

## HEIDI NEUBAUER JACOBUS

### Notice



JACOBUS HEIDI NEUBAUER JACOBUS (Age 63) Died peacefully on February 4, 2016. She is survived by her mother, Emma, brother, Philip, her husband, life, and business partner, Dr. Charles "Chuck" Jacobus, and their daughter,

Monica Anne Jacobus with husband Jonthan Gross and their son, Patrick Morgan Jacobus with his wife, Sianna Jacobus. Joyfully, her two grandchildren are due in May and June, respectively. Heidi was defined by her intellect, independence and nurturing nature. As a precocious four and a half year old, she began visiting her local public library to escape her blue-collar origins and to feed her mind. By the age of 12, she began an amazing journey - with full scholarships - to Mooreland Hill School in Kensington, CT and then to Northfield Mt. Hermon School in Gill, MA. She later graduated from Trinity College in Hartford, CT with a BS in psychology. Heidi then studied the Programmed Logic for Automatic Teaching Operations (PLATO) system as a site administrator for medical education at the University of Connecticut. Later, she received the highest score amongst her cohorts in PhD qualification examinations and gained a MS in computer science at the [University of Illinois](#). During her tenure in Illinois, in the robotics lab of the Coordinated Science Laboratory building, she met her husband and life partner of 37 years. After a whirlwind three month courtship, Heidi and Charles were married and moved to their first jobs together at Texas Instruments, the first couple at the company to each qualify for professionally staffed moving reimbursements. After two years as a senior member of technical staff, she and her team invented the first ergonomic style computer keyboard. Heidi suspended her professional career when she had her first child, Charles Jeremiah, who tragically died when he was eight months old. With amazing courage, they overcame this tragedy and in 1983 Heidi gave birth to their second child, Monica Anne, now a practicing general surgeon. Their third child, Patrick Morgan was born in 1983 and is an accomplished chef and hospitality businessman. The family's first home was in Dallas, TX and eventually they moved to Ann Arbor, MI. Heidi became active in the community through her volunteer work with the Junior League of Ann Arbor and the Conger League of Ann Arbor. In 1986 she expanded her world by joining [University of Michigan](#)'s Center for Ergonomics. In 1988 she co-founded and became chairman and CEO of Cybernet Systems Corporation. After fifteen successful years with Cybernet, she joined the board of the National Center for Manufacturing Science and became very active in national policy

matters pertaining to small businesses. Heidi became co-chair to the Small Business Technology Council (SBTC) and testified before congress numerous times with expertise in small business concerns over government contracting policies. She was one of the early women to join the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC and became a shadow board member for the club. Heidi's list of awards in business include: 50 Michigan Companies to Watch, The Tibbetts Award for Small Business Excellence, Fast 100, The NASA Space Technology Hall of Fame, Top Michigan Women in Computing, the NASA Garrett Award, the SBA Administrator's Award for Excellence, The Michigan Private 100, and two lifetime achievement awards from the SBTC. Those she met in Washington, D.C. and around the country could not help but love her and were drawn to her intelligence, energy and love for her extended family. Heidi was a bright example to modern women that it's not necessary to focus on one's career solely to have a successful life or to make a lasting mark. Heidi focused on both her biological family and her extended professional family. Her husband, children, neighbors, employees at Cybernet, and extended family love her very much and will miss her immensely. Some of Heidi's last wishes were that her family, her many friends at the Cosmos Club, and Cybernet staff continue to prosper and grow. Her husband Chuck succeeds her as Chairman and CEO of Cybernet. A short reception for Heidi will be held on March 12, 2016 at 6 p.m. The reception will be held at the Cosmos Club at 2121 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC. In lieu of flowers, one of Heidi's last wishes was to establish a middle school scholarship fund for Cosmos Club employees' children, many of whom are first generation US citizens. Heidi loved the club and attributed its goodness in many ways to its staff. She credited her own success to the opportunities that arose from her scholarship to Mooreland Hill School and wanted to create a similar chance for deserving children. If you care to contribute to her last vision, send check to: Cosmos Middle School Scholarships Fund, Care Of: Charles Jacobus, 432 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Chuck can provide you with direct account information for wire transfer if you care to use that method for contributing.

Published in The Washington Post on Feb. 28, 2016