

Obituary

'So, goodnight unto you all...'

- William Shakespeare

Laurie Smith

'BECAUSE I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die. I have sent up my gladness on wings to be lost in the blue of the sky. I have run and leaped with the rain, I have taken the wind to my breast. My cheek like a drowsy child, to the face of the earth I have pressed. Because I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die.' - 'A Song for the Living, Amelia Josephine Burr.

There were smiles among the sorrow on Sunday morning when Cenessa Stork (36) - CANSA International Hero of Hope, daughter, sister, friend, actress, Zululand Observer reporter and self-proclaimed 'Queen of St Lucia' - took her last breath.

Rather, her death which came after valiantly fighting cancer for 11 years, has set off a ripple effect of messages of love and inspiration.

'Your fight against your illness has inspired so many people,' said Siobhan Shivrina Cavill, and 'You showed inspiration and determination where most others would have stopped and you never stopped smiling - and that was the most important thing,' said Corlen Kruger.

'You have left a legacy behind that many will want to match in your fight with cancer,' said Bruce Piek.

'I will be walking in your honour at this year's Shine for Cancer Research UK. Sleep well, you beautiful inspiration,' said Charlotte Jägerbomber Newby from the United Kingdom.

The messages of support were directed at her husband Troy Macabuag, who travelled to South Africa and cared for

her until the end, her beloved mother Jeanette, father Piet and younger brother Willem.

Cenessa was born in Pretoria where she spent her early years painting, singing, drum majoring and dancing her way through primary school before matriculating with a flourish from Oos Moot High School.

She completed her fine arts studies at Pretoria Technikon before travelling to the United Kingdom.

In 2002 - at the age of 25 - Cenessa was diagnosed with cancer for the first time.

She returned to South Africa shortly thereafter for medical advice, before travelling back and forth between the two countries, finally returning to St Lucia in 2006. She fought many battles over the next seven years, sacrificing her hair, her health and even her breasts, before losing the war on Sunday.

Though she was ill much of the time, Cenessa's energy demanded that she be constantly involved in her community on all levels, and what better way to do that, she said, than to compile a community newspaper?

The Zululand Observer was blessed to have shared in that energy and character while Cenessa produced her beloved North Watch.

Her life will be celebrated with a service at St Lucia on Saturday, 23 February at 10am (venue to be announced.)

But anyone who knew her, and certainly those who loved her fiercely (and there were many) will know that Cenessa would not want tears, or anger or heartache.

She would want dancing, pretty dresses and flowers in your hair. Pink ones, of course.



Cenessa with her beloved dog - 'my hart se punt' - Chipoki, who was her constant companion. Here they are pictured on St Lucia beach, one of their favourite places

'Laughter is the tonic, the relief, the surcease for pain...' - Charlie Chaplin