



## Heather Marie McMeekan

August 9, 1968 - October 6, 2024

Heather Marie McMeekan (Platt), age 56, of Peoria Heights, formerly of Macomb, passed away on October 6, 2024.

She was born on August 9, 1968 in Park Ridge Illinois, to George and Iris (Petersen) Platt.

Heather is survived by her children, Iris McMeekan and Kellen McMeekan; her sisters, Anne (Tom) Atherton and Laura Croft; and her ex-husband Peter McMeekan.

She is preceded in death by her parents.

Heather held several positions throughout her life including Paramedic, Educator, and Webmaster. She taught hundreds of students during her years as the EMT program coordinator at Western Illinois University. She was the lead instructor for EMTv, a television series providing continuing education for Illinois EMT-Bs. She was also the founding faculty advisor for Western EMS, a student-run EMS service on the WIU campus.

Heather was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship while in Macomb and the Unitarian Universalist Church in Peoria. She served on the church's Women's Connection Council for six years, introduced other members to her love of kites and drumming, and led several workshops through the Fellowship.

She was a dedicated community activist and organizer. She served as Co-President of the Peoria Chapter of the National Organization of Women, founder and President of the Democratic Women of McDonough County, and was a founding member of both Indivisible West Central Illinois and the Racial Justice Coalition of West Central Illinois.

Heather had many passions in her life. She loved her children, kites, drumming, painting, sculpting, and scrapbooking. She loved to share her interests with others, and did so through the foundation of the Macomb Kite Festival, the Macomb Community Drum Circle, Macomb Pride, and many other organizations throughout her years.

Cremation rites have been accorded by Schmidt-Haller Burial & Cremation Services. A Celebration of Life will be held from 1 - 3 pm on November 16, 2024 at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Peoria, 3000 W. Richwoods Blvd, Peoria IL.

Words of comfort can be shared with the McMeekan family at [www.SchmidtHaller.com](http://www.SchmidtHaller.com)

Memorial donations may be made to the family's GoFundMe page. <https://gofund.me/0d3ccd55>

# Tribute Wall

AS

“ On the behalf of Western EMS our sincerest condolences goes out to you. As the founder of Western EMS, her vision and dedication shaped not only the organization but also the countless lives it touched. Her unwavering commitment to serving others and her leadership will always be remembered. My thoughts are with her family and friends during this incredibly difficult time. Western EMS is Heather's legacy and her hard work for the organization will continue to inspire all.

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**Alyssa Stropes** - November 10, 2024 at 09:17 PM

HM

“ Heather was a force of nature with the kindest soul. May you rest in power friend. heather mcilvaine-newsad

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**Heather McIlvaine-Newsad** - October 27, 2024 at 02:41 PM

AN

“ Heather Marie McMeekan

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**Anonymous** - October 26, 2024 at 08:05 AM

JC

“ Always willing to work for a good cause!

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**Jo Curtis** - October 22, 2024 at 08:44 AM

BH

“ Heather and I at the Women's March in 2018. Pussy hats on and ready to go!

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**Brenda Hance** - October 20, 2024 at 07:13 PM

BO

“ Heather was exceptional at networking and bringing people together to organize and fight for rights of all. Her friendship was unwavering, and i will miss our late night calls. She was never too busy to check in on me. My daughter loved her too. Someday we shall meet again.

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**Bonnie** - October 20, 2024 at 12:51 PM

AG

“ To Heather's children, you were a light in her life. She was an extraordinarily selfless person that loved you and her beloved Joey more than anything. Heather was the gold standard for causes involving social justice, compassion, empathy and caring for others. She will be greatly missed. Her service to so many, will live on in our hearts.

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**Anna G** - October 19, 2024 at 03:06 PM

MK

“ On behalf of She Votes Illinois, we are deeply saddened by the loss of our Advisory Council member Heather, a courageous advocate for justice and equality who touched the lives of so many. Heather's legacy of compassion and dedication will continue to inspire us, and they will be dearly missed. Our condolences to their family and all who loved them.

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**Maureen Keane** - October 18, 2024 at 04:51 PM

TR

“ Heather was such an amazing person. She was a relentless force for truth and justice and her absence leaves a tremendous hole in the Social Justice community.\n\nShe will be terribly missed. It still doesn't seem real that she is gone.

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**Tracy R** - October 18, 2024 at 11:13 AM