



Robert C. Kalesse Jr.

August 27, 1976 - January 24, 2020

Robert C. Kalesse Jr. (43) passed away peacefully on the morning of January 24, 2020 beside his loving wife of 12 years, Cristina M. Kalesse (née Page), and their loyal dog, Daisy, in their home in Wilmington, DE. Born August 27, 1976, in Philadelphia, PA, he is survived by his parents Robert C. Kalesse, Sr. and Theresa M. Kalesse (née Dowdle); brothers Jeffrey F. Kalesse and Scott D. Kalesse (Theresa M. Schwab); mother-in-law Antoinette N. Page (née Noto); sisters/brothers-in-law Denise M. Page (née Burke) / Robert C. Page and Melissa S. Page (née McCracken) / Michael V. Page Sr.; and his seven nieces and nephews who adoringly called him “RaRa”: Michael V. Page Jr., Joseph F. Page, Vincent I. Page, John R. Page, Patrick T. Page, Giavanna R. Page, and Natalia M. Page. He is also survived by his goddaughter, Lauryn N. Moffa, as well as many loving aunts, uncles, and cousins. He is preceded in death by his Grandparents Dowdle and Kalesse, and his father-in-law Robert H. Page.

Rob was a cancer survivor of Hodgkin’s Lymphoma as a teenager. He was a graduate of St. Dominic’s School in Philadelphia, PA, the Wilmington Hospital First State School, and William Penn High School class of 1994.

“Mugsy”, as he was known to many of his college friends, was a graduate of the University of Delaware where he earned a Bachelors Degree in Journalism in 2000. He most recently held the position of Senior Copy Writer & PR Services for the Corporate Services Company (CSC) headquartered in Wilmington where he worked for the past 3 years. Previously, he was the

editor of "Spark" magazine and throughout his career was a contributor to numerous publications where he shared his passion for journalism and writing. Rob could frequently be found working behind the bar at a number of Wilmington and Rehoboth establishments on the side, and was also an advocate for the local music scene and up-and-coming artists. Rob was a fanatical Philadelphia sports fan, an avid golfer and softball player, a connoisseur of food and drink, and will certainly be missed for his quick wit, winning smile, and the ability to make even the newest of acquaintances feel as though they had known each other forever.

Visitation will be held at Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home, 635 Churchmans Rd. in Newark, on Monday, January 27, 2020 6 to 8pm and Tuesday, January 28, 2020 2 to 4pm & 6 to 8pm. The mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 301 N. Bancroft Pkwy, Wilmington, DE 19805, on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 10am.

In lieu of flowers, in memorial donations may be made to the American Lung Association, 630 Churchmans Rd, Suite 202, Newark, 19702, or Delaware Hospice, 16 Polly Drummond Center, 2nd Floor, Polly Drummond Shopping Center, Newark, DE 19711.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 27. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home
635 Churchmans Rd
Newark, DE 19702
(302) 731-5459
info@stranofeeley.com

Visitation

JAN 28. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home
635 Churchmans Rd
Newark, DE 19702
(302) 731-5459
info@stranofeeley.com

Visitation

JAN 28. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home
635 Churchmans Rd
Newark, DE 19702
(302) 731-5459
info@stranofeeley.com

Service

JAN **29**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle Church
4th & Bancroft Street
Wilmington, DE

Tribute Wall

VK

“ *Mrs. Kalesse,
We are very saddened to hear of Rob's passing. Our heartfelt condolences to you and your family during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Regards,
Family of Varun K.*

Varun K - January 29, 2020 at 10:11 PM

TE

“ *So sad to hear the news of Rob's passing. Be assured of our prayers for him and your family, God bless you all. Tommy (chick) Edwards Phila.*

Thomas Edwards - January 29, 2020 at 01:26 PM

CO

“ *Continuation...us smiling.*

It was great that he returned to do a story in the U of D paper and then at spark returned to present the commencement address. He was at ease and did a great job. Thank you for sharing Rob withnFirst State School.

God bless all of you especially those who called him RaRa. I am so sorry I missed his services but so happy Ms Marilee was able to attend.

*Love and prayers,
Ms Coleen*

Coleen M OConnor - January 29, 2020 at 10:05 AM

CO

“ Dear Cristina, Mom and Dad, siblings, extended family and friends,

I am saddened to hear of Rob’s passing. He was a great person. I remember when he was at First State School and how positive he could stay during his treatment. He set his goals and achieved them. He had a quick wit and kept ud

Coleen M OConnor - January 29, 2020 at 09:52 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..



January 29, 2020 at 06:27 AM

CM

“ I'm so sorry to hear about his passing, I'm sending my thoughts and prayers to his wife and family..

Colleen Muldoon - January 28, 2020 at 09:36 PM

HS

“ I am so sorry to hear of this. I will always remember Rob stopping by on Friday nights to get a recommendation on which wine to pair with the "home meal delivery" service. He is one of my favorites. He shared this story with me in the fall. Our thoughts and prayers to the entire family. He will be very missed.

Allison & Hagan, Wilmington Wine Company

Hagan Mulvena/Allison Stein - January 28, 2020 at 04:30 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..*



January 28, 2020 at 08:35 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..*



January 27, 2020 at 08:41 PM



“ *Peace be with you and your family at this sad time. May God Bless your family. Stan Wolski*

Stan Wolski - January 27, 2020 at 06:59 PM

JM

“ I am so sorry to hear of Robert's passing. I talked with him last at the First State School graduation when he gave the graduation address.

I remember him when he attended the early years of the First State School--what a wonderful young teen then who grew into a bright, witty and courageous man with great optimism despite health challenges.

Unfortunately I am not able to attend the funeral but want to express my condolences to his wife and family on this very sad occasion.

Blessings,

Janet Kramer, MD

Janet Kramer, MD - January 27, 2020 at 03:54 PM

BR

“ We love you so much, Rob <3



Brianna - January 27, 2020 at 03:13 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..



January 27, 2020 at 02:53 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..*



January 27, 2020 at 02:45 PM



“ *Sincerely, Friends at JPMC purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..*



Sincerely, Friends at JPMC - January 27, 2020 at 11:10 AM



“ *Rob seemed to live life by being in the moment and enjoying it to the fullest He lived his short time on earth with more merriment than most people twice his age. We are so sorry for your loss. May the memory of his fun loving spirit continue to inspire us and help ease the pain. Love, Peace and Prayers, Gail and Charlie*



GAIL RONNEBURGER - January 27, 2020 at 10:31 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..*



January 26, 2020 at 11:12 PM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..*



January 26, 2020 at 09:53 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..*



January 26, 2020 at 09:22 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..*



January 26, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ *Love, Katie Cohen & Family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..*



Love, Katie Cohen & Family - January 26, 2020 at 04:17 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..*



January 26, 2020 at 12:56 PM



“ *Karen Rabik lit a candle in memory of Robert C. Kalesse Jr.*



Karen Rabik - January 26, 2020 at 10:30 AM



“ *Prayers for grace, peace and strength for Cristina and family! God bless you all!*
Karen Rabik

Karen Rabik - January 26, 2020 at 10:29 AM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Rob's passing. He was a great guy and talented writer. My deepest condolences to his whole family....I know there's a huge hole in your hearts but cherish the fond memories of his life.....*

Doug Baker

Doug Baker - January 26, 2020 at 09:20 AM



“ *Touching Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..*



January 26, 2020 at 09:10 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..*



January 26, 2020 at 07:43 AM



“ *We were so devastated to learn of Rob's passing. I have so many fond memories of him at William Penn High School as he fought such a courageous fight against the disease which attacked him. What a great person he was as he uplifted everyone's spirits whenever he was around. We extend our sincere condolences to the entire family. We are with you in prayer and spirit.*

Richard M Farmer Jr - January 26, 2020 at 07:10 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Jessica Lehr - January 26, 2020 at 01:14 AM

JL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jessica Lehr - January 26, 2020 at 01:12 AM

RS

“ Robin Simerson lit a candle in memory of Robert C. Kalesse Jr.



Robin Simerson - January 26, 2020 at 12:17 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..



January 25, 2020 at 10:18 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..



January 25, 2020 at 10:11 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..*



January 25, 2020 at 07:21 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Robert C. Kalesse Jr..*



January 25, 2020 at 07:18 PM