



Laurel Anne Smyth Sullivan

November 6, 1939 - April 1, 2020

Laurel Anne Smyth Sullivan returned to her heavenly home on April 1, 2020, at the age of 80. She was born on November 6, 1939, in Ogden, Utah, to Laurence James Smyth and Della Pearl Walker Smyth. She spent a joyful childhood in Boise, Idaho, and graduated from Boise High. She then attended BYU and later transferred to the University of Utah where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She married the love of her life Timothy L. Sullivan on March 21, 1974 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Together they raised 9 children and loved their many grandchildren.

She cherished her time teaching grade school, was a sought after motivational speaker in her church, and was a successful businesswoman. Laurel was a talented seamstress, pianist, chef, teacher and speaker. She had a love for travel and had the opportunity to see the world with family and friends. She loved reading and was a lifelong learner and devoted gospel scholar, and a lifetime member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Laurel continually served others and had an incredible ability to make friends. She was often sought after for advice and support. Laurel had a special light about her that brightened every room she entered and was a dear friend who was loved by all.

Laurel was survived by her husband; children, Holly (TJ) Haab, Michelle (Joe) Jensen, Todd Sullivan, Brett Sullivan, Jennifer (Travis) Reintjes, Stacey (Aaron) Kelly, Shannon (David) Weaver, and Patrick Sullivan; 13 grandchildren, and her sister Marilyn (Jim) Shaffer. She was preceded in death by her parents, daughter Marilyn Hart, and daughters-in-law Renee Sullivan and Karen Sullivan.

A private family graveside service will be held on April 6, 2020. A celebration of Laurel's life will be held at a later date for all of her friends and family. In lieu of flowers a memorial gift donation can be made to the American Liver Foundation at liverfoundation.org.

Comments



“ I am certainly tardy in sending this. I am still feeling very sad at the thought of Laurel leaving this earth-life; and us, especially you, her family My name is LuJean McBride Riley. I grew up in Boise, Idaho with Laurel. We attended Church together at the Boise Second Ward in the Old Tabernacle Building not far from the Capitol Building down town Boise. Through Primary, Young Women's, Summer camps. North Junior High School, Boise High School, Seminary, Graduation and on to BYU! It was a great time. When we were in Junior High School Laurel and I would walk home together to my house. She would wait there; we chattered and giggled and solved many world problems, or our own problems while waiting for her Dad to come along. He walked to work everyday for years and years, always passed my house. Laurel enjoyed walking home from school the rest of the way with her Dad. Laurel was so dear and true in every way. Though we have not been close or even in touch over the years, except for reunions occasionally, I think of Laurel as an eternal friend. We could sit down, visit, and pick up exactly where we left off from the last visit. My sweetest thoughts and prayers for you, her treasured family, LuJean

LuJean Riley - April 26 at 02:38 PM



“ I think of Laurel every time I tell someone about the sandwich her dad made for us late one night when we were in junior high and I was spending the night. No one has ever heard of peanut butter, pickle, and onion on toast. It's great and I think of Laurel every time I make it. She was a very good friend for a lot of years.
Joy Fowles Kosterman

Joy Kosterman - April 16 at 03:09 PM



“ Laurel was a special friend for me; we had a special, non-romantic, relationship our senior year of High School. Both of us acknowledged neither of us would have successfully completed trigonometry and solid geometry without our mutual cooperation. She often taught me how to solve a problem that I had been unable to solve alone.

Several years ago, someone asked President Hinckley why he was so positive. He replied because he knows that in the end it will all work out. Then, he added, “If it has not yet all worked out, then it is not yet the end.”

Laurel and I met again in September 2018 at a reunion of our fourth year Seminary class at the time of our High School sixty year anniversary. There were sixteen of us there; we shared stories and experiences. It was an impressive group; three had served as Mission Presidents; two are Patriarchs, the room was filled with served Stake Presidents, Bishops, Relief Society Presidents, Primary Presidents, etc. It became clear to all of us that we had received a special foundation for our testimonies from Brother Blaser in that fourth year of Seminary.

As I listened to Laurel that September afternoon, I thought to myself that she has met far more challenges than have I. Her success, faith and her testimony indicated to me then, and still do today, that in the end, everything will work out.

Laurel’s friendship and help long ago during that senior year of mathematics were a significant building block in my preparation for college and for the success I have enjoyed in my career and life. I am a better person for my life having been touched by Laurel.

Jim Okeson

Jim - April 15 at 05:08 PM



“ Jim is following this tribute.

Jim - April 10 at 05:33 PM