



Michelle Kay Ahrens

October 2, 1965 - February 28, 2026

Michelle Kay Ahrens, 60, of Minnetonka, Minnesota, passed away on February 28, 2026, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Michelle was born on October 2, 1965. She was adopted by Alvin and Lois Ahrens, who raised her in Thornton, Iowa. She graduated from Meservey-Thornton High School with the Class of 1984 and went on to attend Iowa State University, graduating in 1988 with a degree in Journalism and Mass Communications.

Throughout her life, Michelle was known for her talent for bringing people together. She worked as an event planner and organized a wide variety of gatherings, including Sesame Street Live events, Iowa State University student and alumni activities, Excelsior Legion events, and Meservey-Thornton All-School Reunions. She had a gift for creating memorable experiences and building community.

Michelle loved sports and was a devoted fan of the Minnesota Twins and Minnesota Vikings, as well as the Iowa State Cyclones. She also enjoyed music, books, travel, and spending time at social gatherings with friends. Known as a loyal friend with a sharp, sarcastic sense of humor and a die-hard Vikings fan,

Michelle will be remembered for her enthusiasm and her passion for connecting people.

Michelle is survived by her sister, Janette Stadlander, and brother-in-law, Jerry Stadlander. She was preceded in death by her parents, Lois and Alvin Ahrens, and her stepmother, Iona Ahrens.

A memorial service will be held on April 17, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at United Methodist Church in Thornton, Iowa.

Michelle's love for bringing people together will continue to live on in the many friendships, gatherings, and memories she helped create throughout her life.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant View Cemetery

130th St
Thornton, IA 50479

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

Thornton United Methodist Church
404 Maple Street
Thornton, IA 50479

Tribute Wall



“ A memorial tree was planted in honor of Michelle.
Meinders family

Debbie Meinders - April 15 at 09:02 AM



Thank you!

Lisa - April 15 at 09:46 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michelle Kay Ahrens.

April 15 at 08:55 AM



“ Ally, Bennett, and Estelle Coffman purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Michelle Kay Ahrens.



Ally, Bennett, and Estelle Coffman - April 14 at 04:20 PM



“ Ally, Bennett, and Estelle Coffman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michelle Kay Ahrens.

Ally, Bennett, and Estelle Coffman - April 14 at 04:20 PM

TF

“ The Excelsior American Legion Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michelle Kay Ahrens.

The Excelsior American Legion Family - April 10 at 11:15 AM

TF

“ The Excelsior American Legion Family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Michelle Kay Ahrens.



The Excelsior American Legion Family - April 10 at 11:15 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Michelle Kay Ahrens.



March 26 at 02:32 PM

DC

“ I worked with Michelle on committees at ISU. She was so much fun to be around. Michelle's energy and sense of humor will be missed.

Dean Casad - March 25 at 06:22 PM

CA

“ Carol lit a candle in memory of Michelle Kay Ahrens



Carol - March 19 at 10:42 PM

CJ

Michelle was very passionate on things she loved and put her heart & soul into them: her family, her friends, Iowa State. American Legion, Vikings.....one could go on and on. Glad I got a chance to meet you post our ISU days! Prayers of comfort & peace to her family & friends!

Carol J - March 19 at 10:47 PM