

Personal Biography for: Pamela Jean Kolenda  
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I was born on Friday, January 6, 1984 to Dianne and Thomas Kolenda at Sacred Heart Hospital in Norristown, PA. At the time, my older sister, Angela, was almost 5 years old. We were currently living on W. Main Street in Norristown. After my sister Amy was born (November 9, 1985), we moved to Sterigere Street, right next to my great-grandmom (Mommom) Adel Perna, and Great-Aunt Mary Perna. We lived there until I was almost five years old.

On September 30, 1988 we moved a half and hour Northwest to Douglassville, PA. here I started preschool and met my first childhood friends (Beth Rothenburger, Amy Button, Renee Reed, Nichole and Katie Root). As a child all of us and my little sister Amy would hang out at the Elementary school or ride our bikes at the police station next-door. My older sister Angela would often watch Amy and I and help us make crafts for our parents and grandparents. In elementary school I tried a number off activities, none of which I had a passion for, such as chorus, trumpet, dance, piano, and basketball.

From the time we were very young up, until I was in 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Amy and I spent most of our weekends with our grandparents. We spent some time at the Pernas, usually with our cousins James (Kelly) and Heather (Sanfeliese). We would play pool in the basement or just let our imaginations run wild. We would play games such as Ninja Turtles, Rainbow Bright, WWF and baby angles or orphans. We would climb Grandmom and Granpop's tree, pick off the leaves, sew them together and pretend to make clothes out of them. One time Heather, Amy and I got on the Valley Forge Bike Trail behind their house and rode all the way to Conshohocken and back.

We also spent a lot of time at Grandmom and Grandpop Kolenda's in Conshohocken. There we spent our time with our cousins, Melissa and Chrissy Kolenda. We would also play baby games. We would pick the gooseberries and mint leaves from their yard, mix them with water, and pretend it was baby food. We also loved playing games with the neighborhood boys. We played games like kick the can and manhunt. When we got a little older, we would walk the town. We would go to the Pizza Time to hand out or over to listen to the garage band play.

In high school I made a lot of new friends, the closest being Jeannine Paterson, the Salaneks, and lots of boys. I fell they helped make me who I am today. One of them that I am still very close to is my best friend, Jeannine Stauss. We met in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and we are now business partners.

In high school I was an average student. I was smart but was way more interested in my friends and boys that I was in my schoolwork. I also went to vo-tech for cosmetology. I started dating my boyfriend, Jef, on October 25, 2001. I graduated high school with the class of 2002.

Shortly after graduation I began working at the Icehouse deli in Pottstown. For some reason I loved working there. I made a lot of friends there and my sister Amy started working there

shortly after me. On January 10, 2003 I was helping the manager close the store when two armed men pushed me back in and demanded money from us. We gave them the money and my purse, but one of them shot me anyway. I was flown to the Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where I was treated for a collapsed lung, lacerated liver, spleen and bowel, and torn stomach muscles. I stayed in the hospital for a week. Here I realized how precious life was. So many people came to visit including my whole family. I am so lucky to have such a caring family. They helped me so much when I needed them most. Three months later I returned to the hospital to have the bullet removed. I also had cosmetic surgery on the 11-inch scar that now runs down my stomach.

After this I realized I didn't want a job like that any more. After a year on Workmen's Compensation I enrolled in college. While on Workmen's Compensation, I did a lot of fishing and Frisbee golfing. But mostly I went to the Shillington Animal Rescue League where I volunteered by walking dogs. Here I would walk multiple dogs each day. This is until I found Xena. Xena was a seven-month-old pit bull puppy that I fell in love with. I called my mom while her and dad were on vacation in Hawaii and begged her until she allowed me to adopt Xena. That was a little over two years ago, and Xena is now part of my family.

I got a small settlement after almost a year on Workmen's Compensation. With this I bought a 20-foot bass boat with a 150hp motor. I got the boat from an E-bay auction – little did I know the boat was in Arkansas! Jef, our friend Nathan, and I went on a road trip to Arkansas to pick it up. It took us 20 hours straight through and five days with a lot of stops on the way back.

Ever since I was little I loved to fish. The Kolenda side of the family goes to the mountains (Green Tree, Bradford County, PA) and Canada every year on fishing trips. Now I still go with the family but my friends and I also go to Canada every year. I have been to many beautiful places. My parents and family always make good destination choices. With the Pernas we have been to Florida and Maryland, and with the Kolenda's we have gone to Canada and Green Tree. We also go to Maine every-other year to see my mom's best friend, Mary and her family. We have also been to the Outer Banks. I often take weekend vacations to the beach with family and friends.

In May of 2005, Jeannine and I opened a home services business with the help of our parents, Angela and Auntie Carol (Kolenda) Beitz and many more. We clean, garden, do pet care, and a lot more. For a new business, we are doing very well. I am so blessed to have been born into the families that I was. I couldn't ask for a better family or friends or future in-laws. My life may not be too exciting but my friends and family are always there to make me smile. Because of all them, I love my life.