



Jan Graham Hunt

July 19, 1949 - January 29, 2024

Jan Graham Hunt, 74, passed away peacefully on January 29, 2024, in her home in Saint George, UT, surrounded by love and the beautiful cliffs of Snow Canyon. She was an adoring mother, a devoted wife, a dependable friend, and an adventurous spirit. She was widely admired by all who knew her for her humor, brilliance, and warmheartedness.

She was born Janet Ann Crump on July 19, 1949, in Salt Lake City, UT to Woodrow Stevens Crump and Betty Kesler Crump. She attended South High School and studied briefly at Brigham Young University and the University of Utah before finishing her bachelor's degree in clinical psychology at Clark University in Worcester, MA. She returned to Salt Lake City and got her JD at the University of Utah Law School. She then worked as a lawyer at Jones Waldo where she was the first woman to make partner. She reunited with her high school sweetheart and first love, Buzz Hunt, and married him in 1989 in Salt Lake City, becoming a supportive stepmom to his daughter Liz.

In 1990 she served as Utah's Solicitor General, then in 1992, the Attorney General, becoming the first woman to win a Utah state election on her own ballot. Her son Will was born the same year and became the center of her life. She held the position until 2001 and later transitioned to her own private practice, Graham Law Offices. There, she enjoyed a much more relaxed work schedule that involved less handshaking and more gardening. She retired in

2014 and relocated to sunny southern Utah.

Jan was a very private person with little interest in life as a public figure. Far more important to her were her family, friends, and various passions. She was an avid reader, a tennis and pickleball fanatic, an expert hiker, an adventurous traveler, and an animal lover. She started a podcast called “70 is the New 50” about seniors staying fully engaged in life as they age. She was a very dedicated mother, and she adored our rambunctious beagles, Mallie and Muffie. In her final years, she undertook a massive labor of love: writing a detailed account of her mother’s family history with the help of her beloved brothers and some relatives discovered on Ancestry.com. Even through various cancer treatments, she had boundless energy, a quick wit, and a zest for discovering the new and exciting.

She is survived by her husband Verl “Buzz” Hunt, son William Graham Hunt, stepdaughter Elisabeth Kay Hunt, brothers Steven Kesler Crump (Kay) and Kevin Ray Crump (Nancy), 8 nieces and nephews, and many grandnieces and grandnephews. She was preceded in death by both of her parents.

When Jan was first diagnosed with primary peritoneal cancer, similar to ovarian cancer, in October 2014, we were told that she could have as little as 6 months, and no more than 5 years. We are so proud and grateful to have gotten 10 amazing years filled with memorable trips and passion projects with minimal side effects from treatment. She and Will traveled together every year after her diagnosis, including meditation retreats in Big Sur and walking the Camino Santiago in Spain. She never stopped living her life to the fullest and was fiercely independent till the very end. We would like to thank Jan’s oncologist Dr. Derrick Haslem, our heroic hospice nurse Megan Mott and everyone at Dixie Home Rehab & Hospice for their excellent care of Jan. We’d also like to thank Jan’s dear friend Liz Haslam, our family friends Jim, Glenda, Nick, & Zeke Bradley, and Will’s partner Jose Cornejo for their support of the

family during this time.

A private celebration of life will be held at the family's home in Saint George. If interested, email Will at willgrhu@gmail.com for details. There will be no viewing or formal service. Family and friends are invited to share tributes online. Arrangements and memorial tree planting by Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah, 435-986-9100.

I love you so much, Mom, and I carry your exuberant spirit with me. You inspire us all every day.

Tribute Wall

KS

“*Jan was a good colleague in law school. So smart. So kind. So amazing to be elected AG as a Democrat. God bless her husband and son. Kevin Staker*”

Kevin Staker - May 15, 2024 at 05:24 PM

EH

“Dear Jan, You have been a constant in my life for nearly 50 years and you will be with me until my end.

We have read many books together, had thousands of conversations, traveled many places and resolved the world's problems. Now I can't phone or visit in person, but I still talk to you daily – usually when I walk.

*In our last conversation before your passing, you told me you had no fear of dying – only joy. You said that your current favorite book is *The Power of Now*, by Eckhart Tolle. It is a book about the joy of being present in the moment – a book that taught you to experience gratitude and joy in the most difficult times.*

In our conversation, I explained my understanding of the Tibetan Buddhist belief in the Bardo – a time between death and the next place, where a dead person remains near and comforts those who are grieving. I asked you to give me a sign of your near presence when you are gone.

I've talked to you many times since your passing. I've probably scared the neighbors as I lift my arms to your screeching call as a red shouldered hawk, or your ringing voice as a red winged blackbird.

I had a hard time understanding the concept of “being present” until you passed. When the monarch accompanied me on my walk this morning, I was certain it was you. Even if it is not you, I pause to think of you and miss you and cry. I am in the moment when I feel you are near or merely think of you. I am so grateful you are in my life.

Love you dear friend as you continue your journey, Elizabeth Haslam

Here is my favorite poem/blessing by an Irish priest/philosopher/poet– John O’ Donahue– on the passing of his mother.

*On the day when
the weight deadens
on your shoulders
and you stumble,
may the clay dance
to balance you.
And when your eyes
freeze behind
the grey window
and the ghost of loss
gets into you,
may a flock of colours,
indigo, red, green
and azure blue,
come to awaken in you
a meadow of delight.
When the canvas frays
in the currach of thought
and a stain of ocean
blackens beneath you,
may there come across the waters
a path of yellow moonlight
to bring you safely home.
May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
may the clarity of light be yours,
may the fluency of the ocean be yours,
may the protection of the ancestors be yours.
And so may a slow
wind work these words
of love around you,
an invisible cloak
to mind you.*

Elizabeth Haslam - February 20, 2024 at 03:51 PM

BT

“ I read with sadness the news of Jan’s passing. I am one of the privileged few remaining in the Office of the Utah Attorney General who had the honor to work under Jan’s leadership. She was a wonderful mentor, visionary leader, and an exceptional attorney. She led by example and was at the forefront of the issues faced by the office during her tenure as AG, working tirelessly to make the office stronger and more capable. She was a great judge of talent and brought outstanding leadership with her into the office, notably Reed Richards and Carol Clawson.

I will remember her for her kindness to me personally and professionally, allowing me extended leave to attend the US Army War College, a year long commitment. She welcomed my return. Jan was a colleague of great integrity, rock solid principles, and devotion to the state of Utah and its citizens. Those citizens demonstrated great wisdom in twice electing her as the state’s highest legal officer.

She graced the office during both of her terms, culminating in her successful appearance before the US Supreme Court. A truly remarkable leader and advocate.

Rest in peace General Graham. Job well done.

Brian Tarbet

Brian Tarbet - February 07, 2024 at 01:48 PM

IL

“ *Dear Buzz and Will,
Words cannot describe the admiration we have for Jan, her
superhuman accomplishments, her warmth and friendship. We are
deeply saddened to hear this news. We wish you much strength in
these difficult times. Aria sends her condolences too.*

*Much love,
Harsh Thaker and Ila Singh
Houston, Texas*

ila - February 06, 2024 at 12:44 PM

MW

“ I met Jan the first day she came into the Cancer Center for her first chemo treatment. As I sat and explained things to her about her treatment and care plan, I had such a strong feeling that she was smart, poised, well spoken, and somebody important. She did well and thanked me for giving her treatment. Later that night I thought maybe I will google her and just see what happens. Well we all know what I found and I said to myself, I just knew it! As I read all about her and all her accomplishments I knew just how special she was. The next time she came in for treatment I told her I had to confess something and she said oh yeah what's that? I said I googled you and you are a big deal. She smiled and tried to down play everything. I was just in awe of her. As time when on I looked forward to her coming in and we got closer as we talked about our mutual love for Paris, books we've read, and pickleball. She loved her pickleball group and then going to Harmons for coffee. She would tell me to come play pickleball sometime and of course I had to work. She went into remission and wasn't coming in as much and then I retired from Intermountain and lost touch with her. But I've thought about her many times. I kept thinking I'm going to call her to play pickleball but I was intimidated because she was good. My loss, should have anyway. I enjoyed her so much. My prayers go out to her family, I'm sure she will be deeply missed. I loved working in the cancer center because of patients like Jan. It was a honor to be one of her nurses on her care team! ~Micki Wells

Micki Wells - February 06, 2024 at 12:25 AM

BL

“ *janet is my first cousin my mom was melba kesler black, i am her 5th child. and i new janet when i was young. i saw her a few times more over the years, with her brothers. i remember her parents when i was younger, my aunt and uncle. sorry for your loss, wish we could have stayed in touch more often, then we did. i thought it cool, when she became the utah state a.g. hugs to the family! your cousin, richard black*

black richard I. - February 05, 2024 at 06:54 PM

WK

“ *It was a joy to serve as an assistant attorney general under General Graham. Many of the enforcement cases I was involved with were politically sensitive and faced strong opposition from industry leaders. It was heartening to know that Jan made decisions on the merits of the cases and how they furthered public policy, not based on the political ramifications or whether a particular group might complain. The cases I worked on were often brought in coordination with other states. My counterparts in other states expressed envy that Utah's participation in these coordinated enforcement actions was based on merits, not politics. And when we brought those cases, Jan backed us up.*

I am grateful for the support she gave her attorneys and how the entire state benefitted by the neutral, even-handed enforcement actions brought by her office.

I had the extra privilege of interacting with her after she left the A.G.'s office, seeing her at conferences and working together on a few projects. I miss her.

Our condolences to Buzz and her family.

Wayne Klein

Wayne Klein - February 04, 2024 at 02:33 PM

MK

“*Buzz, our deepest sorrow with Jan's passing. I could never repay her and Reed for giving me the chance to grow and find success in the AG's Office. Jan is remarkable. My favorite memories of Jan are in the Ogden Pioneer Days parade and the way she treated our daughter during the prep and event... Wow!, and the day she and I went to a contentious meeting in Governor Leavitt's office. There were only three of us in the meeting. The issue is unimportant - BUT, what Jan did was so characteristic and never forgotten.*

The governor was unhappy about something we did in the AG's office and wanted to complain about it. Jan walked in with warm chocolate chip cookies and said, "boys, let's work this out over some treats!" The mood changed, the problem was solved, and the moment was forged in my memory.

God bless you and your family as you go through this difficult process. Thanks Jan for the example, the opportunities and above all, the friendship and the humor! Mike and Bonnie King

Mike King - February 04, 2024 at 11:23 AM

DL

“ I knew Jan when I was the Law Office Administrator during her eight years as attorney general. I was always impressed by her compassion, professionalism, and organization as well as knowledge of the law. I know she took a chance on hiring me, and the direction of my career changed for the better because of the confidence she had in me. She was never critical of me even though I made mistakes.

Jan never used the position as Attorney General as a way to seek other governmental or political jobs, or accept gifts in exchange for deciding whether or not to pursue legal actions because of her position. I truly believe that she was there to do the best she could for the state, its children and all of its people. I will be forever grateful for knowing and working with Jan.

David Lamb

David R Lamb - February 03, 2024 at 04:51 PM

MM

“ Jan was an amazing lady. I met her when we served as Attorneys General together. She was so supportive and vital to the fight with the Tobacco industry and I believe it came from her passion for helping protect children.

It was a different time then, bi partisanship and working together were constant in Jan's work and I and my colleagues were the beneficiaries of her big heart and smart mind. It takes a special person to be so caring and kind. I know she loved her family and I remember all the stories about young Will. We have all lost a good friend and on of Gods special gifts. I hope she finds peace and happiness in heaven where I know she will be running the place. God Bless Buzz and the family. Mike Moore AG of Mississippi 1988-2004

Mike Moore - February 03, 2024 at 02:24 PM

JM

“ My mom, Judy Beckstead Jenkins, was Jan’s cousin and made sure our family knew of Jan’s accomplishments and goodness. I remember being with Jan a few times at extended family gatherings and I distinctly remember her personal interest and kindness to me as a family relative. (I also remember thinking her hair was beautiful!) My heart reaches out to her family with love and respect for the legacy that Jan leaves. I will go read the history she, Kess and Kevin collaborated to write about their mom- what a loving service. Thank you Jan for being an example of a strong Crump woman making a positive difference in the world!
-Jenny Jenkins Motzkus

Jenny Motzkus - February 03, 2024 at 11:12 AM

DJ

Jan was so kind. Condolences to her family and friends.
-David Jenkins

David Jenkins - February 03, 2024 at 12:43 PM

HH

“ To Buzz Hunt and Family:

*A SPECIAL PERSON
REMEMBERED
and
A BEAUTIFUL LIFE
HONORED*

With Sincere Sympathy

*Helen Humpherys
Personal Executive Secretary
at Jones, Waldo*

Helen Humpherys - February 03, 2024 at 10:23 AM

PH

“ Dear Jan,

You are wonderful and unforgettable.

Love and healing to your family. Pamela Heffernan

Pamela Heffernan - February 02, 2024 at 09:40 PM

GC

“ *Jan personified a person with whom one truly enjoys spending time. I liked her the second I met her 17 years ago. She exuded positiveness all around. Her immersion with the French language was impressive.*

Deepest condolences to Buzz and family.

Geri Chuba - February 02, 2024 at 12:52 PM

CR

“ *General Graham was a very special lady. She was a wonderful public servant. Those of us who knew her as Attorney General admired her dedication and hard work for the people of Utah. She leaves many wonderful memories for all of us. Deepest sympathies to her husband and entire family.*

Clarine Nardi Riddle - February 02, 2024 at 11:11 AM

MD

“ I wish to honor and acknowledge the great public and legal service Jan contributed to the people of the State of Utah. As one of the Republican candidates (and former Deputy Attorney General) that lost the '92 election to her, she excelled in children's justice, women in the law and minority representation that other candidates likely would not have approached. She was a "woman for all seasons". May she rest in peace. Our sincerest condolences to her spouse, family and close friends.

Michael L Deamer

Michael L Deamer - February 02, 2024 at 12:52 AM