



# Ashley Elise Riggs

April 1, 1973 - November 8, 2020

Ashley Elise Riggs was born on April 1, 1973 in Abilene, Texas. On November 8th, 2020 she passed away after a long, courageous, inspirational battle with cancer. She graduated from Sanderson High School in Raleigh NC, the University of North Carolina and Illinois State University. She had a great love and talent for soccer and showed amazing grit, determination and passion on the field. Throughout her playing career, Ashley led her teams to the 1989 U16 National Championship, the 1991 4A State High School Championship and three NCAA UNC Women's Soccer Championships, (1992-1994) and co-captained the team her senior year.

Ashley was a highly successful and beloved coach at Cicero North Syracuse High School, Leesville Road High School, Meredith College and also coached many youth teams as well as ran summer soccer and character building camps. She had a gift and a passion for coaching, teaching and loving all her players and students.

Ashley has forever impacted our lives with her love for us all, with her faith in God, and with her humor and zest for life. She will be forever missed but will live on through those whose lives she has touched.

Ashley is survived by her life partner and wife, Beth Martin, parents, David and Marie Riggs, her brother and sister in law, Gresham and Jennifer Riggs, her sister and brother in law, Kelly and Keith Sandberg and her beloved nieces and nephews Maylin, Landon, Conner, Alaina and Zane.

In lieu of flowers, two opportunities of giving in Ashley's honor have been set up. A Place at the Table in downtown Raleigh, provides community and good food for all regardless of means. Ashley spent a lot of time there volunteering which brought her great joy. One of the things A Place at the Table will be doing is dedicating a composting area at the restaurant in her name. If you know Ashley, reusing and recycling were her passion (sometimes annoyingly so).

Donations can be sent to [www.tableraleigh.org/donate](http://www.tableraleigh.org/donate) or  
A Place at the Table  
P.O. Box 26205  
Raleigh, NC 27611  
(Please put Ashley's name in the memo of the check)

Also, an annual award is being set up in honor of Ashley through the UNC Women's Soccer program. This award will be presented annually to a player that demonstrates hard work, perseverance and fight. Monies will also go to sponsoring high school teams and players who otherwise may not be able to afford to attend UNC soccer camp.

Donations can be sent to:  
Educational Foundation (Women's Soccer)  
PO Box 2446  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515

\*put Ashley's name in the memo line and checks can be made out to Educational Foundation (Women's Soccer)

There will be a large celebration of her life in April 2021. Please follow her journey on <https://www.facebook.com/rallyforriggsy> for updates and details.

# Comments

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“ I am so sorry for your loss, and am deeply saddened to hear of this news. I met Ashley on a volunteer vacation in Colorado. We built trails for a week, and remained friends for years after. I visited Syracuse and she visited Boston and the Cape with friends. We took a couple trips; a long drive to NC to get some sun (and sing the same 5 songs over and over), and another time to Jackson Hole for snowboarding and snowmobiling through Yellowstone. She was a great friend, and we always had a lot of fun. Beth and Ashley visited in Boston, and I was able to meet them for a meal. Unfortunately I lost touch not long after that. I was just thinking of her today and decided to search Facebook to see if she got an account (after all these years), but sadly learned of her illness and passing. My sincere condolences to her family and friends. She was loved by many and will be missed.



**Nancy Migliozi** - December 31, 2020 at 01:28 AM

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“ Met Ashley at the Duke Cancer Center. A wonderful lady, I loved talking to her. She told me all about "A Place at the Table". I plan to visit there soon, in memory of her. I know she will be greatly missed.



**Sheila** - November 30, 2020 at 01:31 PM

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“ So fortunate to reconnect with Ashley decades after high school. It was such an honor to be considered her friend. She touched so many lives as a teammate, coach, teacher and friend- there is solace knowing she lives on in so many hearts. - Nancy Weigle

**Nancy Weigle** - November 23, 2020 at 08:57 PM

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“ I coached at Syracuse for a year, and I was extremely blessed to have met Ashley. Even though we only knew each for a short period of time, I am so thankful that we stayed in contact throughout all these years. I have met many people on my journey in life, but she is one of the best I have ever met. Ashley was fun, energetic, and she could always make everyone around her smile and laugh. I have admired her fight throughout the years, and her ability to always have a positive outlook on life. Even from afar, she has served as an inspiration for me. I will definitely miss our birthday and Valentine's Day text messages!! Much Love “V-tine” and may you rest in peace!! My Deepest Sympathy!! Clarisa Crowell

**Clarisa Crowell** - November 15, 2020 at 05:51 PM

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“ Coach Riggs (or Riggs as we would call her) was my absolute favorite “teacher!” Being in her PE class my Junior year of high school was the highlight of my high school years. We all loved her so dearly, and the world feels more empty without her in it. Yet, heaven is for sure rejoicing!! God got a really good one.

**Alex Dozier** - November 14, 2020 at 08:19 PM

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“ Dave, Marie and family, my heart and prayers go out to you. May Christ's peace surround you at this time and always! Love you guys. From Jerry Sprague

**Jerry R Sprague** - November 14, 2020 at 04:57 PM

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“ Sending my Deepest thoughts and prayers to the Riggs family.. Ash was a Great friend when she moved to Syracuse. So glad we always stayed in touch. I'm gonna miss All of the Marco Polos and texts. Especially during soccer Season. She gave such great advice. My team played for her this Season. I'll never forget how strong she was, and hard she fought. If I can be half the woman she is I'd be lucky. Much Love.

**Bernie** - November 14, 2020 at 03:20 PM

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“ Met Ashley in 1989 at SHS on soccer team. Everyone talked about this gifted new player we got and how lucky we were. Then I got to know her as a person and felt doubly lucky. I miss her, but I'm happy she is resting in peace and no longer in pain. She's with the angels now.

**Elena** - November 13, 2020 at 05:42 PM