

Deb in PA

8:59

Mornin' all and thanks to CN for sponsoring the chat in memory of our dear Congowings! Scrolled back and read through the tears all the wonderful posts from last night. Congo shared so much with all of us but still kept a part of herself private--no pictures and not telling us when her birthday was. A lot of us couldn't figure out her absence from the chat but knew it had to be something awful to keep her away....Now, she is one with nature for all eternity and we keep her in our hearts forever more.

Cathy in Nevada

8:59

Thank you Ed for the beautiful tribute to Congo. She was truly an inspiration to us all.

Dave in Missouri

9:00

Minicongo: I first discovered Congo at the NBG nest. All the Mods were special there, but I knew Congowings was very special! If I said something wrong she would give me the Eagle Stare, lol! She has done so much for Wildlife, I have two books she put together, Bear Sense and Paws, both signed by her with a nice message in each one I will cherish forever! Also, I have most of the Garden of Eagles Calendars she put together. I am amazed how much she has done for WCV and the SWF Eagle site! She is above and beyond and will always be remembered 💖 for her special heart and abilities! God bless you, the family and friends!

SAH

9:04

Thanks Ed for the beautiful and moving tribute to Congowings.

PAS in NY

9:10

@Deb in PA. I remember when one of us would wish Congo a happy birthday each month so we didn't miss her birthday. I was certain it was April Fools Day!

Cathy in Nevada

9:14

MiniCongo - Thank you for sharing that special moment you heard an unknown bird chirping after your mother passed. And thank you for sharing Congo - she was truly a friend to all. Deepest sympathies to you and your family.

Jersey Shore Amy

9:21

wearing my eagle earrings today in honor of Congowings. Started going through and organizing my jewelry yesterday, and they were in the first box I tackled this morning...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:26

Good morning, everyone -- these are all such wonderful reflections of Congowings! I feel like I need more time to make coherent thoughts ... it's tough to know just how to sum things up for such a remarkable human. She's been such a part of the Wildlife Center's work and history.

9:27

On that note, I'm happy to announce that our annual summer megamatch donor reached out -- and would like to do that megamatch in memory of Congowings. Amazingly enough, the first megamatch was in honor of Congowings in 2012! I can remember her being conflicted ... she was always so humble, so she didn't really want it to be about her, but she loved that it was for the Center, of course! :) Ultimately, that won out, I think, and she was very touched. At any rate, this year's MegaMatch Day will be on Monday, July 10 -- but really, contributions given in memory of Congo before Monday will be counted toward the match. https://www.wildlifecenter.org/news_events/events/summer-megamatch-ext...

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

9:29

Critter Nation - Thank you for sponsoring the CC today in honor of our dear Congowings. We will all miss her early.

SAH

9:38

Minicongo, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. I learned so much about Eagles from Congo over the years. Her knowledge and expertise was amazing! She was always here for us if we had a question about them. I always got a kick out of her comments about the squirrels in her yard! I have lots of squirrels in my yard and I often think about her when I see them, especially when they are acting up! I will very much miss Congo.

9:40

I will very much miss her and will always be thankful for all I learned from her.

BarbG

9:58

- thanks to **Critter Nation**
- In memory of Congowings! We will truly miss you! You will ALWAYS be in thoughts and prayers! Fly high Debby and know you were loved!!

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

9:58

Thank you to the Mega Match donor! I predict that we'll hit that \$3000 mark in a couple hours today and won't have to wait for July 10th. Getting ready to hit the donate button now.

Mamie in SC

10:01

Thank you Critter Nation for sponsoring the cams today in memory of Congo. ♥



Ed Clark

10:01

Good morning, again, everyone. It is nice to see a good number of folks here with us. Certainly, we all feel a deep sadness at the loss of our dear friend, Congo, but I think she would most appreciate all of the fun and funny things we are remembering....the squirrels....the eagle stare....the mysterious vanishing chat posts.... We will be joined shortly by Congo's daughter, "Minicongo". I know how much she appreciates all that has been said thus far, and I know you will appreciate the chance to express your feelings directly.

PAS in NY

10:02

Question for MiniCongo: How is Henry mourning her mother?

MVK

10:02

Good morning Ed and everyone.

Guest

10:03

Wearing my "Eagle Nation Not Just About Eagles " shirt today.

BarbG

10:03

good morning everyone



Ed Clark

10:03

I hope you have all seen the link that Amanda posted a bit ago, announcing that the summer mega match donations will be in memory of Congo. While the formal mega match day is Monday, any contributions we receive before then will be counted toward the match if they reference Congo.

CK in Pa

10:03

Good morning everyone!

Sweetpea in North Carolina

10:03

Good Morning MVK- my deepest condolences to you with the passing of Congo (((hugs)))

katiesmom/gingersmom

10:04

Good morning Ed, MVK and critter nation.

Lois

10:04

Good morning Ed, I think I'm still in shock even though I knew it was coming. She was such a wonderful, caring and loving person that didn't know the word 'No'. I have so many fond memories of my trips to Virginia, on the chats both here and SWFEC that will safely be tucked in my heart.

NancyD

10:04

Good morning everyone, especially MVK. My sincere sympathies to you

Becky in SoCal

10:04

Good morning Ed and Critter Nation. Many thanks to the generous donor. No doubt it will be much more.

DaveinMissouri

10:04

Hugs to you MVK and everyone!

MVK

10:04

Thank you Sweetpea. It is a sad time for sure but Congo is probably giving most of us the "look" as we make comments.

MiniCongo

10:04

Good Morning Everyone.

@PAS in NY Henry is taking everything as well as one would think. He has been losing feathers a lot though. I think he will be ok. I was the one taking care of him for the past few months

Brenda in PA

10:05

Good to see you again MVK!! Know you will miss your dear friend Congo.

Mary E in NC

10:05

Thank you so much for being here, Minicongo - your mother was a very special person and we all loved her. Ed, you and WCV opened the world of wildlife medicine to many of us when you rescued the Norfolk eaglets and set up the cameras and blog. Congowings kept us there with her wisdom and wit managing the blog with people from all over the world. This site has been a haven of friendship and education for so many people - She gave so much of her time and talent and blessed us all with her beautiful calendars! We will miss her and always remember her - much love to your family.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

10:05

Good Morning Lois- ((hugs) to you with the passing of your dear friend Congo

MVK

10:06

Thank you all. Congo was an amazing lady and we will all miss her terribly.

Lois

10:06

Good morning MiniCongo, (HUGS} and love to you and the family

MiniCongo

10:06

Good Morning Lois- we wish you were here

Lois

10:06

Good morning Sweetpea

MVK

10:06

Good morning MiniCongo.

DaveinMissouri

10:07

Hugs to you Lois and Minicongo!

Becky in SoCal

10:07

MiniCongo, thank you for sharing your Mom with all of us. She was a treasure. Lots of hugs and prayers for you and all of your family.

MiniCongo

10:07

Morning MVK- we love you

nef in me

10:07

There are many of us who didn't post often, but Congo would greet us all as friends. I along with so many others will miss her and send hugs to all.

PAS in NY

10:07

Thank you for sharing time with us, Minicongo. And lovely to see MVK too, to share in our grief together.

Mamie in SC

10:07

Good morning Ed, MVK, & everyone

MVK

10:08

MinoCongo - thank you.



Ed Clark

10:08

MiniCongo, thanks for being here. As you and I have been in touch over the last several days, I know you have found a lot of comfort in the wonderful things people are saying and remembering about your mom. We hope that knowing how many of us share your family's grief will lighten the load somewhat.

Becky in SoCal

10:08

MVK, I am so sorry for your loss of Congo.

Lois

10:08

Hugs Dave

MVK

10:08

Thank you Becky. It is a huge loss for all of us.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

10:09

Good Morning MiniCongo- Henry Im sure senses something is missing Just continue to love him (((hugs)))

MiniCongo

10:09

Ed messaged me last night and said i should take a peek at this moderated discussion. When i opened it up- i was astonished with the outpour of love. Thank you all for such kind words

Barbb in nj

10:09

Hugs to you, MVK, and thank you for being here with us this morning. Congo would be honored.

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

10:09

MiniCongo, one of my favorite memories is sitting with your mom and dad at the 2013 WCV gala. I was totally fangirl. That was the year they bid on releasing the peregrine falcon. I think your dad wanted to do the release, but I have wonderful pictures of you getting to release the bird. Such a wonderful memory!

Carol in Colorado

10:10

As Nef in me said, some of us didn't post often but Congo always made us feel special ♥

MVK

10:10

Barbb - Congo would probably say that it was about time.

DaveinMissouri

10:10

Minicongo, we all loved your mom so much, she was a very kind hearted ♥ person for sure!:)



Ed Clark

10:11

I remember that peregrine release. Some fun!! That bird flew like a rocket!

MiniCongo

10:11

Shirley- that memory is one that i will take with me forever. Truly a once in a lifetime experience. We have a framed collage of pictures from that release. I think Lois gave it to us. Mom, Dad, and I were so excited to be a part of that

Becky in SoCal

10:11

I first met Congo through the cam on Norfolk Botanical Gardens, shortly before Mom Norfolk was killed. I will always remember her gentle, calming demeanor during that time and how happy I was when she then was on the WCV moderated discussion. She was special.

Peggy from Pungo(VB)

10:11

Thank for being here, Minicongo, MVK, Ed, Lois, and all who loved and admired Debbi. Sending my deepest condolences to all. She was a very special person <3

BarbG

10:11

Minicongo-what can I say except we loved learned from her and enjoyed our times online together

MiniCongo

10:11

I am sitting in her computer room right now to chat with you all.

Wingnut

10:12

Good morning MiniCongo, MVK, Ed, and all. As you already know, MiniCongo, we feel your mother's loss so deeply here.

Lois

10:12

LOL, Congo was so private and hated attention on her. I can imagine her say why are people doing this. She did not know how many lives she touched through the years. Will miss her so much.

MVK

10:12

Peggy - good to see you this morning.

MiniCongo

10:12

I'll tell you what- she would be yelling at me right now- allowing all this attention on her.

CK in Pa

10:13

I'm another of the don't post often group, but Congo always treated me as one of the family.

Lois

10:13

Morning Peggy

Wings/Evelynn

10:13

Good Morning. I add my sincere condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Congowings aka Debbi aka Essec {Hugs}

The loss to the wildlife community is immeasurable. Her voice has gone quiet but her teachings/advocacy will live on in the hearts of thousands.

Lois

10:13

LOL MiniCongo, I know she would be.

Lakelover

10:13

Good morning Minicongo, Ed, MVK, Lois, Dave and all eagle lovers from NBG, WCV and SWFL! Hugs for all...praying that God will comfort in this loss.

Becky in SoCal

10:13

Put your ear plugs in MiniCongo. You are going to win on this one!

CathyAJ from Mich

10:13

CN, thank you for sponsoring the cams in memory of our beloved Congo.

MVK

10:13

MiniCongo - but she so deserves every wonderful comment.

Lois

10:13

Morning Lakelover

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

10:13

Amanda, will the chats with memories of Congowings be archived so that we can go back later and re-read? I think it would be wonderful for all of us (including family).

katiesmom/gingersmom

10:14

Maybe minicongo (love that!) you might take a turn occasionally at the wheel in remembrance of your mom?

DaveinMissouri

10:14

Congowings was so private, I guess she didn't want me to know that Congowings and Essec were one of the same, lol! It was a conspiracy!:)

MVK

10:14

Hi Lakelover

MiniCongo

10:14

She absolutely does MVK... she deserves a statue. A monument.

cbcNorfolk

10:14

MVK so glad you are on this a.m. I miss seeing you at the Mermaid in Ghent. I think I remembered the right store!

PAS in NY

10:14

MiniCongo or MVK - how did Congo first get involved with the SWFL and Norfolk eagle cams

MVK

10:14

Hi there katiesmom - Congo would like it that we are all together again and with her favorite daughter - MiniCongo. :)

Sweetpea in North Carolina

10:15

I remember only once getting an instant message from her about a post on chat. I sat here for a minute in shock I was being scolded at my age of 70 haha never again went there :)



Ed Clark

10:15

Sweetpea, I got those messages with some regularity, and you never get past the shock of being called out!! 😂

MVK

10:16

cbc - yes the shop changed hands and has now closed.

MiniCongo

10:16

PAS- they ran a story on our local news about the eagles..she started watching the cams...and then it snowballed....

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

10:16

MiniCongo, she does have a couple bricks with her name at Norfolk Botanical Gardens.

Jersey Shore Amy

10:16

Minicongo - my deepest condolences to you and all your family on the loss of dear Debbi. Knew her from the NBG. So much love and learning and laughter with her on the chat! I regret that I never made it to a Gala and met her in person.

katiesmom/gingersmom

10:16

She would love it for sure!

Becky in SoCal

10:16

MiniCongo, I always wondered how she came to be know as Congowings.

MVK

10:16

Sweetpea - you were not the only one who was scolded. She often told me to keep the partying in line.

MiniCongo

10:16

it started with NBG Eagles

Congowings because of our Congo African Grey, Henry

Cathy from Illinois

10:17

It's been awhile since I've been here, but I couldn't miss the opportunity to be with you all to share stories about Congowings. Like many of you, I followed the Rock Stars from Norfolk to WCV, and it was so comforting when Congo showed up as a moderator here. She was always a humble, solid, dependable presence.

MiniCongo

10:17

All of you THINK you got scolded by her, try being her only daughter. LoL



Ed Clark

10:17



Becky in SoCal

10:17

I should have known Henry was involved. I know he will thrive on your love and attention. Birds are such wonderful creatures.

DaveinMissouri

10:18

Lol Minicongo!:)

Jersey Shore Amy

10:18

In 2017 I was scolded and got the stare for posting about the beautiful collection of hawk feathers that I kept from my late sister! About 2 weeks ago I was on vacation on Cape Cod and the neighborhood was teeming with wild turkeys. I thought "I need to tell Congo that I am not in trouble for keeping raptor feathers - they're from turkeys!"

MVK

10:19

I remember the first time on chat with Congo. It was not the WVC one at first. After a while, we talked about a calendar and she kept saying "I can do that" and "I'll do that" and I kept thinking "Sure you can". Well she sure did and did everything she said she would do - the very next night! That was Congo.

Doris aka Teeth

10:19

Minicongo, MVK, and Lois, you are all in my prayers. I just know Congo is soaring with Mom Norfolk and Harriet.

Guest

10:19

I haven't been able to get onto the WCV site or chat in ages. I miss it so much. But I had to say a special thank you to Congo. I'm still so shocked to hear of her passing and knowing we have lost two of our 3 mods from the NBG days just makes my heart yearn for those special days once again---it started my love for eagles. To Debbi's family--thank you for sharing her with us for so many years. Her crown in heaven will be a big one.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

10:20

one late night on chat we had a pajama party and out of the blue Miss Congo posted a stare the mood changed lol

Angelkitty

10:20

I usually post here only when there are bears, but every year when I came back Congo would welcome me as if I'd never left.

Carol in Colorado

10:20

Love "the Stare"

Lois

10:20

Hi Doris, its been awhile since I saw you.

Brenda in PA

10:20

I also first met Congo at the NBG nest just before the Rock Stars hatched and followed her to WCV. I had the chance to meet her in person (along with Ed and MVK) at the NBG Eagle Fest and the next day at WCV open house. She had such a love for wildlife and had a gift for sharing it with others. I was part of her "night owls" group chatting and looking for bears at midnight. MiniCongo thank you for sharing your Mom with us. She was such a treasure.

Lois

10:20

LOL Sweetpea, I remember many parties that MVK hosted that was interrupted.

MVK

10:20

Thank you Doris. She is probably surrounded by eagles waiting in line to thank her for all she has done to educate others about them.

katiesmom/gingersmom

10:21

I remember meeting her at the first gala that I went to - she was a celebrity but didn't want to be. I wanted to badly to meet Congowings, but had not idea how to do so. At one point during the evening, a beautiful lady came up to me and said hello, my name is Debbi and after a couple minutes, she leaned a little closer and said Congowings! Such an exciting moment for me!

Jersey Shore Amy

10:21

That is indeed a wonderful thought, MVK!

MiniCongo

10:22

someone please show me the "congo stare" ive never seen it in emoji form...in real life...often.

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

10:22

I know there are lots of people in my area that learned about eagles and bears because their elementary media specialist (me) kept the NBG and then WCV cam and chat up in the media center all day long. Congo and MVK helped educate us all!

Rhoda

10:23

I've been looking at some of the videos I made of the rock stars and I did some of the blog fun at the end of one starting with a strange measure of time a Congo minute. If you are interested here's the link the Congo minute starts at 13:29 and there is more after that shows her wonderful timing and sense of humor.

Lois

10:23

MiniCongo, think it was a screen capture that she kept handy during chats.

Wingnut

10:23

Minicongo, I was "stared at", edited, PM'd, deleted and special "folderized" so many times I lost count. I miss those days so much.

Cathy from Illinois

10:23

@Angelkitty, I agree. Even when I had not been here for a long time I always felt recognized by Congo.

Guest

10:23

I NEVER knew that Congo was Essec. I really wish I would've known that.

MVK

10:24

One of my favorite memories was the night before the Eagle Festival we had a get together at my place. Of course Congo wanted to be in the background. Many of us met in person that night - 50+ were there. I couldn't even make it into the living room. Congo was sitting in a chair and everyone was asking her questions. She was having so much fun. It did my heart good.

Mary E in NC

10:24

Thanks for being here MVK - I remember meeting you and Congo at the NBG - you were stars!

Guest

10:24

Missed rtp

Carol in Colorado

10:24

Folderized. Lol

Wingnut

10:24

And I hope someone has that avatar Congo used, which was Eagle #1, whom Dad chose as his mate after the passing of Mom Norfolk. I want to hang on to it.

Mamie in SC

10:24

I also met Congo at NBG, and was thrilled to have her here. A few years ago I fell in love with one of the bear cubs (skinny, silly little No Tag) & she would always try to find her with the cam for me when I mentioned wanting to see her.

MVK

10:24

Mary E - I am honored to be here with all of you.

MiniCongo

10:25

Oh- darn. i wanted to see the stare. maybe i can find it going through computer files

Guest

10:25

good morning all! Been reading back & it

Lois

10:25

LOL Wingnut, I remember menay of those too. And you knept changing your screen name.

Lakelover

10:25

Ed, I was instrumental in bringing you here to visit at the Wildlife Center of Texas several years ago (Claudia). After losing Mom Norfolk, I drifted over to SWFL and perched there for the last few years. But being back here on this occasion causes me to regret being gone. So many great memories with all

of you from NBG to WCV to SWFEC. I miss you all, but so grateful for the world of wildlife that Congo (Essec) and Ed opened up in me! You've all enriched my life! Bless you!



Ed Clark

10:26

That was a great trip to Texas, and a fabulous welcome at that Mexican Restaurant!

Jersey Shore Amy

10:26



Kinda like this!

Cathy in Nevada

10:26



The Congo stare



Ed Clark

10:26

There it is!!!

MVK

10:26

MiniCongo - I am sure you were on the receiving end of "the stare" many times.

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

10:27

MiniCongo, Vonnie posted the eagle stare pic yesterday or the day before. And I LOVE saying this: "SCROLL BACK!"

Doris aka Teeth

10:27

Lois, it has been a while. It was at AW Shucks. It was the last time I saw Congo and MVK as well. I'll cherish the memory.

Teri in Texas

10:27

I forgot to add my name to my comment earlier---like I said, it's been awhile since I've been here.:)

Sweetpea in North Carolina

10:27

I remember many postings in chat "DO NOT CALL THE CENTER" if owls fell on night cam or the eaglets fell to the ground haha

Becky in SoCal

10:27

That stare definitely gets your attention!

MiniCongo

10:27

oh...looks just like the real life one LoL

Linda fm Suffolk, VA

10:28



A memory for you, MiniCongo. Congo was bound and determined in the bidding - she made sure you got it.

Guest

10:28

good morning all! That's for doing this honorable tribute to you r mom & thank u zed. This chat text is messing with me. So very sorry for the loss of th e amazing Congowings. This is Candy Burgess by the way mrsreb1 of NBG and SWFL

Sweetpea in North Carolina

10:28

just beautiful (love)

Cathy from Illinois

10:28

@Rhoda, haha I remember 'Congo minutes'.

MVK

10:28

Doris - I have pics of that time. Congo is even in some of them.

Lois

10:28

Doris, it was the last time I saw Bobbi too.

Norma in Ottawa/Nepean

10:29

In the words of Winnie the Pooh "If there ever comes a day when we can't be together, keep me in your heart, I'll stay there forever."

Jersey Shore Amy

10:29

Wingnut- I don't think Congo knew what to make of you and your exaggerations at first, and then the name changes! It made her laugh though!

BarbG

10:29

loved seeing the stare as long as not directed at me

Sweetpea in North Carolina

10:29

beautiful capture of you MiniCongo :)

MiniCongo

10:29

Such a great picture. I can still remember the push off from the falcon

Wingnut

10:29

Thank you, Cathy in Nevada!

Guest

10:29

Mimi Congo I have your Mom's sense of humor



Ed Clark

10:30

I love that photo of the peregrine release! Those are special moments.

MiniCongo

10:30

Norma- if you ask my 5 year old son where grandma is now- he will say "she is in my heart always"

Lois

10:30

LOL MiniCongo and don't forget to lift your leg when you launch the bird :)

MVK

10:30

Sweetpea - or when the eagles flew into the net and hung upside down until they figured out how to release themselves?

Becky in SoCal

10:30

I agree Guest, that sense of humor did not fall far from the tree.

Guest

10:30

Guest should say u have your moms sense of humor

Jersey Shore Amy

10:30

forgot about the "Congo minute"!

Becky in SoCal

10:30

Aww, that is so sweet what you son says.

DaveinMissouri

10:30

I always knew Congowings heart ♥ was with the Eagles, after some time with WCV I realized she wasn't on as much so I started searching the Eagles sites, I came across the SWF Eagle cam and found that MVK was there. MVK let me know that Essec had seen me there and after a while I knew it was Congowings! I would see Congowings log into WCV early in the morning, and then she would log into the SWF Eagle site. I watched it happen over and over again and knew it was Congowings! Lois would tell me differently, lol!:)

MiniCongo

10:31

I lifted my leg the best i could in those tight jeans, per Ed's request

Doris aka Teeth

10:31

Congo let me take a picture of her and MVK at the Eagle Festival. But I had to promise I wouldn't ever show it to anyone. PROMISE KEPT!

Jersey Shore Amy

10:31

I am sure Papa G'Ho is also in line to greet Congo!

MVK

10:31

MiniCongo - LOL

Lois

10:32

LOL

Guest

10:32

Lol ed

Sweetpea in North Carolina

10:32

When an eaglet in SWFEC fell early from the tree many chatters wanted to call the police to rescue it.

U know Miss Congo would not have any of that lol

MiniCongo

10:32

I had a moment when vacuuming, that i realized I had made the full transformation into my mother. As i was vacuuming a thought went through my head " i wish no one would step on the carpet, so there wont be any footprints" and it stopped me in my tracks.

Jersey Shore Amy

10:33

I had no idea she was moderating another site at the same time! How did she manage all of that?!?!!

Becky in SoCal

10:33

Thank you so much for coming on today MiniCongo. Sharing these wonderful memories of your Mom is a comfort to all of us and I hope it is to you, also.

Guest

10:33

Lol mini

Her passion jersey

Jersey Shore Amy

10:33

don't worry, mini, we have all had that same transformation go through our heads! :)

Lois

10:34

MiniCongo, you will have many of those thoughts come to you when you least expect it. She will always be with you.

MVK

10:34

Mini - being like your Mom is something to be proud of. She was one in a trillion.

Teri in Texas

10:34

I never ever knew Essec was Congo---"Essec" was always so serious--it didn't sound like Congo at all. I think all of us Eage Nation folks brought out her sense of humor! :)

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

10:34



MiniCongo, we all knew that your mom did not want to be seen in pictures. I posted a picture on Facebook from the 2013 Gala, but made sure to black out your mom. It made for some funny Darth Vader at the Gala jokes.

Lois

10:34

Yes she was MVK

MiniCongo

10:35

Yall are lucky you got any pictures of her. she wouldn't even let her family take pictures. I did convince her to get in the group photo at my birthday this past May
Shirley- that is hilarious.

katiesmom/gingersmom

10:35

MiniCongo, you will find that that there are Many Many things that you will do - that are your Mom's words, thoughts or actions.

Wings/Evelynn

10:35

Rhoda - Thank you for that video. Oh, the memories. What a special time that was for all us.

MVK

10:36

Mini - Oh I have many pics of her but wouldn't dare post them. Lots of Eagle Nation would send me pics of her and ask me to post them - Not me - I knew better.

MiniCongo

10:36

My poor Dad- he always said when i moved back in- that now he had two wives who were exactly the same. Poor Dad

Lois

10:36

Me too MVK.

Doris aka Teeth

10:36

MiniCongo, I have a question we all need the answer to. When was her birthday?!?!

Carol in Colorado

10:37

Thank you for asking, Doris.

MVK

10:37

Doris - LOL

MiniCongo

10:37

No no no....i dont need a poltergeist. right now she is showing us calm nice signs that she is OK. Im not going to make her mad.

Becky in SoCal

10:37

I am guessing we will never know.

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

10:38

Doris, I thought about that,too.

DaveinMissouri

10:38

I always used to make comments that she must have more than one computer to keep up with things, lol! I would tell her to thank her husband for all of his help with the computers!:)

Guest

10:38

I see MVK & LydiA but was also looking for Bobbi in this picture

Lois

10:38

I'm never forget the story of her and MVK transporting squirrels from the WCV for release in her own backyard.

Linda fm Suffolk, VA

10:38



Post release. I'm not sure who had the bigger smile.



Ed Clark

10:38

Well, MiniCongo, there goes your reputation!

Becky in SoCal

10:38

Great picture.

katiesmom/gingersmom

10:38

Too funny MiniCongo!

Doris aka Teeth

10:38

LOL

Teri in Texas

10:38

Are there other folks here that moderate on SWEC??? Other than MVK? And what are their screen names here? Inquiring minds need to know! :) I recognize so many "Old, familiar" names here---it's like coming home. I miss those days of watching the cams for hours and chatting with everyone. I really hate I'm unable to do that anymore. Yaknow, life..... :(

Mamie in SC

10:39

Yes Doris, here with us she had a birthday every month, just in case, lol.

PNW in Ohio

10:39

So many wonderful memories here. I was usually a "lurker" but have checked in daily since the days of NBG. Congowings, Shoebutton and MVK were all wonderful moderators. It was such a great transition that Congo came to WCV. I have enjoyed her comments and wonderful personality for many years. She is greatly missed.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

10:39

Beautiful capture for MiniCongo and Ed to cherish

MiniCongo

10:39

The squirrel box my Dad mounted to the tree, it is now home to Flying Squirrels. which i found out accidentally. I went to go clean it out and a little head popped out just as i was going to open the door. Scared me- i almost fell off the latter

Doris aka Teeth

10:40

Yes she did Mamie, just to make sure we got the correct month.

Lois

10:40

Teri in Texas, I am also over on SWFEC

Wingnut

10:40

I forgot all about the Congo minute. That was a period of time that could take anywhere from an actual minute to several days!

MiniCongo

10:40

ladder....i am educated, i promise

Jersey Shore Amy

10:40

the BIRTHDAY!! We need to know her birthday. Please?

DaveinMissouri

10:40

Oh Minicongo, lol! Squirrels!:))

MVK

10:41

PNW we were always happy when lurkers showed up once in a while. Most of us were right there with you at one time.

Teri in Texas

10:41

Thank you, Lois!!! I'll be sure to look for you!

Carol in Colorado

10:41

so true, Wingnut

Lois

10:42



Ed Clark

10:42

That is a GOOD one!!!

Pat, in N.J.

10:42

Good morning one and all. Like everyone here, I am so sad at the loss of our precious Congowings. I send condolences to you Minicongo and your family. I doesn't seem possible that we will never see her waiting for us when we sign into the discussion. Thank you Minicongo for being here to share our memories of your very special mother.

MiniCongo

10:42

My oldest brother (who is watching this) said to give yall a bone.....

March

Guest

10:42

On this chat ed

Sweetpea in North Carolina

10:42

no Guest- this is just moderated chat

MiniCongo

10:42

Lois--she gonna come for you now.

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

10:42

Lois, that is the BEST picture!

Lois

10:42

2011 Gala

MVK

10:43

Lois - Oh my - I remember that time.

Becky in SoCal

10:43

Beautiful picture, Lois.

NancyD

10:43

Great picture of MVK & Congo!

Barbb in nj

10:43

Rhoda, the video you posted at 10:23 is priceless, thanks for sharing!

MVK

10:43

Mini - Is he stirring up trouble again? We may have snow tomorrow with thunder if you reveal it.

Doris aka Teeth

10:43

Lois, she's gonna get you.

Cathy from Illinois

10:43

@Lois thank you for the beautiful photo.

Lois

10:43

I know MiniCongo, she will give me a sign.

katiesmom/gingersmom

10:43

Yep I visited the SWFEC and found MVK, Lois and Congowings there - they imparted their wisdom there as well and provided education and comfort/support when needed there as well.

10:44

Well that gives us 31 days to work with.

Martha

10:44

Good morning all! Keli, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family! Your mom was SO SPECIAL to so many! Thank you for sharing her!

DaveinMissouri

10:44

Beautiful picture!

Mamie in SC

10:44

Thanks for telling us at least what month!

Teri in Texas

10:44

I actually remember that photo--I think it's the ONE time she okayed it being published? Because MVK asked her, begged her--so we could know what she looked like? I only remember seeing one photo of her that she approved in all these years! That beautiful hair!

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

10:45

My dog keeps looking at me funny because I'm laughing out loud at some of the things being posted. Thanks to all who are sharing so many wonderful memories.

MVK

10:45

Katie - our heart was always where we began - at a nest in a garden.

jbfrommi

10:45

Lots of Prayers for Congowings Family.

Wingnut

10:45

March! Your brother is going to dream of an eagle staring tonight! Lol

Rhoda

10:45

Another memory that I have with Debbie is when the NBG male had so many females coming around that she started a spreadsheet with dates and I thought it was such a good idea I started one too. It was hard to ID them at times we spend many hours chatting back and forth about which one was at the nest when. She was always so organize.

Becky in SoCal

10:45

We will just have to celebrate the entire month of March.



Ed Clark

10:46

Talking about that spreadsheet.... I think I once referred to him as Dad Giggilo.... I got both the stare and the delete button!!

PAS in NY

10:46

T!here goes my April Fools Day guess

jbfrommi

10:46

Still remember Congowings and you MVK transporting those squirrels . lol

Teri in Texas

10:46

MVK, do you ever go visit NBG? I sure miss that loblolly pine and following Dad Norfolk and all the wonderful mods and people on that chat.....and of course the beautiful eagle family there.

PNW in Ohio

10:47

Love your brother for that bone! So March, huh?

DaveinMissouri

10:47

Lol Ed!:))

MVK

10:47

Ed - I can only imagine.

katiesmom/gingersmom

10:47

Well my Mom's birthday was on the 12th and mine is the 25th.

Linda fm Suffolk, VA

10:47

MiniCongo, I'm looking at the few photos I have of your mom and what always stood out to me was that she had the most beautiful smile - her whole face would light up and anyone near her couldn't help but smile too.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

10:47

oh my gosh Ed you were always in trouble on chat when Miss Congo was on haha



Ed Clark

10:48

You're telling me! It is a good thing I was the President of WCV or I might have been blocked!

Mamie in SC

10:48

Linda, I agree about her smile, beautiful, all the way up to her eyes

DaveinMissouri

10:48

The nest was 90 feet high!:))

Teri in Texas

10:49

DaveinMissouri--that's a fact none of us can ever forget! :)

jbf frommi

10:49

Thank you Ed Clark for the nice write up here for Congowings. She was a special lady.



Ed Clark

10:49

Heartfelt, I assure you, but it took a long time to finish. I had to keep dabbing my eyes and blowing my nose!

10:50

Randy and Amanda get credit for editing the draft. It did not start out quite so polished.

MiniCongo

10:50

April Fools was her favorite- she got me kicked out a dance program, unaccepted to college, and fired from my job on different april fools day

Guest

10:51

I certainly agree about her smile as her whole face became one even her eyebrows seemed to turn up. Beautiful smile indeed

MVK

10:51

Ed - Shamwows work great for those tears.



Ed Clark

10:51

I don't even know what those are, but I'll look for them on Amazon!

MiniCongo

10:51

I wasnt much nicer- one of the April fools i told her i was in a car accident. got in big trouble at school.

Becky in SoCal

10:52

Oh my, she really was into April Fools!

Lois

10:52

MiniCongo, I think that was her favorite day that she could get back at everyone

Teri in Texas

10:52

SHAMWOWS! LOL!!!!

MVK

10:52

Mini - She loved playing pranks.

Jersey Shore Amy

10:52

Oh that deserves the stare, big time!

Mary E in NC

10:52

MiniCongo - she raised you right!

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

10:52

MiniCongo, we've seen pics of Congo's Christmas decorations and heard about huge turkeys for Thanksgiving. Now you talk about April Fool's. Does she go all out for all holidays?

Guest

10:53

I'm with you Ed instant blubbering tears at just what MVK posted about her death

Cathy from Illinois

10:53

I have to step away for a congominute. It's been so nice being back here with you all. @MiniCongo, condolences to you and your family. I'm sure it helps to know that your Mom was loved by so many.

GN

10:53

Ed, hire the best people (even if you don't pay them) then get out of their way. It worked with Congo, who made the world a better place. I will miss her.

MiniCongo

10:53

Yes- she always made sure all the holidays were memorable. I have a big shoes to fill.

Lois

10:54

Talking about holiday I remember her sending your dad for a big turkey. The one he brought home wouldn't fit in the oven.

MiniCongo

10:54

yes! the lbs turkey. we had to get a new roasting pan for that one!

MVK

10:55

Shirley - you would not believe her dinners and decorations. There wasn't anything she could not do. She gave her all to any project she tackled. We know about that from the calendars. She would be up all night working on them. I know - I often got those late night calls.

NancyD

10:55

So MANY wonderful memories!

Sweetpea in North Carolina

10:55

Hi Gn- I cant recall- did you ever get the Congo STare or instant messages?? Haha

MiniCongo

10:55

*25lbs

Doris aka Teeth

10:55

Lois, she talked about that turkey for a long time.

MVK

10:55

Cathy - it was good to see you.

jbfrommi

10:55

oh Lois I remember that too'

Lakelover

10:55

Lois! Thank you for the picture! Lovely ladies exactly how I remember them!

Jersey Shore Amy

10:55

I greatly admired Congo's ability to dig up information (and photos) and post it immediately to answer our questions. Raised by a librarian ("look it up!") and being an engineer, I was in awe of whatever filing system she used on her PC!

MiniCongo

10:56

You all didnt know her during my ballet days. for one of the performances- she created every costume. Mushrooms, Birds, butterflies, you name it. One night my Dad woke up to her "sewing" the sheets in her sleep.

Becky in SoCal

10:56

Lol, MiniCongo.



Ed Clark

10:57

A quick reminder about the summer mega-

match: https://www.wildlifecenter.org/news_events/events/summer-megamatch-ext...

Lois

10:57

Whatever project there was, she took the lead.

Stephen in NC

10:57

MiniCongo, thank you so much for joining us! I am laughing and crying at the same time. I met Congo when Carrie and I were invited to Maggie's debut, the week of the Gala. At the reception, a lovely lady entered, and Carrie whispered, Look who's here! I said, who's that? She said THAT's CONGO! I rushed over to gush at her and she treated me like a lifelong friend. Always did. Same as all of us.

Following year Lydia was bidding and determined to get a Falcon Beer poster for Amanda. The competing bidder was ...Congo. Coaxed by Lydia, I followed her in the bidding line and froze in place, keeping Congo from outbidding her. Not for long, though. I can tell you, you can feel The Stare when it comes from behind you! Congo snuck in one last bid, won the bidding, got the poster, and ... presented it to Amanda!

Mary E in NC

10:58

Wow - she was creative AND organized!

Jersey Shore Amy

10:58

I was hoping that we may see Carrie on today.



Ed Clark

10:59

I just sent Carrie a message. Let's hope she joins us.

Linda fm Suffolk, VA

10:59

Sweetpea, Congo had her own "special" folder for GN. I think it got pretty full.

Doris aka Teeth

11:00

She moderated two discussions, did all the work on the calendar, did the books, had a family. She gave her all to everything she did. I just have one question, when did she sleep?

DaveinMissouri

11:00

Lol Stephen!:)

Lois

11:00

Stephen I remember the first online bidding, never realized who got the item until I went to her daughter's house and saw it.

MiniCongo

11:00

she didnt sleep much. always went to bed after me and woke up usually before me

Jersey Shore Amy

11:00

I don't know, Doris, she was often on in the middle of the night when I thought I would be the only one checking the bears!

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

11:00

MiniCongo, please tell your dad thank you for the many years he supported your mom in her many projects for WCV and for being OK with the name "Mr. Congowings."

Carrie from Canada

11:01

Hello Critter Nation, were there some lovely folks looking for me?

Guest

11:01

Ed Clark I just shared your mega match project to Facebook



Ed Clark

11:01

Hi Carrie, we are having a remembrance chat out Congo, and her daughter, MiniCongo, is here with us.

Lois

11:01

Hi Carrie

MVK

11:01

Carrie - it is so good that you could join us.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

11:01

I always pictured Miss Congo to have 4 computer screens and a state of art filing system that would out do Nasa



Ed Clark

11:02

Carrie, you will have to scroll back to some of the photos and memories we have shared this morning.

Becky in SoCal

11:02

Carrie, so good to see you here. I know you have wonderful memories of Congo.

DaveinMissouri

11:02

Hi Carrie!:)

MiniCongo

11:02

she has one single monitor. regular tower, and a large storage drive

Wingnut

11:03

Minicongo, your mom once told me she kept live mealworms in the refrigerator. I don't why that very random memory just popped to mind. I told her she must have a very understanding family.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

11:03

Hi Carrie :)

Rhoda

11:03

Here's some more blog fun. the best Congo stuff starts at 5:30. I will miss her but will remember her with a smile.

Peggy from Pungo(VB)

11:03

I remember the first time I got a PM from Congowings. It was all good but I did wonder what I had done wrong. LOL

MVK

11:03

Sweetpea - your pictures are correct!

Mini - the last time I was in her office there were several monitors. I always wondered how she could do it.

MiniCongo

11:04

the keyboard i am using- has grooves in the keys from where her fingernails hit the keys as she typed.

katiesmom/gingersmom

11:04

Well she didn't say how big! - LOL

Lois

11:04

She definitely know how to multitask. Never saw a person like her.

Jersey Shore Amy

11:04

well you are inheriting a wonderful filing system on that PC!

MiniCongo

11:04

there are two monitors in here- but she only used one.

11:05

Wingnut- i have been kept up the live mealworms in the fridge. for our bluebirds, wrens and apparently blue jays

11:07

My brother woke up this morning and checked his security cameras and was was setting them off. They have never had their camera set off by a bird. This morning a bird flying in circles and tapping on their daughters window is what set the cameras off. <3

Guest

11:07

Must go now & don't want to but hav a previous ly made engagement. Thanks for this chat & again minivongo my heartfelt condolences to you & your family. Prayers for peace & comfort 🙏🙏🙏+++❤️👍

Jersey Shore Amy

11:07

I bet there are no peanuts for the squirrels!!

jbfrommi

11:07

I still miss Shoobutton too.

Peggy from Pungo(VB)

11:07

I, likeothers here, went on to moderate at other cams. I try to model what I do on Congowings and other mods met here. I am blessed to have gotten to meet Debbi and other mods and chatters in person.

MiniCongo

11:07

I do have peanuts for the squirrels. Haha

Carrie from Canada

11:08

I am so glad I could drop in for just a moment or two, I do indeed have some lovely memories of Miss Congo. I found the NBG chat back when I was unable to attend university in person due to illness, she let me as about 1,000,000 questions and encouraged me to be myself. One of my favourite memories is how we went to lunch together when I was in VA and went to where the Rockstars were released, and watched endless birds come and go, she was determined to make sure I could tell the difference between a hawk, vulture and an eagle... perhaps almost too determined as we we almost missed my train back to Montreal. Boy could Congo drive when she was on a mission! When I got out of the car I remember she tucked some "Max Cookies" in my pocked and said she didn't want to think of me hungry on the train. Such a sweet thing, really I couldn't bring myself to eat them, I felt the love in that

Lois

11:09

I remember she would come on chat saying she could only stay for a few minutes. An hour later she would still be on. Times I felt sorry for the family.

katiesmom/gingersmom

11:09

Well if the peanuts disappear - you know that your mom hid them MiniCongo!

Doris aka Teeth

11:09

Hi Carrie



Ed Clark

11:10



11:11

Here is a photo taken in my office of some of my favorite ladies in the world. Carrie, I swiped this from your FB page, but since it is my office, I didn't think you would mind.

MiniCongo

11:11

The amount of times we were watching a football game, and she would just go hop on for a just moment...and then stroll back into family room the end of the 4th quarter...

Peggy from Pungo(VB)

11:11

wonder memories, Carrie. Max cookies were the best. Miss her too.

Becky in SoCal

11:11

Now that is a special picture!

Lois

11:11

Carrie, you should have eaten those Max cookies, they were delicious.

MVK

11:11

Carrie I remember the Max cookies. Max would send mine to her for Christmas and I never got them. Congo loved those cookies.

jbfrommi

11:11

oh what a nice picture, thank you Ed.

DaveinMissouri

11:11

Awe, beautiful picture!

Sweetpea in North Carolina

11:11

aww- what beautiful memories

MVK

11:12

Mini - I can see the stare right now.

Paula

11:12

Oh how I remember that tree in the garden and Mom and Dad Norfolk and how they brought all of us together.. Mini Congo, so glad you are here.. Remember how your Mom and MVK watched over all of us in good times and bad.. Those times are etched into my heart.

MVK

11:12

Mini - and then she got her Iphone. LOL

Carrie from Canada

11:12

That photo will always be very very special Ed, you're right I don't mind! So many incredible people in that photo and quite possible the best day of my life!

Lois

11:12

MiniCongo she always loved to watch Survival too. But I think football was her #1.

Jersey Shore Amy

11:12

Beautiful photo of beautiful ladies!

DaveinMissouri

11:13

Lol MVK!:))

SAH

11:13

I gave some extra peanuts to the squirrels this morning in honor of Congo!

Doris aka Teeth

11:13

Great picture of the most beautiful people.

MiniCongo

11:13

the amount of coaching she did from the couch during the games... it wasn't quiet in here during football games.

watching Survivor will never be the same.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

11:13

I thought Congo liked her flip phone MVK?

Jersey Shore Amy

11:13

LOL

Lakelover

11:15

Well, Wingnut and Minicongo, I "get" the mealworms! I have some right now in my fridge in the garage...for my Eastern Bluebirds in our nest box that I monitor each year for Cornell Univ.

DaveinMissouri

11:15

Congo ate MVKs cookies, ha!:)

Carrie from Canada

11:15

Tee Hee... I see MVK is here, I wonder if she remembers the absolute chaos we caused while Congo was trying to transport the squirrel nesting box? "Oh i can hear em chewing, and scratching" "They are really moving around in there" "I think one has got it's head out the tape is loose!" Honestly the best car ride ever my sides still hurt thinking about it, and of course we all had to know deep down Congo loved.... even squirrels even if she tried to suggest other wise

Peggy from Pungo(VB)

11:15

One of my favorite memories from the old WVEC chat was when Congowings and MVK would get lost going to a release. Loved reading about their adventures. 

Teri in Texas

11:15

Rhoda--that video! I remember those chats like it was yesterday and was on the chat when the SHOEBUTTON sign went up. Shoe was in tears and could hardly type at the kindness.

Linda fm Suffolk, VA

11:16



I took this the day after the 2013 Gala but I cannot remember what the story is behind it. Anyone recall it?

Doris aka Teeth

11:17

Peggy, but they had great times finding their way home.

Peggy from Pungo(VB)

11:18

My friend Halo who made the Shoebutton sign drove around with it in the trunk of her car for several years.

katiesmom/gingersmom

11:19

Was that when the bear out front was on auction and it was schemed to keep it at WCV?



Ed Clark

11:20

I must say that the thing I have enjoyed the most this morning is that in the midst of our sadness at the loss of our friend, we are remembering the best of her....what we learned, how we laughed, and how we became a community....a family.

Becky in SoCal

11:20

You said it perfectly, Ed.

Lois

11:20

Ed, have you heard from Dr Dave recently?



Ed Clark

11:21

Dr. Dave is one of the head vets with Parks Canada. His wife, Dr. Martha is on the faculty of the vet school on Prince Edward Isle. They and the kids are doing well.

Carrie from Canada

11:21

Giggles.. as I recall Congo and MVK also taught me a lot of southern things like what sweet tea meant (nope it wasn't iced tea like here at home with extra sugar, it's straight up rocket fuel with its sugar content!) What a hush puppy was (that's a slurpee brand here in Canada not a yummy fried treat so I was confused as to how it went with fish and chips!) and my personal favourite to this day is the double meaning of "Bless your heart" (trust me this still comes in handy to this day especially at work)

PAS in NY

11:21

I have really enjoyed all the reminiscences. Thank you all, especially MiniCongo, MVK and Ed for sharing Congo memories with us - she will never be forgotten for who she was and all she gave to us!

MiniCongo

11:21

I am really enjoying reading all the memories you all have had with my Mom. i know she would hate this- but i love it.

Stephen in NC

11:22

I was watching the cam the day the day ten or more walked out under the nest and held letters up, spelling

S H O E B U T T O N !

Becky in SoCal

11:22

Carrie, those memories are great. I grew up with a southern Mom, so know all of those well.

Lois

11:22

Most definitely Ed. I think this has been good for MiniCongo along with the rest of us.

Carrie, Congo was the one that explained 'Bless your heart' to me too.

Wings/Evelynn

11:22

Minicongo - I hope the memories of your Mother's love and laughter bring you comfort in the days ahead. Signing off for now - thanks everyone for all the memories

DaveinMissouri

11:22

Ed, yes, family!:)

MVK

11:23

Wings - thank you for joining us this morning.

Becky in SoCal

11:23

MiniCongo, this chat has been a comfort to all of us and I hope it has to you and your family.

jbf frommi

11:24

Wings and Eugene The artists.

katiesmom/gingersmom

11:24

I was too, Stephen, she was on the blog with us that day and when they did that - I think everyone on the blog was in tears!!!'

Doris aka Teeth

11:24

Ed, I think this mornings discussion needs to be archived so we can come back and see it again.

Peggy from Pungo(VB)

11:24

Stephen in NC, I was new to the chat but went to NBG that day by myself. I dhad oops, hit send too soon. I was by myself. Loved meeting Buddy on his debut. Then I went home to see the unveiling of the Shoebutton sign.

Brenda in PA

11:24

I agree with you MiniCongo--your Mom would hate all of this talk about her. But this time she can't give us her famous stare.



Ed Clark

11:25

I will have to ask Amanda about archiving this discussion. She and Congo were the only ones who knew how. But we'll work on it.

Linda fm Suffolk, VA

11:25



Stephen, here you go.

Lois

11:26

Wings, I still remember when Congo was gift with 'leif'.

Becky in SoCal

11:26

Brenda in PA, she might just find a way!

Jersey Shore Amy

11:26

She absolutely didn't want any attention directed to her!

jbf frommi

11:26

Love this Remember it so well.

Dave in Missouri

11:26

Oh, I can still see The Stare, even if she isn't here, lol!:))

Jersey Shore Amy

11:26

Forgot about Leif!!

11:27

Maybe the Outreach mods now have permission to use the Stare?



Ed Clark

11:27

I don't know.... They are pretty young to be wielding such a dangerous weapon!

CK in Pa

11:27

This chat has been great. Thanks for being with us Minicongo. Hope our memories of your mother brought you some smiles. Treasure all we have shared of one great woman and the lives she touched.

Doris aka Teeth

11:28

Oh, the fun everyone had with Leif

Peggy from Pungo(VB)

11:28

Great memory. Thanks for posting, Linda

Jersey Shore Amy

11:28

Maybe only Amanda should be allowed the Stare!



Ed Clark

11:29

That sounds like an appropriate passage of the torch!

Jersey Shore Amy

11:29

I'm not saying that she's not young!



Ed Clark

11:29

Too late to take it back now!

Doris aka Teeth

11:29

Look at the sea of purple shirts. I'm in that picture.

Linda fm Suffolk, VA

11:29

Oh, def! Amanda would absolutely do right by having the power of the stare!

Jersey Shore Amy

11:29

delete it!



Ed Clark

11:30

Hey, I am not exercising that power without a warrant!

Jersey Shore Amy

11:30

See, Linda agrees!

And I think Congo would agree too

Carrie from Canada

11:30

Well friends I send all of you huge hugs from here in Canada, I need to get back to work.... before I get caught. Not quite sure the new Associate Dean would understand the importance of a "Congo Minute." One last thing I will say, is that Congo taught me that beauty is inside and out because she had both. She made me feel extraordinary about myself and helped me to embrace pieces that I used to be not proud of. I hope I can continue to convey beauty to the world and share it where I can so that her lessons remain part of my spirit.



Ed Clark

11:31

Carrie, you are the personification of beauty....inside and out!

Stephen in NC

11:32

As one who chatted on the NBG site and migrated to WCV when the Rock Stars were transported, I am amazed at how long ago that was, but not by how many people make up Critter Nation. The connecting fiber was always wildlife but Congo was the connective tissue. Her good nature and abundant knowledge were always there. Often I came in late at night to scroll up and see what I had missed.

Teri in Texas

11:32

So very good to see all of you here again.

NancyD

11:32

Carrie, your special poetry over the years has shown us your beauty.

Jersey Shore Amy

11:32

I will miss Congo sharing tidbits about her grandchildren! I was always surprised when she would decide that something was okay to share with CN.

Teri in Texas

11:32

Amen to what NancD said, Carrie!

MiniCongo

11:33

Thank you all for this morning chat. It has brought me so peace reading about all these memories. My Mom would've hated this, but she deserved every single comment.

MVK

11:33

It was you Ed for chat this morning. It was good to see everyone and share special memories of Congowings. Take care everyone and love to all.

DaveinMissouri

11:33

Beautiful Carrie!:)

Peggy from Pungo(VB)

11:34

I want to thank Minicongo for being here and letting us share memories of her Mom. Thanks, Ed, and everyone for giving this forum to meet. Take care, everyone. ♥▯ Thanks, Debbi, for all you did to make us a family.

Deb in PA

11:34

I am in the process of scrolling back and seeing what I missed this morning (couldn't be helped, and I am so sorry I missed so many old friends posting this morning, especially MVK) I first met Congo during the days of the Norfolk Eagles (there were a few late night online "parties" complete with a chocolate fountain, LOL) that got a bit out of hand at times...Congo would reign us in and the party would continue)! I have learned so much from her over the years and every time I see an eagle fly over, I still get goosebumps and it's all because of the love Congo instilled in me for all things feathered! Bless her, she had a heart of gold and was one in a million.

Doris aka Teeth

11:34

Carrie, you've always been able to put into words so beautifully what we are all thinking. Thank you!

Brenda in PA

11:34

Amy--I will also miss her stories and photos of Henry.

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

11:34

Thank you again, MiniCongo for being with us today and for sharing your mom with us for so many years. May you and your family find comfort in all the memories shared today.

Teri in Texas

11:34

God bless you, MiniCongo--and to your entire family, THANK YOU for sharing your beautiful mom with us for so long. She will not be forgotten.

MiniCongo

11:34

As incredible as she was in this community- she was an even better mother and grandmother. I really don't know how I will do this life without her. I am lost. She was my answer for everything.

Dave in Missouri

11:34



Ed Clark

11:36

MiniCongo, I suspect you will realize that she is with you every day, as you start to do something, then stop because you mom would not approve, or do something simply because it is the right thing to do....just like you were taught.

jbf frommi

11:36

Thank you everyone for all the good Memories. Congowings will be missed. Hugs to you all here,

Jersey Shore Amy

11:36

Will be thinking of you Mini and your family, she will be with you every step of the way.

Lois

11:36

I know that this have helped me get through the grief. All the wonderful memories have made that possible. MiniCongo, thanks for being here with us, Love to you and the family , and will see you in a few weks.

Jersey Shore Amy

11:36

The answers will still come to you.

Doris aka Teeth

11:36

MiniCongo, you and your family are in my and all of CN prayers.

Brenda in PA

11:36

Thank you MiniCongo, Ed and MVK for being here today to remember Congo.

Cathy in Nevada

11:36

Thank you all for the memories. Hope they bring comfort to you MiniCongo as they have to us in EN/CN. P.S. - I believe the Congo Stare belongs only to Congo.

katiesmom/gingersmom

11:36

She still is MiniCongo - you just have to look towards the stars, or listen with your heart or even the sound of a bird - she is there.

MiniCongo

11:37

I said it before- but for those who didnt scroll back. At 1:00am when i was making phone calls after she passed. I heard a bird. One i have never heard before. Loud and clear. My merlin app did not pick it. I know it was her- telling me she was ok.

DaveinMissouri

11:37

God gives us special people to help us live life!:)

NancyD

11:37

Thank you, miniCongo for this chat & sharing your mom with us for so long. She will always be with you and in you.

Paula

11:38

Mini Congo, your Mom is in your heart..

Linda fm Suffolk, VA

11:38

Thank you, MiniCongo, for sharing your mom with us for so many years. We are all better people for having had her in our lives.

Doris aka Teeth

11:40

MiniCongo, I lost my mom when I was 17, she still leads me today at 63. Congo will lead you too. ❤️🙏

Jersey Shore Amy

11:41

thank you for being on the chat, mini, has been wonderful to share our thoughts of your mom, and glad that it is helping in some small way

Becky in SoCal

11:41

She will always be with you, MiniCongo. You will thrive because of what she taught you, and continues to teach you. My prayers are with you and your family. Thank you for being with us today.

Angelkitty

11:42

"Our grief, no matter how powerful it may be, is an insufficient measure of the joy we have been given"

Wingnut

11:43

Had a strange glitch and the chat went away for about 15 or 20 minutes! If that's not a sign that I'm being folderized from above, I don't know what is. Catching up on all the comments and just want to say before something strange happens again that your mom will always be in my thoughts, mini Congo!

Linda fm Suffolk, VA

11:45



Fittingly memorialized in the Eagle Plaza at NBG. Love you, Congo!

Lakelover

11:45

We hurt greatly because we love greatly....but we wouldn't want to miss such love. Kelli, praying God's comfort and blessings will bring you peace.



Ed Clark

11:46

Friends, thank you all for sharing this morning, especially you, MiniCongo. I have asked Amanda to save this discussion, since I don't have a clue how to do it. Since most of us at WCV are working today, I have to step away and get ready for our monthly staff meeting. I urge everyone to remember that, while we have lost a dear friend and have reason to be sad, we had the blessing of knowing her, learning from her, laughing with her....and sometimes at her. That can never be taken away from us. We should celebrate her life, not simply mourn her passing. If there are any other moderators on this morning, please feel free to grab the wheel and keep driving.

Teri in Texas

11:47

Thank you, Ed.

Jersey Shore Amy

11:47

Thank you, Ed!

MiniCongo

11:47

THank you all for this chat. <3

katiesmom/gingersmom

11:47

Thank you Ed, MVK and MiniCongo

nef in me

11:48

Thank you for being here Ed, and for your very fitting tributes to Congo.

Wingnut

11:48

Thank you Ed and all!

Jersey Shore Amy

11:48

Thank you to everyone for their tributes! An outpouring of love and wonderful words for a wonderful person.

CK in Pa

11:49

Thank you Ed, MVK, Minicongo and all CN/EN.

Linda fm Suffolk, VA

11:50

Thank you for coming on today, MiniCongo. Pop in from time to time - you are a member of the Critter Nation Family. <3

Doris aka Teeth

11:51

So Ed, that just means you're going to listen since you hired the best and just get out of their way.



Ed Clark

11:51

That is pretty much it, Doris....I chair the meetings, but the team members provide the discussion.

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

11:51

Thank you, Ed. I can't wait to see where we are on the MegaMatch amount.

Doris aka Teeth

11:51

Thank you Ed, MiniCongo, MVK, Lois and all of CN for such a wonderful tribute to such a wonderful woman!

DaveinMissouri

11:51

Thank you Minicongo, Ed, MVK, Lois and everyone!:)

SAH

11:59

Thanks Minicongo, Ed and everyone for being here! MVK it was great "seeing" you this morning!