



Valarie Ponder Lee

August 29, 1966 - July 1, 2012

Valarie Ponder Lee, 45, passed away suddenly on Sunday, July 1, 2012, at Advocate Condell Medical Center. She was born Aug. 29, 1966, in Helena, Ark., was a former resident of Pawcatuck, Conn. and Austin, Texas, living in Libertyville this past year. She was a graduate of Sacred Heart College in Fairfield, Conn. and received a B.S. in nursing. Valarie was currently the associate director of safety excellence at Abbott Laboratories. Surviving are her husband, William Lee and 4-year-old daughter, Aubrey Lee, both of Libertyville; her parents, Pat and Rebecca Ponder of Austin, Texas; and brothers, Luke (Nadia) Ponder of Shoreline, Wash. and Jeff (Hye Yeong) Ponder of Austin, Texas. A visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 3, at the Burnett-Dane Funeral Home Ltd., 120 W. Park Ave. (Route 176, one block west of Milwaukee Ave.), Libertyville. Additional services and interment will be in Austin, Texas. For information, 847-362-3009 or sign the guest book at www.burnettdane.com.

Tribute Wall

MB

“*Valarie and I started at Abbott at about the same time and went through some orientation processes together. We also worked intently together in PSE at the time of the MHRA inspection and other matters related to the PSTs.*

Valarie will always be remembered by me as an intelligent, committed, dedicated and kind colleague. She was calm and patient regardless of the level of stress; she was always considerate about the needs of others and their feelings. She really served as a strategic leader and a "mother hen" to her direct reports. The PST PMs gained respect and recognition within the company because of Valarie's very high standards.

She was also a proud mother and wife, speaking frequently about her home renovation, Aubrey's milestones and her summer activities.

I cannot find words that might give you comfort or solace but we have to believe that she is one of the genuinely good people that God brings home in a very untimely fashion. She will be remembered by me and her other colleagues in so many small ways and I hope remain in our hearts for a very long time.

Mondira

Mondira Bhattacharya - April 27, 2018 at 06:58 AM

“ Having had a chance to reflect on what has occurred in the last 24 hours I wanted to offer what small comfort an inarticulate person can offer in the form of a few words and to provide some thoughts on reacting to the passing of our dear friend Valarie. I am strong enough to admit that I have not cried in a long, long time. I am also strong enough to admit that I have cried multiple times in the last 24 hours. Death and particularly unexpected death hurts. In addition, Valarie's personal situation pulls at your heart strings if you have kids and potentially even if you don't. How do you answer a four year old's simple question, Daddy, when is Mommy coming home? And here come the tears again. I will attest that Valarie Lee was a compassionate human being. She cared about her family. She loved her husband and her daughter Aubrey very, very much. She wore that love on her sleeve so that it was never in doubt, I admired that about her. Valarie had a lot of perspective about what is important in life. She ran our business with a priority to balance work and life for everyone as fairly as she could. I admired that about her. She also cared about us, she fretted over our success, and she took more on herself than she probably had to but she did it because she was a fair manager and a dedicated employee. Valarie set a lofty agenda for 2012 and she placed much of it squarely on her own shoulders but divvied out small, bit-size portions to her team. She wanted each of us to feel success by contributing our part to the bigger picture; I admired that in her. Now Valarie's legacy has been left to us, what shall we do with it? As with all challenges and heartbreak in life- what matters most, after the initial shock and hurt fade, is how you react to it. Do you dust yourself off and face the storm again or do you become passive to an outcome you could have controlled. If I have learned anything in this life I have learned that the things that happen on this Earth make very little sense- largely because we don't have the capacity to understand them. To be human is to feel pain. Valarie, just like us, felt physical afflictions, she felt stress, she worried, and she suffered, but her suffering stopped on July 1st. In a flash the worries and pain of this world were gone and Valarie felt immediate, permanent relief. Our reaction as compassionate human beings is to feel pain from her

passing, to feel suffering, to worry and to shed tears. In all tragedy we can find perspective. We realize what things are important and valuable in life- our friends, our families, our children, our personal faith and our own well-being. In these outlets we can find support, we find joy, and we find our happiness and our sense of place. These outlets will sustain in the long term even while we feel the immediate pain of the present. The Apostle John recorded in the book of Revelation that There will be a day when death shall be no more, when there shall be no more mourning, no more crying, no more pain and he will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Valarie's day has come. There is an old Irish proverb of which I am very fond; I even turned it into a very short song. The lyrics state, May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face. May the rain fall, soft upon your skin. And until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of his hand. Valarie, fly and be free; we will do our best to make you proud as we take it from here.

Kyle Martin - April 27, 2018 at 06:58 AM

LG

“ *My condolences and prayers to the family of Valarie Lee. Sincerely,
Linda Gibbs*

Linda Gibbs - April 27, 2018 at 06:58 AM

SJ

“ *The Abbott community was stunned/speechless as we learned of your loss.*

Valarie had a major impact on our organization in a very short period of time.

She always made the time to help her colleagues. She was never too busy. Always with a smile and laugh. Even when the task ahead was daunting - Valarie kept an infectious upbeat/positive attitude and enabled others to envision a better future.

Hopefully time will ease your pain as you reflect on many positive memories.

Our thoughts are with you, with deepest condolences,

Steven Jungerwirth

Steven Jungerwirth - April 27, 2018 at 06:58 AM

GP

“ *Please accept my deepest condolences for the sudden loss of Valarie. It was a pleasure working with her. Her presence and "can do" attitude will be missed.*

Greg Pawell - April 27, 2018 at 06:58 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss! I worked with Valarie for the last year and her professional, caring manner was evident in all she did! It was an honor to work with Valarie and she will be missed. My prayers and thoughts are with your entire family during this difficult time.*

*Andrea Best
Abbott Global Medical Services*

July 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM