



# Vivienne Jane Kattapong

July 1, 1961 - June 26, 2020

Vivienne Jane Kattapong died June 26, 2020, at the age of 58, in Tucson, Arizona from cancer. She was born July 1, 1961 in Carmel, California. A neurologist for the State of Arizona, Jane loved chatting with strangers and learning their life stories, be it while cycling along Tucson's Loop path or at neurological advocacy trips to congressional leaders in Washington D.C. A world traveler, Jane lived in Okinawa, Japan until she attended high school in San Antonio, TX. She valued her Chinese-Mennonite German heritage and looked at the world through a multi-cultural lens. Jane earned degrees from Univ. of Chicago, Univ. of Washington, and Univ. of Texas (Galveston). Always quick witted and often hysterically funny, she also had a serious side. She appreciated deep discussions about everything from politics to medicine to relationships. An active member of two book clubs (Tucson and Albuquerque), Jane valued both the friendships she formed and the literary discussions. Most of all, Jane adored her four children. She leaves lone (of Ann Arbor), Yon, Chaiyo, and Voth Locher (all of Tucson), her sister Kristienne Kattapong (Adam Graber) of Ann Arbor, her brother Paul Kattapong (Sarah Kattapong) of Houston, father Paul Chaiyo Kattapong of Ann Arbor, and her nieces and nephews: Kimberly (Ross) Dettling, Lauren Kattapong, Seth Kattapong-Graber, and Evan Kattapong-Graber, and many cousins both in the US and Thailand. She was predeceased by her mother Verna Anna (nee Voth) Kattapong. Donations may be made to the "Jane Kattapong Children's Education Memorial Fund" in person at Wells Fargo Bank, or via the Zelle app (yonlocher@gmail or 5202404971). Paper checks made out to "Jane Kattapong Children's Education Memorial Fund" can also be mailed to Kristi Kattapong, 3987 Warren Ct, Ann Arbor, MI, 48105

To ensure the health and safety of our community, we are following all guidelines set by local, state and CDC officials.

# Comments

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“ Jane was my dearest friend at work and one of my closest confidantes outside the workplace as well for the past decade. She helped me through some difficult times medically and personally and was a kind generous sweet soul who was compassionate towards all in her work, towards her colleagues and most of all

**marilyn orenstein** - July 08, 2020 at 02:48 AM



“ Was a loving And generous and proud mother Of her 4 children

**Marilyn Orenstein, M.D.** - July 08, 2020 at 09:35 PM



“ Dr. Kattapong was very accessible. She was the type of person I could open up to, and talk my heart out, without the restraints of wondering whether I would be resented, disregarded, or despised. I am not much of a talker, but Dr. Kattapong was a kind of person that I could share my celebrations and concerns. She really had an accessible spirit. I remember the morning I stormed into the office with a bright smile and such joy. I could not keep the joy to myself. I had to tell someone. Dr. Kattapong was the “first” person I bragged to saying, “My baby just started Kindergarten today!” Dr. Kattapong joined me in my joy. She genuinely understood my craziness and shared my joy! This was the beginning of many shared “child” talks we had for the few minutes we saw each other in the break room. In later years that followed, she provided good suggestions about different schools in Tucson, extra-curricular activities, and even a good baby-sitter in case of emergency. I will of course miss Dr. Kattapong’s expertise and professionalism in neurology and vision claims. However, as I look back, I think the best lesson I learn from her is that life is worth living, and living to the fullest. Despite her illness, she fought to the end. Just as her hand-written note posted above her computer screen saying, “God Meet Me Where I Am”; she lived life to the best she could with God on her side. It shows in what she has left behind. Her 4 wonderful kids, and all the lives she has touched in her unique and only way. Life is worth living, and living with God, so that we can take what we have felt with God, and share it with others. I will remember Dr. Kattapong as someone who fought life correctly, and in the end, finished strong.  
Margaret Rweikiza-Polk.

**Margaret Rweikiza-Polk** - July 06, 2020 at 12:29 PM

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“ Jane Kattapong was a light in our lives, and in my life. I feel I have been enriched by her presence in our workplace, as a solid friend among friends in that wonderful space. Graceful, thoughtful, generous, tremendously intelligent. Playful, and often silly, we laughed a lot during walks to Circle K in the mornings. And discovered we had much in common in our values and beliefs. She was hopeful and trusting about the world and with others, in spite of hurts she had experienced. She reserved her judgements, and where I would go with some ego and self, she with dignity remained, holding to her generosity of spirit, which informed her perspective on life.

I think I can perceive some of the situation she found herself in, towards the end of things. And accept her reasons, of course. But also am left to wonder, if perhaps she did not relish long goodbyes, or hold nostalgic feelings too closely. In any case, I will hold her in my heart for the rest of my life, and continue to say goodbye, with gratitude for all she has been.

**Eric Penner, Ph.D.** - July 06, 2020 at 09:52 AM

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“ I still can't believe this. Just found out a couple of days ago. Jane and I conversed just a few months ago. We had a wonderful text exchange. We had no idea. Our oldest played as toddlers. Her beautiful successful children. I can see her beautiful smile and feel her beautiful spirit. What a loss to society of such a lovely intelligent human being who lived to serve others. God Please bless her soul and wonderful children.

**Janet Simpkins** - July 05, 2020 at 02:53 AM

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“ I worked with Jane for 15 years. She was so unique that sometimes I wondered what planet she was from that had such wonderful, kind, and selfless beings. She spoke proudly of her children and was clearly a devoted mother. I am sad.

**John Fahlberg** - July 04, 2020 at 07:55 PM

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“ For 10 years, I worked in the cubicle next to Jane at DDSA. She was more than an intelligent, gifted colleague that I turned to for help with difficult neurology cases. She was my friend. She was kind, courageous, and loving, and I miss her greatly. When I was going thru hard times in my own life, she would bring in little treats, cookies, and candy and leave them on my desk, to tell me that she noticed the hard times, and she cared. Her 4 children were truly the center of her life, and she would tell me, "I'm IN LOVE with my kids!". When I would come in to work, I would read the hand written note she had posted above her computer screen that read, "God Meet Me Where I Am", and that note and the spirit Jane embodied was such a comfort to me in my own hard times. I will deeply miss her.  
Jensine Wright

Jensine Wright - July 03, 2020 at 08:33 PM

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“ Jane was a light in our hearts, minds and souls. Today we have come to find out our dear friend has passed. We shared so much my heart is heavy thinking of her young adult children. To her kids, please always be connected for we have a deep love for each of you.

The Kung-Kortes - July 02, 2020 at 04:31 PM

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“ I'm not sure which I will miss most - my work buddy that I shared so many laughs with, or my work buddy that I could so rely on for guidance on Neurology cases. Either way I will miss her! Rest in peace my dear Jane.

Martha A Goodrich, MD - July 01, 2020 at 07:06 PM

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“ DDSA lost an amazing team member. Dr. Kattapong was truly an incredible woman who had such an amazing effect on everyone who knew her. Her warmth and generosity made us all better people and I/we consider ourselves lucky to have known her. She will be missed terribly.

John DeMaria - July 01, 2020 at 07:04 PM

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“ Dr. Kattapong was always a friend to me. We helped each other through some difficult times. I am thankful I had the opportunity to work with her. I pray for God's peace that passes all understanding to guard the hearts and minds of all the friends and family.

My heart is very heavy!

Stephanie Ruffin

**Stephanie Ruffin** - July 01, 2020 at 05:08 PM

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“ I only knew her briefly but every interaction was sweet and respectful. Sending condolences to her family.

**Rachel P** - July 01, 2020 at 04:58 PM

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“ Dr. Kattapong was a bright light in our office, and though her absence brings great sorrow, the meaningful memories of time spent with her continue to illuminate our workspace. May your experiences with Dr. Kattapong bring helpful reminders of her joy, playfulness, achievements, friendship, and her enduring presence in our community. My deepest condolences to friends, family, and other colleagues. No one can fill her sandals. She will be missed.

**Amy Scully** - July 01, 2020 at 04:52 PM

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“ So shocked and saddened to learn of Dr. Kattapong's passing. She will be greatly missed. You are all in my thoughts.

**Julie Hills** - July 01, 2020 at 04:32 PM

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“ We will miss her smile around the office! Your family is in my prayers.

**Kristy Nelson** - July 01, 2020 at 04:09 PM

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“ So saddened to hear of Jane's passing. She was a treasure and will be missed dearly.

**Jaine Foster-Valdez** - July 01, 2020 at 03:04 PM

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“ I loved her!

**James Green** - June 30, 2020 at 09:42 PM

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“ Jane was my very dear friend. I will miss her terribly. My profound condolences to her children and to all her family and friends around the world.  
JJ Green, Tallahassee, FL

**JJ Green** - June 30, 2020 at 07:25 PM