



Melinda Gail Ford

MAY 8, 1971 - NOV 5, 2025



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Melinda Gail Ford, 54, of Lakeland, FL, passed away peacefully after a long illness on November 5th, 2025. Born May 8, 1971, to Linda Wood and Issac "Woody" Wood in Clearwater, FL, she was the couple's youngest child. She was later adopted by her mother's second husband, Steve Steenberge.

Melinda attended Largo High School and went on to earn dual degrees in accounting and finance from the University of South Florida, having also studied at St. Petersburg Junior College.

On August 8, 1998, she married Jody Robert Ford, with whom she raised two beloved sons, Thomas and Sam. Being a mother brought her the greatest joy in life. She was just a big kid herself. She enjoyed playing in the backyard pool, the toy trains, and in the bouncy houses just as much as the kids did. Her house was where all the neighborhood kids would come to play.

Melinda had a gift for friendship—she was sweet, kind, funny, and gentle, with a warm smile for everyone she met. She treasured time spent with her family, whether gathered around the table for game nights or simply sharing laughter together. She also adored her dog, Larry—though Thomas may have picked him out, Larry was undoubtedly hers, her faithful companion. Her infectious laugh, like no other, and joyful spirit brightened every room she entered.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Linda; her father, Woody; and her stepfather, Steve. Melinda is survived by her devoted husband, Jody; her sons, Thomas and Sam; her three brothers, Tony, Rick, and Jeff; her twin sister, Melissa; and many nieces and nephews, all of whom she loved dearly. She will be deeply missed



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Melinda by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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