



Milena DeDobbelaere

June 24, 1982 - December 26, 2024

Milena (nee Račić) DeDobbelaere, 42, peacefully passed away on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024, in her childhood home in Libertyville surrounded by her family after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born June 24, 1982, in Waukegan, living in Grayslake for the past 11 years with her family. Milena worked as an Accountant for Sidley Austin Law Firm in Chicago for 24 years. You rarely saw her without a smile on her face, a camera in her hand, and a laugh that was so infectious you couldn't help but join in. She spent most of her free time in the last 10 years photographing her sons' and nephews' sporting events while being their biggest cheerleader. Her freedom in life, in emotion, and choice was her most enduring trait. She was the bravest of us Račić sisters - the toughest, the most courageous, especially with extreme roller coasters, the most compassionate and endearing animal lover.

She was the first one to get married, the first to have kids - the best boy mom anyone could imagine. When life threw its hardest challenge her way, she fought like a lioness, with strength and grace. She left us too soon, but her love, her courage and her spirit will stay with us forever. She will be missed dearly, and we cherish every moment we were lucky enough to share with her. Triple "M" for life!.

Milena was a loving Wife, Mother, Aunt, Daughter, Sister, and Cousin. She is survived by her husband of 16 years, Aaron DeDobbelaere; 2 children, Vladimir (11) and Nikola (10); her parents, Milovan and Zorica Račić (Ćulafić), two sisters and their families, Mirjana (John) Račić with Jovan Peterson (6) and Maria (Dejan) Kotur with Filip (10), Anastasija (6), and Kristina (2). Also, loved by countless friends, family, in-laws and kumovi from all over the world.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 am-12:00 pm with an Opelo (Funeral) service at 12:00 pm on Thursday, January 2, 2025, at the New Gračanica Serbian Orthodox Monastery, 35240 N. Grant Street, Third Lake, IL, with interment immediately following. There will be a luncheon following services. Arrangements are by the Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville. Info: 847-362-3009 or please share a memory at www.burnettdane.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Forever Fortunate Felines <https://foreverfortunatelifelines.org>

[In Serbian]

Milena (rođena Račić) DeDobbelaere, 42, mirno je preminula u četvrtak, 26. decembra 2024, godine u svom domu iz detinjstva okružena porodicom nakon hrabre borbe sa rakom. Rođena je 24. juna 1982, godine u Vaukeganu, živeći u Grejslejku poslednjih 11 godina sa svojom porodicom. Milena je radila kao

računovođa za advokatsku kancelariju Sidlei Austin u Čikagu, punih 24 godine. Retko ste je videli bez osmeha na licu, kamere u ruci i smeha koji je bio toliko zarazan da niste mogli da se ne pridružite. Većinu svog slobodnog vremena provela je u poslednjih 10 godina fotografišući sportske događaje svojih sinova i nećaka, dok je bila njihova najveća navijačica. Njena sloboda u životu, u emocijama i izboru bila je njena najtrajnije osobina. Bila je najhrabrija od nas sestara Račić - najčvršća, najhrabrija, posebno sa ekstremnim toboganima.

Ona je bila prva koja se udala, prva koja je imala decu - najbolji dečak mama koju je neko mogao zamisliti. Kada je život bacio svoj najteži izazov, na njen način, borila se kao lavica, sa snagom i blagodarnosti. Napustila nas je prerano, ali njena ljubav, njena hrabrost i njen duh će zauvek ostati sa nama. Jako će nam nedostajati, a mi ćemo negovati svaki trenutak koji smo imali sreće da podelimo sa njom. Triple "M" za život!.

Milena je bila voljena supruga, majka, tetka, ćerka, sestra i rođaka. Nad njom su ostali suprug od 16 godina, Aaron DeDobbelaere; 2 dece, Vladimir (11) i Nikola (10); njeni roditelji, Milovan i Zorica Račić (Ćulafić), dve sestre i njihove porodice, Mirjana (John) Račić sa Jovanom Petersonom (6) i Marija (Dejan) Kotur sa Filipom (10), Anastasija (6) i Kristina (2). Takođe, voljena od strane bezbroj prijatelja, porodica i kumovi širom sveta.

Poseta će se održati od 10:00 do 12:00 časova sa Opelo (sahranom) u 12:00

časova u četvrtak, 2. januara 2025. godine u Srpskom Pravoslavnom Manastiru Nova Gračanica, 35240 N. Grant Street, Treće Jezero, IL, sa sahranom odmah nakon toga. Nakon službe će se održati ručak. Aranžmani su od strane pogrebnog zavoda Burnett-Dane u Libertivilu. Info: 847-362-3009 ili podelite uspomenu na www.burnettdane.com.

Umesto cveća, donacije se mogu dati Forever Fortunate Felines <https://foreverfortunatefelines.org>.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 2. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

New Gracanica Serbian Orthodox Monastery
35240 N. Grant Street
Third Lake, IL 60030

Funeral Service

JAN 2. 12:00 PM (CT)

New Gracanica Serbian Orthodox Monastery
35240 N. Grant Street
Third Lake, IL 60030

Tribute Wall



“ It was a privilege to know Milena and by extension, her best medicine/support team, Aaron, Mama and Sisters and of course her boys. What a special and brave person! We will miss her as I'm sure you all will. Hugs, Carina D.

Carina L DeCroes - January 09, 2025 at 11:38 AM



Thank you Carina, means a lot

Mirjana Racic - February 01, 2025 at 09:27 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Milena DeDobbelaere.

January 04, 2025 at 01:09 PM



“ Milena and I shared many laughs over the years. From our times at NIU, to our lunch meetings downtown Chicago where we both struggled to get away from our desks, to the chats about our boys over the years. Milena was always available with sound mom advice, laughter and advice. I will miss her dearly! Sending heartfelt prayers to her entire family during this time.

Rest in Heaven Milena!

Jennifer Stephens

Jennifer Stephens - January 01, 2025 at 08:55 PM

MR

Thank you 🙏

Mirjana Racic - February 01, 2025 at 09:27 PM

KD

“ Kumovi Dardic purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.



Kumovi Dardic - December 31, 2024 at 08:21 PM

KD

“ Kumovi Dardic planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Milena DeDobbelaere.

Kumovi Dardic - December 31, 2024 at 08:21 PM

TS

“ The Lake County Stallions purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.



The Lake County Stallions - December 31, 2024 at 05:40 PM

TS

“ The Lake County Stallions planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Milena DeDobbelaere.

The Lake County Stallions - December 31, 2024 at 05:40 PM

TC

“ The Crawford’s purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.



The Crawford’s - December 31, 2024 at 05:07 PM

TC

“ The Crawford’s planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Milena DeDobbelaere.

The Crawford’s - December 31, 2024 at 05:07 PM

DA

“ Danny, Carine, Tessa, Koen, Jana, Jordy purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.



Danny, Carine, Tessa, Koen, Jana, Jordy - December 30, 2024 at 05:08 PM

DA

“ Danny, Carine, Tessa, Koen, Jana, Jordy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Milena DeDobbelaere.

Danny, Carine, Tessa, Koen, Jana, Jordy - December 30, 2024 at 05:08 PM

LA

“ Love the Alvarado’s purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.



Love the Alvarado’s - December 30, 2024 at 12:51 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.



December 30, 2024 at 12:51 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Milena DeDobbelaere.

December 30, 2024 at 12:51 PM

LA

“ Larae A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Milena DeDobbelaere.

Larae A. - December 30, 2024 at 12:42 PM

DF

“ *Delic Family purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.*



Delic Family - December 30, 2024 at 12:11 PM

CG

“ *I worked at Sidley with Milena for many years. She was a bright light and a beautiful human being. My prayers are with her husband, her kids, and other family and friends at this sad sad time.*



Cynthia C Gustavson - December 29, 2024 at 08:44 PM

ML

“ *Michael, Jaimee & London purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.*



Michael, Jaimee & London - December 29, 2024 at 07:41 PM

TF

“ *The McMahon & Potempa Families purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.*



The McMahon & Potempa Families - December 29, 2024 at 06:27 PM

TF

“ The McMahon & Potempa Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Milena DeDobbelaere.

The McMahon & Potempa Families - December 29, 2024 at 06:27 PM

DA

“ Don and Jo Ann purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.



Don and Jo Ann - December 29, 2024 at 05:29 PM

DA

“ Don and Jo Ann planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Milena DeDobbelaere.

Don and Jo Ann - December 29, 2024 at 05:29 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.



December 29, 2024 at 05:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Milena DeDobbelaere.

December 29, 2024 at 05:23 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.



December 29, 2024 at 05:08 PM



“ *An Amazing person, a laugh you could not ignore, an addiction for life to live to the fullest. Hopefully when she reaches the destination of her journey she will giv'm something to write home about.*

Lrigh Mosenfelder - December 29, 2024 at 04:15 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray* was purchased for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.



December 29, 2024 at 03:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Milena DeDobbelaere.

December 29, 2024 at 03:06 PM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.*



December 29, 2024 at 02:13 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Milena DeDobbelaere.

December 29, 2024 at 02:13 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.*



December 29, 2024 at 02:05 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Milena DeDobbelaere.

December 29, 2024 at 02:05 PM



“ *Primate naše najiskrenije saucesce. Teško je reci, recima ono sto covjek misli i osjeća. Volimo vas sviju. Petar i Milka Kotur*

Pkotur - December 29, 2024 at 12:53 PM

SN

“ *Sally Nardulli purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.*



Sally Nardulli - December 29, 2024 at 01:23 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.*



December 29, 2024 at 12:51 AM

JT

“ *Jila & Sean Tehrani purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.*



Jila & Sean Tehrani - December 28, 2024 at 11:24 PM

TF

“ *The Sadowski Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.*



The Sadowski Family - December 28, 2024 at 09:46 PM

TF

“ The Sadowski Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Milena DeDobbelaere.

The Sadowski Family - December 28, 2024 at 09:46 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.



December 28, 2024 at 09:41 PM

MS

“ Matt and Jennifer Speer purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Milena DeDobbelaere.



Matt and Jennifer Speer - December 28, 2024 at 09:32 PM