



CharacterTree

Honoring character, memories & connections

"Sometimes you can't see yourself clearly until you see yourself through the eyes of others." -Ellen DeGeneres

Happy 40th Birthday Chris!

Dear Chris,

This CharacterTree was created especially for you with contributions from your loving and appreciative friends & family. The words you see captured on this oak tree represent what you are to us, and all that you offer to those whose lives you touch. The symbolism of the oak tree is significant because they are magical trees that, like you, instead of bending under stress, hurt, and pain, they adapt and grow until they overcome it. Throughout history they have been cherished because they represent many things, including the concept of longevity, and of wisdom. This is a tree that stands the test of time. Our hope is that when you look at this tree you will be reminded of how much you mean to us. Below is the list of everyone's favorite things about you (we included as many as we could on your CharacterTree), you are an amazing person and we are all so grateful to have you in our lives!

- Dad – "Courageous and tough. Often wonder if people who meet her suspect they are in the presence of a world-class athlete. At age 14 she swam the 19th fastest 1500-meter free in the world, became a four-time high school state champion, was Athlete of the Year three years in a row, set three Oregon open records and three school records, was both high school and college All-America several times. Chris was the greatest distance swimmer in the history of the Pacific Northwest. From age six until she graduated from college, Chris lined up hundreds of times against the best. She expected to win every competition and nearly did."
- Mom – Determined, thoughtful, giving, caring, and a strong competitor!
- Aunt Rosie – Chris was the youngest of the first 5 grandchildren so to us she was our "Baby Chris". As Chris grew up and dedicated her young life to swimming, getting through college on a swimming scholarship and being a mom and furthering her education – she has always risen to the occasion of what life has presented to her. I would call Chris a "survivor". I am extremely proud of her – she has always been one of my girls in my heart.
- Tiana – Commitment & perseverance
- Cori – Brave, confident & forgiving
- Tami – Hilarious & insightful

- *Karla - Two things I love about Chris are: Her incredible sense of humor, no one makes me laugh harder. And her determination, she has proven to me the under any circumstances you can come out winning*
- *Lynnea - What a storyteller she is.*
- *Christine - Spirited and Soccer Mom of the Year!*
- *Darcie - ROYAL FLUSH, strength*
- *Angie - LOYAL & OOH...Horse Man!*
- *Tammie - Workout Buddy and dedicated friend*
- *Cindy - Determined, inspirational & friend for life! No matter how long it goes between our visits we easily pick up where we left off- a friendship that can withstand any amount of time & distance! ☺*
- *Teri - Compassionate ... What I respect about Chris is that she is forgiving. Unselfishly forgiving.*
- *Cathy - Enjoyable and Spontaneous*
- *Jodie- Funny clairvoyant taboo partner*
- *Kristi - Fun-loving and strong willed*
- *Connie - I like Chris for being very funny and vivacious. She makes me laugh and is an extremely caring person. She will be sorely missed!*
- *Kelly - A friend that "isn't too much work to be around"- I can always count on Chris to make me laugh no matter how bad it is.*
- *Nicole - Wonderful family & funny*
- *Meg - Fun & Comical "Chris and I have a 30 year history of friendship. To me, she is like the stars. You don't always see them but you know they are there!"*

Happy Birthday & Best Wishes!

Cindy

*To laugh often and much;
 To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;
 To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;
 To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others;
 To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;
 To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.
 This is to have succeeded.*

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

