



## Laura Lynne Youngblood

August 22, 1976 - October 24, 2025

Laura Lynne Solomon Youngblood, age 49, passed away peacefully on Friday, October 24, 2025, after a long battle with metastatic breast cancer. She was under the care of family, friends and Guiding Light hospice team.

Laura was born on August 22, 1976, in Santa Cruz, CA, to Harvey J. Solomon and Mary F. Solomon (née Currier). She was preceded in death by her mother, Mary Solomon, in 2015.

She is survived by her husband of 19 years, Adam Charles Youngblood; father, Harvey J. Solomon, and stepmother, Jan Hussey; brother, Jeff Solomon, sister-in-law, Kara, and their sons, Parker, Bennett and Weston; along with a long list of loving relatives by birth and marriage.

Laura grew up in a small town in California called Ben Lomond, nestled in the Santa Cruz Mountains. She attended San Lorenzo Vally High School, where she was the valedictorian of her class.

Growing up, she had a friends group called 'The Goddesses' whose companionship lasted up until the present day. April, Amanda, Marci, Eva, Shoshana, Renel and Ursula stayed close to Laura up until the very end.

She attended Cal Poly University as an undergraduate and received her

master's degree in epidemiology from Emory University in Atlanta. It was at Emory where she met some of her lifelong friends: Nicole, Cindy, Erin, Steve, Julie & Ryan.

Laura worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for close to 25 years. She spent the majority of her career there working to protect the rights of people participating in research studies. She was a fierce advocate for human subjects protections and was recognized at CDC as well as nationally as a foremost expert in her field. She is remembered for her leadership, passion, and commitment to public health by colleagues across the agency, including her supervisors, Elise and Rita, and team members, Nicky, James, Dena, Chip, Rudith, Tykitcha, and Tamika. Staff across CDC benefited greatly from her vast knowledge, trainings, mentorship, and counsel.

Her passion was singing, and she was a member of several choirs in the Atlanta area, including the Collegium Vocale, William Baker Festival Singers and the Voces Altum. She was mentored by her vocal teacher, Rebecca Shipley, for 15 years in Atlanta. She and her mom, Mary, performed together in the San Lorenzo Valley Women's Choir and the Patti McDonald Singers.

Another one of her lifelong interests was running. She loved running the Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta, even years into her diagnosis. Her local running and friends group, called the 'Running Ladies', included Jacqui, Tammy, Sherri, Jocelyn and Danah.

Laura battled cancer for over 7 years and became a sister in her cancer fight with Adam's lifelong friend, Ashley Proper. This is a terrible illness that has affected many of Laura's loved ones, and she would strongly encourage everyone to get screened as early as possible.

Of course, there were many others not named, but that doesn't mean they

were any less loved by Laura and with her in her time of need. In turn, she was loved by her family, friends, and colleagues for her warmth, generosity, kindness, brilliance, sense of humor, and boundless optimism, and she is greatly missed by all.

In lieu of flowers, meal trains, etc., please consider donating to the Newnan-Coweta Humane Society (or your local humane society) in her honor. Her love and advocacy of cats was something she was known for and even just a small donation can save the life of a cat in need.

In honoring her wishes, a memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com).

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

# Tribute Wall

AC

“ My deepest condolences to Laura's family and friends. I worked with Laura at CDC for many, many years and always valued her excellent counsel and expertise on ensuring CDC's work was held to the highest standards of excellence. Laura was always committed to ensuring the work was done right and helping me and my colleagues understand the best ways and options to do so. I really enjoyed working with Laura, and am deeply saddened to hear of her passing.

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**Angela Cleveland** - January 12 at 03:20 AM

AS

“ I worked with Laura at CDC for around 17 years and found her to be one of the best at the agency. I was always amazed by both her productivity, and her patience to explain complex issues to folks like myself who were not nearly as smart (OK, just speaking for me). I'm just so sad that she is no longer with us, but she left a lasting legacy, both in terms of work and within hearts and minds. Miss you Laura! - Alvin

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**Alvin Shultz** - January 08 at 09:59 AM

MI

“ I did not have frequent contact with Laura, but as someone who sought her guidance at work from time to time, she was memorable to me as being so clearly a kind and thoughtful person. I was very sad to hear of her illness and my condolences to her family and best wishes.

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**Misha** - January 06 at 11:55 AM

SN

“ Dearest Laura was an incredibly helpful and dedicated scientist, and an absolute joy to work with. Her knowledge, generosity, and willingness to support others made a lasting impact on everyone around her. Beyond her remarkable professionalism, she carried a joyful spirit that lifted those fortunate enough to know her. She truly was a treasure and a light. It was an honor and a privilege to have known her. My sincere condolences to her family and loved ones. Oceans upon Oceans of love and blessings abounding. -Sonja Mali Nti-Berko (CDC)

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**Sonja Nti-Berko** - January 05 at 05:29 PM

PR

“ As a former staff member in an NCEZID Division, I did not have frequent interactions with Laura. But anytime I reached out to her, she was incredibly helpful and giving of her time and knowledge. She would start by understanding what I was trying to achieve and then would skillfully advise on the best (and right) way to get there. I am saddened to learn of her struggles with cancer and her passing. Rest in peace, Laura. You are missed. 🌹

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**Priti** - January 05 at 05:00 PM

AM

“ It was a pleasure and an honor to have met and work with Laura. I can't stress enough how kind and competent she was. My best wishes that the family find peace at this time.  
Alexandre Macedo

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**Alexandre Macedo** - January 05 at 04:52 PM

CB

“ It was my absolute honor to have worked with Laura during my time as ADS with then DGMQ. Laura was calm, inciteful, and always found a way to make things work, while upholding high ethical standards. She helped our program to set up fast track mechanisms to deal with expediting reviews of our regulatory actions. And we shared a love for singing, though unfortunately I never got the chance to hear her perform. She lived a beautiful life and will be remembered fondly at CDC.  
Clive

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**Clive Brown** - January 05 at 03:28 PM

VI

“ I was in Washington, D.C. for a conference and met Laura for dinner. On our way back, I got lost trying to find my hotel. Laura stayed with me until we found it, and she knew I was safe for the night, before she and a friend left. I will always be grateful for her kindness and thoughtfulness. May her soul rest in peace, and my heartfelt prayers go out to her family.

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**Viji** - November 17, 2025 at 12:46 PM

LW

“ I am another of Laura's CDC colleagues who admired her endlessly. Laura was exceptional in her role and always made time to answer my project questions. I have learned so much from her. She will be missed terribly.

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**Louise Francois Watkins** - November 17, 2025 at 06:48 AM

MC

“ Laura was one of the first people I worked with at Emory and the CDC almost 30 years ago and she was wonderful. We worked on a study together at the Grady HIV Clinic and I will always remember her dedication, smarts, and kindness.

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**Mike Cannon** - November 13, 2025 at 10:56 AM

LT

“ We are so sorry for your family's loss. Have not seen Laura for years, but will always remember her as one of Sam's original babysitters. She sure made a difference in this world.

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**Larry Tierney** - November 03, 2025 at 08:09 PM

SI

“ Whenever there was a family event, my sister and I couldn't wait for Laura and Jeff to arrive. We would have so much fun running around our grandparent's place with them and getting to be their older cousins. I also admire Laura's deep confidence in herself. I am so sad. Love and hugs to her, Jeff, Uncle Harvey and Adam right now.

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**Siah** - November 03, 2025 at 01:44 PM

RK

“ Laura epitomizes "to know her is to love her". I will always remember her fondly and with great admiration.

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**Rachel Kaufmann** - November 01, 2025 at 08:22 PM

DH

“ Adam & Family,  
Our deepest condolences. Wishing you peace and comfort during this difficult time. Laura will be truly missed!  
Peace & Blessings,  
The NICHS Team



Dena Harris - October 28, 2025 at 07:01 PM

RL

“ Laura was an incredible professional and such a key piece of so many research studies at CDC. What a loss for our community and of course for her beloved family and friends. May her memory be a blessing.

Rebecca Levine - October 27, 2025 at 11:05 AM

SS

“ Laura was a very dear friend and respected colleague for many years. I remember when she ran the Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta on July 4, 2019 even while she was battling cancer. I gave her a copy of the video of her interview and the screenshot below. She inspired so many people with her strength and courage. We will greatly miss her.



Scott Santibanez - October 27, 2025 at 10:45 AM

MM

“ I was one of Laura's many work colleagues. I always admired her immense commitment to ensuring that trials and surveys adhered to the correct ethical standards. But she wasn't just an " enforcer " - Laura was genuinely concerned about helping researchers conduct their research and obtaining the data that they sought. When it came to deciding what was acceptable standards for a research project, Laura was the best that I ever worked with. She was a genuine treasure and will be sorely missed. Martin Meltzer ( ret CDC)

Martin Meltzer - October 27, 2025 at 09:52 AM

DV

“ I am very sorry for your loss. Laura was an amazing person always so helpful and supportive. She will be missed.

Diana Valencia - October 27, 2025 at 09:46 AM

BR

“ I am one of so many professional colleagues that will miss Laura dearly. Laura was brilliant and so talented and always compassionate. Thinking of her loved ones, wishing comfort to you in all the wonderful memories you share, Laura leaves a lasting impact on so many.

Brenna - October 25, 2025 at 08:16 PM

DK

Laura and I were colleagues on an Institutional Review Board at CDC and shared a love of singing. She excelled in both situations and in friendship and beauty and kindness. My condolences to her family and many friends. May her memory be for a blessing. Dolly Katz

dolly Katz - October 27, 2025 at 09:33 AM

NS

“ On behalf of the Newnan Coweta Humane Society please accept our sincerest condolences. We at NCHS are truly appreciative of the Youngblood family’s support for our organization over the years, especially our cats. Her legacy of love and kindness will live on in the countless lives she touched. With our deepest sympathy and prayers, NCHS

**Newnan Coweta Humane Society** - October 25, 2025 at 01:52 PM

EJ

“ *Laura was an amazing coworker and scientist. I learned so much from her when I was in DGMQ and will miss her. My sincerest condolences and prayers to her family. -Emily Jentes, CDC*

**Emily Jentes** - October 24, 2025 at 10:50 PM

JW

*Laura was the most thoughtful person, always doing things for others and willing to explain the intricacies of human subjects protections to colleagues. I first met Laura around 2003 at CDC and we bonded over cats over the years, sharing photos and stories of our crazy critters. She will be greatly missed. Jennifer Wright, CDC family*

**Jennifer Wright** - October 24, 2025 at 11:00 PM

CS

*I am so sad to hear of the news of Laura's passing. I worked with her for many years at CDC where she worked with me to counsel and advise me on many matters related to ethics and human subjects research. I can say all I know I learned from Laura who was the best at what she did. Laura was always so kind and patient even when we had some complex study scenarios to work through. I will miss her a lot. Sincere condolences to her family and friends. Ciara O'Reilly Sugerman, CDC family*

**Ciara Sugerman** - January 05 at 03:15 PM

NA

*Laura was a gift to CDC, and therefore a gift to the country. She could always keep us calm, even when we thought the world might be crashing in. She was a pleasure to work with and one of those amazing people whom you always knew would be willing to help you find another way...or at least try to find one...if current plans were not working. She will be both missed and remembered. - Nancy Gallagher, CDC*

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**Nancy** - January 05 at 04:05 PM