



Michelle O'Connor

March 18, 1965 - February 25, 2026

Michelle Bilyeu O'Connor, 60 of Holden, Missouri passed away on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at her home. She was born Thursday, March 18, 1965 in Independence, Missouri, to the late Earnest Bilyeu and the late Mary (Clough) Bilyeu. Michelle graduated from Shawnee Mission Northwest High School in 1983 and earned a degree in Commercial Art from Johnson County Community College. She was the loving wife of Timothy O'Connor, marrying June 13, 1987.

Michelle worked for many years in retail for Walker Variety Store and later, Bomgaars where she was known for her warm smile and friendly spirit. She truly enjoyed connecting with people, and her kindness left a lasting impression on coworkers and customers alike.

Outside of work, Michelle's true passion was art. She was an incredibly talented artist, and creating was not just a hobby, it was part of who she was. She needed to make art to feel whole, and through her creativity she brought beauty, color, and meaning into the lives of those around her.

In 1992, Michelle alongside her husband Tim, joined the Freedom of Road Riders, where she proudly served as Secretary and Newsletter Editor.

Michelle rode a Honda Rebel motorcycle and very early on became known as "Rebel" which was fitting for her bold personality. She was a passionate advocate for this organization which was a statewide voice for Missouri motorcyclists' rights. Michelle dedicated herself wholeheartedly to this organization and the riding community she loved so much. The friendships

she built there became an important part of her life.

Michelle also poured her creativity into making floats for her family's Kansas City St. Patrick's Day Parade entry, a tradition she cherished. Michelle joined Tim's hand in friendship in 1981 and has been designing, building and creating the family floats alongside the O'Connor family ever since.

She was a true social butterfly who loved gathering with friends and family, especially at Halloween where their family tradition of huge Halloween parties were filled with laughter, costumes, and unforgettable memories. Michelle's vibrant spirit, artistic soul, and loving heart touched so many lives. She was involved in countless activities and communities, always giving of herself and brightening every room she entered. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered forever.

Surviving are her husband, Timothy O'Connor of the home; one child, MJ O'Connor of Holden; one brother, Mitchell (Debra) Bilyeu of Osage Beach, MO; and her in-laws, Tim's ten siblings. She is preceded in death by her parents.

The family will receive friends from 12:00 noon to 2:00 PM on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at Campbell-Cast Funeral Home, 407 S. Pine St. Holden, Missouri. A celebration of Michelle's life will follow at 2:00 PM. Memorials may be made to Freedom of Road Riders at www.forr.net

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 7. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (cst)

Stewart Family Funeral Home Inc. DBA:Campbell-Cast Funeral Home
407 South Pine Street
Holden, MO 64040
(816) 732-5531
stewartfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://castfuneralhome.com/>

Celebration of Life

MAR 7. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (cst)

Stewart Family Funeral Home Inc. DBA:Campbell-Cast Funeral Home
407 South Pine Street
Holden, MO 64040
(816) 732-5531
stewartfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://castfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ It was truly a joy to know Michelle and work with her on things of the Freedom of the Road Riders. Her voice on the phone always made me smile. Rachel Boatright, B-W Graphics printing shop at Versailles, MO.

Rachel Boatright - March 18 at 10:07 AM



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

March 06 at 10:04 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Michelle O'Connor.



March 06 at 10:04 PM



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

March 06 at 08:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michelle O'Connor.*



March 06 at 08:44 PM



“ *Michelle's a cousin I became close to as an adult. Visiting with her was so meaningful! When Michelle would tell a story, share a memory, describe a dish that she experienced or maybe created herself, she would share that information with you and as you listened to the description it was as if you were there, you were experiencing it for yourself. No matter what she did, was involved in or relationship she had with others, she put her entire being into it! She was so full of life you couldn't help but get caught up in her excitement. At future O'Connor Family Reunions and Gatherings she will certainly be missed!! In spirit, however, She'll always be there!!*

Cousin Vicky from STL - March 05 at 12:32 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Michelle O'Connor.*



March 03 at 07:12 PM



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

March 03 at 07:12 PM



“ From FORR L33 purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Michelle O'Connor.



From FORR L33 - March 03 at 06:11 PM



“ Natalie O'Connor planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michelle O'Connor.

Natalie O'Connor - March 03 at 05:26 PM



“ Natalie O'Connor purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Michelle O'Connor.



Natalie O'Connor - March 03 at 05:26 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Michelle O'Connor.



March 03 at 01:40 PM



“Michelle was one of a kind! Her spirit was contagious. She enjoyed giving. She has been a huge part of our family reunions since she was 16 years old, serving as first lady for several of the last reunions, and she will be sorely missed! I will never forget you, Michelle. Kathy O'Connor.

Kathy O'Connor - March 01 at 11:06 PM