

Walking in Memory



After a short painful year of battling scleroderma, Catherine Keilty passed in May 2008 at the age of 49. She left behind a husband, Tom, and three children, TJ, Caitlin, and Casey. The family was devastated, but in an effort to displace grief with hope, the Keilty family became impassioned to help find a cure.

That August, TJ and Casey started a 3v3 basketball tournament called **BallinForACure** to help raise money for the [Johns Hopkins Scleroderma Center](#). Beginning in a backyard, the tournament has grown to nearly 100 participants and is held annually at Loyola Blakefield High School in Baltimore, Maryland. That October, the family began what would become an annual golf event, Tee It Up For Cathi Keilty, with the incredible support of Tom's company, PHH Arval (now Element Fleet). The golf tournament was successful in raising nearly one million dollars for Johns Hopkins Scleroderma Center from 2008-2015. Tom Keilty sits on the Board of the Johns Hopkins Scleroderma Center,

and **TJ Keilty sits on the Board for the Scleroderma Foundation Greater Washington, DC Chapter.**

The Keilty family is participating in this year's **Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma 5K Walk/Run on May 20, 2017** in memory of Cathi. "This will be our second year participating in the Walk, and we are thrilled to be supporting such an incredible Foundation in their journey of hope," says TJ Keilty.

[Register today to join Team Keilty and others at our 2017 Walk!](#)

A Tribute to Catherine Keilty

"Cathi knew what truly mattered in this life. She lived each day with gratitude and exuberance. Even her diagnosis, devastating as it was, she handled with acceptance, strength and grace. This is who she was. She will remain always in my heart." - Patti Szopiak (Cathi's sister)

Cathi Keilty was born Catherine Anne Sailor on January 15, 1959 in Redwood City, California. Her family moved around in her early years, as her father was an executive with Boeing Computer Services. She had three siblings, Patti, Michael, and David, all of whom she loved dearly.

Cathi graduated from Garnet Valley High School in Philadelphia, PA where she was salutatorian in the senior class, graduating with a 4.2 GPA. Cathi graduated with honors from California State University, Long beach with a degree in chemical engineering. Having sorted through job offers from 11 different companies, Cathi began her career with Chevron as a process engineer in their refinery in El Segundo, California.



In May 1983, Cathi and Tom met on a night out celebrating her sister Patti's graduation from the University of Utah. Tom was struck by Cathi's natural beauty and endless smile. However, on this particular evening, Cathi wanted nothing to do with Tom as she had a boyfriend back home in California. Fortunately for Tom, a few months later Cathi and her boyfriend broke up, and the rest, as they say, is history. Cathi and Tom married on August 3, 1985 in a beautiful cathedral in Salt

Lake City, Utah. Together they produced three wonderful children, TJ, Caitlin, and Casey. A fourth child, Sean Michael, died of heart complications just a few days after birth.



Cathi quit working in 1998 to focus on her real calling: full-time mother. She was a phenomenal mother and a devoted wife. Cathi's greatest quality was her positive attitude and outlook on life. She never had a bad word to say about anyone, and never, ever complained. She had an infectious smile that reflected her zest for living. Her greatest joy was her children. She never missed a sporting event in which they were participating, and she traveled to out-of-town

soccer tournaments or Irish dance festivals for many years. Cathi loved to shop, especially with Caitlin. The two of them made trips to every mall or outlet center they could find, and even spent a weekend at the Mall of America. Cathi loved the beach and Tom loved to ski, so they compromised with summer trips to the beach, and winter trips to the Rocky Mountains. Cathi enjoyed skiing, but was just as happy sitting next to a fire, reading a good book.

Cathi could pretty much do anything. She was an engineer, sports lover, event organizer, PTA board member, church volunteer, home decorator and friend. The title she cherished the most was "Mom." She enjoyed sewing, knitting and decorating. Her home was a tapestry of her work, as she sewed all the curtains, many of the bedspreads and wallpapered the walls. Cathi did not require much to be happy - she just loved being a mom. She loved spending time with friends, especially her friend Mary; her sister, Patti; and her mother, Eleanor.

The Keilty family says: Cathi was a gift from God, and while she was only on this earth for 49 years, the world is a better place because Cathi Keilty was here!

The Scleroderma Foundation Greater Washington, DC Chapter is very grateful to the Keilty family for sharing their memories of Cathi with us and for inspiring all of us. We also thank them for their efforts to help the Chapter raise funds through our Walk for scleroderma research and to provide support services and educational forums to our members and their families.

2017 Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma Walk



40 DAYS UNTIL THE WALK!

[Register Today!](#)

7th Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma

Greater Baltimore Walk/Run

May 20, 2017

Atholton High School Track

6520 Freetwon Road

Columbia, MD 21044

Hosted by the Scleroderma Foundation Greater Washington, DC Chapter and Sponsored by Atholton High School and the Atholton High School Athletic Boosters.

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