



Mélisande Leah D'Alessio

July 8, 1944 - June 19, 2026

Mélisande Leah D'Alessio, 81, died in the peace of her home in Bradenton Florida surrounded by her husband and care givers on June 19, 2026. Mélisande was born in a West Virginia hospital to J. Steele and Corinna Brown of neighboring Ohio. She was named for her parents' appreciation of Claude Debussy's haunting opera *Péleas and Mélisande*.

Mélisande attended Ridge High School in Basking Ridge New Jersey and later traveled for a year from Reykjavík Iceland to South Africa supporting her travels with diverse job opportunities ranging from The Brookings Institution in London to disc jockey in Chamonix France, before graduating Cum Laude with a degree in Fine Arts from The College of New Jersey.

She later attained the highest sales among her peers representing wholesale Georgia-Pacific building products to Home Depot, Lowe's and independent lumber yards in New Jersey. In 1996 she retired to devote her full time efforts to the ceramic arts. Both her functional and whimsical creations were in demand at gift shops like Bowhe & Peare in Princeton NJ, and Grounds for Sculpture's Toad Hall in Trenton. In juried competition, she won permanent display purchases at the Celestial Seasonings Teapot Museum in Boulder Colorado for her Lemon Zinger Teapot, and the New Jersey State offices in Trenton for her Stag Horn Beetle Vase.

Mélisande will be remembered for her witty humor, kindness, love of nature, fondness for horses and her philanthropy to advance education, public health, music, and the arts. As a 36-year cancer survivor, she volunteered for the American Cancer Society to comfort and counsel patients who like her could find no encouraging support for their afflictions post surgery.

Mélisande is survived by her husband Alfred W. D'Alessio and her sister Denise Cordero of Sequim Washington.

Arrangements by Toale Brothers in Bradenton are private, however memorial contributions made in her name to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research are appreciated.