



Shelli Dimarco

December 8, 1968 - May 24, 2025

Shelli Dimarco, nee Michelle Brown, 'Shelli,' age 56, departed from us while at home on May 24, 2025 after a valiant four year battle with cancer. She was much loved and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Shelli graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with High Honors in 1999, and graduated from Hume Fogg High School in 1987. She was a long time resident of Nashville, Tennessee after returning here from California. Per her wishes, there will not be a memorial service. Correspondingly, it was her wish to be cremated, and her ashes scattered in the crystal-clear waters of Silver Glen Springs, Florida, where her spirit was forever transformed while swimming with the Manatees on Christmas Eve of 2023.

Shelli was born in Clovis, New Mexico on December 8th, 1968, and was a survivor of childhood cancer. She participated in many organizations while growing up in Nashville, including 'By and For' as well as 'Plays for Living'. She was also a member of the Pull Tight Theatre Players based in Franklin, Tennessee, for a short time. She loved hiking, camping, and nature. She was a passionate advocate and lover of all animals, especially cats and cows from a young age, and ultimately chose to become a vegetarian. Shelli was a champion for the causes of the weak, downtrodden, mistreated, and those unable to defend themselves from harm, and as a way of life selflessly placed these causes and people before her own interests. She thought Joe Montana

of the San Francisco 49ers was simply the “Bees Knees!” Shelli was an avid reader and Harry Potter fan. She loved Guns and Roses, and spent many enjoyable hours making jewelry and working Legos. She was a long time employee of Holland and Knight, (formerly Waller Lansden) and to a very great extent was able to continue working due to the thoughtful accommodations made available to her from the company throughout her illness and treatments.

As a result of her departure from this world, she will be sorely missed and yearned for by those to whom she was closest, both by blood and vocation, as well as her steadfast soulmates in the form of her cats, Max and Emmy. Her mantra was always “Do No Harm”. If only there were more like her walking the earth, what an unabatedly and exceedingly wonderful world could be sustained as a result here on our blue planet. In this regard, she most assuredly has left her mark of positive influence upon us all.

Shelli is survived by her mother, Mona Frances Hanna Brown, to whom she was most devoted and who ardently sustained and supported Shelli not only from the malady onset, but throughout her entire life; her sole sibling, Lynli Brown Vincion (William Philip ‘Phil’ Vincion) of Crescent City, Florida, who tirelessly and selflessly cared for her during the final weeks of her life; niece Savannah Caitlyn Vincion (Kendrick Sparks) of Nashville, Tennessee, and nephew Phillip Elliott Vincion, Eugene, Oregon.

Shelli was preceded in death by her father, Dennis Miles Brown, a resident of Nashville, Tennessee, at the time of his passing.

Memorials may be sent in her honor to the Nashville Humane Association, or Walden’s Puddle Animal Rescue, Joelton, Tennessee. Please feel free, per Shelli’s wishes to play the Guns and Roses’ song “Sweet Child of Mine” in her honor as a tribute to her passing!

If you live a century,
If you live a year,
If you live a month,
If you live a week,
If you live a day,
If you live an hour,
If you live a minute,
If you live a second,
It will have been enough.

-Frances Hanna Brown

Tribute Wall

AK

“ A teacher never expects to outlive his students. This is simply not how life is supposed to work. They are meant to be the hope for a better future, and so it was with Shelli. She brought an intellectual energy and curiosity to the classroom. She had a questioning and critical mind, and often had remarkably clear insights into complex material and ideas. She paired these qualities with enthusiasm, a strong work ethic, and a quick wit. She always claimed she wasn't a scholar, this wasn't true. She was the best kind of scholar, one who loved to learn, not for pragmatic reasons, but for the pleasure it brought. She truly lived the life of the mind. Perhaps what amplifies these qualities and makes them even more noteworthy was her kindness and compassion for others, her friends, and even her teachers. A wise man once told me that no one has a neutral impact on his or her environment. A place is either a little better or a little worse because one was there. There can be no question but that my classroom, the halls of Hume-Fogg, and the world beyond were better places because Shelli was there. She will be missed.
Alan Kaplan

Alan Kaplan - June 07, 2025 at 01:19 PM

JN

Such truth from a special teacher! I echo his praise and love for Shelli. Her energy and optimism always made me grateful for those who had her unique outlook on life. Sadly, "Nothing Gold can stay..." Except the joy she brought to others. (reference from Robert Frost's poem)
Janet M. Noble (English and Theatre)

Janet Noble - June 08, 2025 at 06:43 PM

LV

*Mr. Kaplan and Ms. Noble,
Thank you both so much for your kind and thoughtful words. My sweet "seester was truly a unique woman. I miss her horribly. She was brilliant, always ready to have an intelligent and lively discussion about anything! She constantly strived daily to be a better person and as a result it made me a better person as well.*

Lynli Vincion - July 24, 2025 at 04:47 PM

CC

“ I treasure my memories of you, Shelli. I will use present tense because I feel you are still here in spirit. You are one of the most lively, brilliant, tender hearted people I've ever been blessed to meet. As I asked Lynli to tell you, I will see you on the other side. We will be sharing a Bruegger's bagel, laughing about something, and just happy to be together. Love you so much, sweet friend. ❤️ To your mom and Lynli—I'm thinking of you so often. My heart hurts with you.

Cynthia Cutshall - June 01, 2025 at 02:55 PM

LV

Cyn, I have always felt as if I knew you because of the way she spoke about you. She left me a "all her pretty things" and each day I wear something of hers and she is always with me. I miss her more than I can say. I am so very grateful you two were friends. Our hearts will heal together as time passes but her spirit will always be with us.

Lynli Vincion - July 24, 2025 at 04:51 PM

JA

“ Jo An lit a candle in memory of Shelli Dimarco



Jo An - June 01, 2025 at 07:36 AM

DR

I had the pleasure of meeting Shelli several years back. Clearly she was an amazing woman, daughter and sister. Sending love and prayers for strength to the family during this very difficult time. ❤️🙏

Donna Rusek - June 01, 2025 at 09:44 AM

LV

Thank you my friend. I miss her horribly.

Lynli Vincion - July 24, 2025 at 04:52 PM