



Lauren Terrazzano

Lauren Terrazzano grew up in Massachusetts, and graduated from Tewksbury High School.

In 1990, Terrazzano earned a bachelor's degree in communications, with a concentration in Italian and art history, from Boston University. She earned a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University in 1994.

She took her first reporting job with the Patriot Ledger in Quincy, Mass. From there, she went to Trader's Magazine in New York; then the Daily News in New York for a one-year reporting internship; then to the Record in Hackensack, New Jersey. Then in March 1996 she began her career at Newsday. She also worked as an adjunct professor at Columbia University.

Lauren Terrazzano, a skilled and tenacious reporter, used her investigative talent to highlight injustices against the most vulnerable, particularly children, and always with such dignity and respect. Towards the end of her life she wrote about her own battle with lung cancer.

Ms. Terrazzano was honored for her column, "Life, with Cancer," an account of her own experiences with cancer as well as those of others grappling with the disease. In her column, which has reached readers worldwide, Lauren described the stress of the disease on a marriage, slammed a tobacco company for marketing to young women, and lamented the inappropriate comments of well-meaning friends. Ms. Terrazzano won a 2007 Excellence in Journalism award from the Society of the Silurians, and the 2007 Joanie Award from the Joan Scarangelo Foundation to Conquer Lung Cancer.

Sadly, in May 2007, Lauren Terrazzano at only 39 years of age, lost her three-year battle with lung cancer. The March before her death, she and her husband marked their first anniversary with a hike up Bear Mountain, in the state park 50 miles north of New York. Eighteen months earlier, Terrazzano had led 40 of her colleagues and friends up the mountain in a charity walk for cancer research. It was a sunny day of triumph. When she made the hike this year, the weather had cooled and her prognosis had darkened.

She was the only child of Frank and Virginia Terrazzano, of Hull, Massachusetts.

We are honored to have them with us today

SUFFOLK COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S 2008 LONG ISLAND ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR