Michelle Jeannette Delaney Kiser

June 16, 1977 ~ April 15, 2022

Our beloved Michelle (lovingly known as “lobster”) unexpectedly passed away April 15, 2022 at home in Cottonwood Heights, Utah. Born June 16,1977 in Escondido, California to Thomas Francis Delaney, Jr. and Penelope Jean Syper. She married Mark VanLaningham in 1997, later divorcing. She married the love of her life, Dr. Scott Kiser on January 24, 2018.

Michelle was an East Coast girl through and through . She graduated from Bruton High School in Williamsburg, VA where she was a member of the National Honor Society, attended the United Nations Youth World University, and excelled in the Jazz Band, Symphony Orchestra and Marching Band where she played the saxophone.

Michelle loved the outdoors. She was an accomplished wilderness expert, beginning her training as an Explorer Scout when the program was first opened to girls. She quickly became President of her post and eventually she worked her way up to the position of Explorer’s President of the Council for the Colonial Virginia Council.

She attended Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and participated with the First All Female Trail Crew that did repair improvements on 125 miles of backcountry wilderness trails. She returned to Philmont the following summer to attend Rayado to build the advanced outdoor skills and confidence needed to lead groups in the backcountry and qualify as a Youth Ranger. After high school, Michelle attended The University of Montana where she advanced her training in Wilderness and Wildlife Economics and Management .

Michelle was a beautiful woman inside and out. She lit up any room she entered and was a beloved friend. She was a very quick learner and not afraid to get dirty and dig into any project . She was better than any handyman and could even change her own brakes. Just give her a service manual, spec sheet or the internet and she could fix anything. When her dishwasher went out she diagnosed the problem, ordered the part and had it fixed in no time. She was also very giving of her resources and time. She had a passion for helping others, especially young children. She led Bible study in her own home and in 2018 was honored as Utah’s Volunteer of the year. Most of her recent volunteer work was in the area of Youth Swimming in the State of Utah. Michelle spent countless hours assisting athletes from across the state, mostly in refereeing meets at all levels. She worked hard and obtained her National Certification in officiating. She had a special ability to run a smooth meet surrounded by chaos. Hundreds of wet swimmers, attentive coaches and sometimes challenging parents didn’t phase her laser-like focus . She was most proud of her most recent accomplishment earning the position of Meet Director for all championship meets held in the state of Utah.

A plaque proudly displayed in our kitchen says “Michelle’s Kitchen established 2018”. Michelle designed and build a kitchen of her dreams to complemented her zest for cooking . She loved to sip on a glass of wine as she prepared her current culinary masterpieces and would often make us all laugh when she would taste a sample and say

“damn sometimes I even impress myself “. The majority of her kitchen skills were self leaned by trial and error but she choose to further her skills with a culinary degree from the Salt Lake Culinary Institute. Michelle loved fine food and challenged herself to replicate a meal served at high end restaurants. It wasn’t uncommon for her to ask to speak with the chef to inquire how certain dishes were prepared . If May take her a time or two but she wouldn’t give up until she was happy with her pirated creation

She is survived by her husband, Scott, and her daughters, Hannah Minter (Allen), Rebekah, Helen, and Adah. Michelle is also survived by her parents, Thomas and Penny, brother Thomas F Delaney III, her nephew Thomas F Delaney IV, and her zoo of furry and feathered creatures , Murphy Jackson, Ghost, North, Winston, Willow, Treko, Daisy and a backyard full of chickens (her ladies) bees and koi fish .

A celebration of life ceremony will be held in her honor at Larkin Sunset Gardens, located at 1950 East 10600 South Sandy, Utah 84092. Services will begin at 2PM on Saturday, April 23, 2022.