



Kellie Margaret Jones

The Life & Legacy of an Organ Donor

By Brother Bob Baur, Tacony Lodge No. 600, Philadelphia

I am a donor father because our oldest daughter, Kellie, was a selfless organ donor.

Upon graduating from high school, Kellie moved to Philadelphia and met her future husband, David Jones. In her early 20s, Kellie developed uterine cancer. Fortunately, she survived the cancer, but was unable to have children. A few years later, David died of a heart attack.

Kellie was only 37 years old when she passed away on Jan. 6, 2014.

Two days earlier, she had fallen, hit her head and developed a brain bleed. She was airlifted to Lehigh Valley Medical Center; we arrived to find her in a coma. We spent the next two days praying for her to recover, but she never did. During this terrible time, I found out that Kellie was an organ donor. As a family, we spoke to representatives of the Gift of Life, an organ procurement organization, who explained, step by step, the process of recovering her organs that were suitable for transplant. We also discussed the timeliness of getting her organs to the places where they were needed. Kellie, in her death, would save three lives that day: both of her kidneys and her heart were sent off to three people in desperate need of a

lifesaving organ transplant. We heard Kellie's heart recipient is doing very well, and I hope one day to listen to her heart beating again inside the donor, which I expect will bring both tears of sadness and joy.

On Nov. 15, 2015, our family attended the Gift of Life Donor Program's Annual Life and Legacy Celebration, held to honor the organ donors from the previous year. This is where I first met Brother Bill Soloway, Co-Chair for the Masonic Blood+Organ Donor Program. He noticed the square and compasses pin on my lapel, but he did not tell me at the time that he was also a Freemason. He also did not tell me that he was a heart recipient, only five months prior to Kellie's ceremony.

A couple of years later, after I became a volunteer shuttle driver, Bill and I met again, this time at the Gift of Life Family House. We realized that we had more in common than being brother Masons. It was the beginning of a friendship that will last a lifetime. He has been both an inspiration and a mentor to me.

Kellie Margaret Jones. Her heart will, hopefully, live on in her recipient for many years to come. Her memory will live on in the hearts of our family and her friends forever.



Brother Bob Baur is an ambassador for the Masonic Blood+Organ Donor Program and the Gift of Life Donor Program. He is also a volunteer speaker and shuttle driver of the Gift of Life Family House. His family participates in the Home Cooked Heroes Program at the Family House and they fund raise and participate in the Gift of Life Donor Dash.



For more information on how to share the gift of life by becoming an organ or blood donor, visit MasonicBloodAndOrganDonors.org