her work with pregnancy centers took her to numerous locations in Tennessee, Boston, Houston, Pennsylvania, and California.

While in Dayton Tennessee, she worked for an organization and created an abstinence sex education program which was so successful that they created "Cathi Woods Day" in the city of Dayton. Her work was also recognized by Christianity Today magazine and gave her national exposure. This led to many years of flying around the country to speak at pregnancy center fund-raising banquets. It also got her involved with CareNet, a national right to life group, where she spoke on leadership and fund-raising at their national conventions.

While in Boston, she was awarded a Tanner Business fellowship to attend Harvard Business School and their Social Enterprise program. She was very proud of that accomplishment which happened while working full-time and being a single mom. While in Boston she was selected to be in Who's Who in America 2002.

After the tragedy of 9/11, Cathi was invited to become the COO of the Todd Beamer (the famous man from Flight 93 who said "Let's Roll") foundation. Cathi reluctantly left Boston and moved to Princeton NJ to help run the foundation.

Cathi then moved to Delaware to become CEO of Girls Inc. of Delaware. When that situation didn't work out, she returned to Georgia and worked for two years for the WhyNo organization promoting abstinence sex education.

Returning to the pregnancy center world, Cathi then moved to Houston Texas and became the CEO of The Source for Women. After she fulfilled her three-year contract, she could not move from Texas fast enough, as she hated the heat and humidity of Houston.

That took her to Lewisburg Pennsylvania as CEO of Expectations, where she reached out to the diverse community of the Amish and students of Bucknell University. She also started a non-profit, the Campaign for Life and Compassion.

She then moved to California to be the CEO of a pregnancy center in the East Bay. Two days into that job, the IT consultant for the firm, me, came into setup her email. We started talking about changing some of the technology in the office, and one thing lead to another, and we had our first date Thanksgiving weekend 2011. I should have known that trouble was coming,

because she called to cancel the date because a temporary crown had broken off, but I volunteered to drive her to the dentist and spent 2 hours of our first date in the dentist's waiting room.

Something did go right from that first date (which by the way, was the first date she had had in 23 years – no pressure at all) , and soon we were almost inseparable. We attended my daughter's February wedding together. In March we travelled to Southern California so she could meet my parents, and on the trip back to Northern Cal, we stopped at Pismo Beach, where I proposed.

On April 15h, 2012, Cathi was going up the stairs at my house and tripped. Rather than falling on my dog, she threw herself to the left too hard, and went over the banister. She shattered all 7 ribs and ultimately ended up puncturing her lung in 2 places. She spent 3 weeks in the hospital and had 3 surgical procedures trying to put her back together. She came out of the hospital and during a follow up with the thoracic surgeon it was observed that her collar bone was not the correct position, which launched another surgery and a week in the hospital. 10 days after discharge we were married in our pastor's back yard (Thanks Jim and Linda Shields). Cathi's family could not attend the ceremony, so her dentist, Christina Mason, who was there for the beginning, was her only family present, except for her son, Josh, who was my best man, and my daughter, Samantha, who was the matron of honor.

She was declared permanently disabled by Social Security. The accident stopped her career, but not her desire to help women. After we moved to Lodi at the end of 2015, Cathi started getting more anxious to get back into investing in women. In May 2017, Cathi formed LeadHERship to help women embrace that they are powerful, priceless, and purposed. She used her disability money to fund LeadHerShip. She joined the Lodi Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Lodi. She immediately formed some very deep and meaningful friendships with various women and started teaching LeadHERship classes through the Chamber. She has had hundreds of women go through her classes and impacted EVERY woman she ever met. Most recently was selected as a Wonder Woman of San Joaquin County by San Joaquin Magazine, which she was very proud of.

She was a wonderful giving soul, who loved everyone she met. She is always remembered by those who meet her. She lived the mission statement of this church, to make everyone feel important, loved, and wanted.

She had had a bout of pneumonia at the beginning of April and had been terrified of dying alone in the hospital. She did not die alone, but rather passed away in her sleep lying next to me. That and the fact, that she is no longer in pain, but rather rejoicing with Jesus, have given me comfort during this past week.

She is survived by our son, Josh, her bonus daughter, Sam, her son-in-law, Abe. Also by her mother, Shirley Woods, her father Buddy Woods, her two sisters Susan Fullerton and Amy Wheeler. Her brother Jeff Woods preceded her in death. Numerous cousins, nephews, and aunts and uncles as well.