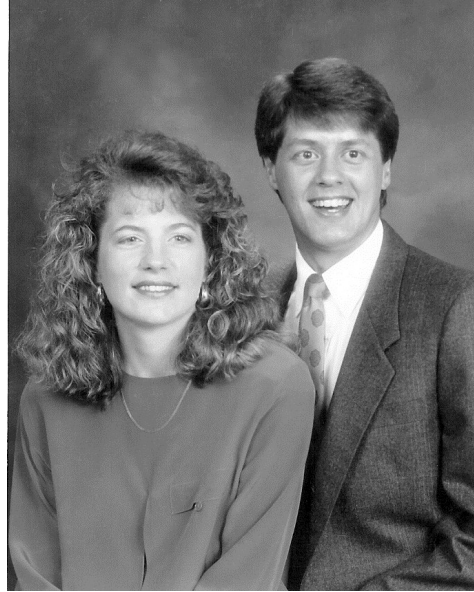


*Cynthia  
Kuchar LaMotte  
Memorial Scholarship*

*- 1966-1995 -*



Cindy Kuchar and Todd LaMotte first met in 1988 when he helped sell her parents carpeting for their home near Edmore. *"I told one of our guys that day 'I'm going to marry that girl,'"* Todd recalls with a smile.

Cynthia Rae was born May 31, 1966, one of six children of Raymond and Idella Kuchar. She attended Edmore Public School where she actively participated in basketball, track, dance team, and band. She also enjoyed skiing, snowmobiling, gardening, and traveling. She continued her education at the University of North Dakota, graduated with a degree in business administration, and accepted a position with an insurance firm in Minneapolis. From there, she and Todd carried on a long-distance romance.

Even though Todd lived in Oregon for a time, and Cindy was in the Twin Cities area, they kept in touch. It was a solid, stable relationship, and when Cindy was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, it didn't stymie wedding plans the two had made.

*"I remember after she found out about her illness, she said maybe I should think twice about marrying her,"* Todd says, *"but there was never any thought of that. I knew she was the one."* They were married in November of 1991.

The illness would come and go for two years before things got really serious. There were days when she felt well enough to almost fly, but she had down days, too. Through it all, she maintained an upbeat outlook on life that eventually rubbed off on Todd and everybody they knew.

Cindy lost her battle against multiple sclerosis on January 22, 1995, just over four years after she made the trip down the aisle to marry Todd. The loss was devastating. It had been a love affair cut much too short by a dreaded disease, but Todd learned to cope. Adopting Cindy's outlook on life, Todd says, *"Everything happens for a reason. Cindy had such a positive attitude throughout her illness ... The way she handled it was so courageous. You know that old saying that 'if you don't have your health, you have nothing?' Well, people sometimes take that for granted. I don't. It doesn't matter who you are or how rich or powerful you might be. Without your health, you have nothing."*

*"Cindy was a great girl,"* Todd says. Others have echoed similar sentiments.

*"She was a great, great young lady,"* recalls Edmore School Superintendent Dave Schneider. *"She was a bit quiet, but she was active in school activities and was very well liked."*

Terry Wallace, a family friend, says there aren't enough good things he could say about her. *"She was fantastic,"* he recalls, *"a great personality. She was positive all the time and upbeat. Even after she got sick, you'd never have known it."*

Cindy's husband and family, along with many friends and relatives, established the Cynthia Kuchar LaMotte Memorial Scholarship in her memory. Their hope is that this scholarship will benefit students from Edmore Public School who wish to further their education at Lake Region State College. ♦