



## Janet Carroll Gordon

May 24, 1939 - February 25, 2025

Janet Carroll Gordon, long-time Southern Utah resident and political activist, particularly on downwind radiation issues, died Tuesday, February 25th, 2025, in St. George, Utah. Janet was born on May 24th, 1939, in Kanab, Utah. She was the fourth of five children born to Henry and Velma Carroll, of Orderville, Utah. Janet was preceded in death by her parents as well as older brothers Norman Henry Carroll, of Orderville, Utah; Kent Frederick Carroll, of Orderville, Utah; and her sister Mary Lou (Carroll) Melling, of Cedar City, Utah. She is survived by her younger sister Madolyn (Carroll) Bills, of Salina, Utah.

Janet graduated high school in 1957, and was that year crowned Miss Kane County. She married James Denzel Holt, in 1958, and they had three children: James Bradley Holt, Patricia (Gordon) Dominguez, and Kent Carroll Gordon. In 1963 Janet and James Holt were divorced. Janet married Lloyd Gordon of Cedar City, Utah, in 1965. During this period, Janet began her activism by joining the League of Women Voters, and becoming active in the Iron County Democratic Party. She and Lloyd were also very active in environmental issues.

Janet became particularly interested in downwind radiation issues after attending a conference at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, in 1979. She and her sister Mary Lou realized that the death of their brother Kent, in 1961, was very likely due to his exposure to radioactive fallout from testing at the

Nevada Test Site. She subsequently devoted the rest of her life to this important issue, co-founding and serving as Director of Citizens Call, a downwind advocacy, educational and political organization. Janet was put in charge of the both the 1980 & 1990 census' for Southern Utah locations. In 1980 she also joined with a group of Atomic Veterans, and environmental activists to form the National Committee for Radiation Victims, of which she was named to the Chair position. She was asked to testify before Senator Orrin Hatch's senate committee, during his early efforts to draft and pass a Radiation Exposure Compensation Act. This was the first of many times that she testified on this and related issues. RECA was eventually passed and signed into law in 1990.

In 1983, Janet appeared on the Phil Donohue show, talking about downwind issues to national audiences. She spent the next few decades lobbying and testifying in congress and working with representatives in both congressional houses to contribute to drafted legislation; flying all over the world, to publicize and help gain international support for this issue. In 1980, she began organizing yearly vigils in Utah, every January 27th, to protest nuclear testing and to call for a comprehensive test ban treaty. In 1985 she was invited to Japan for her first time, to speak at the 40th Annual Hiroshima & Nagasaki Commemorations. Over the years, she served as a delegate and speaker at eight different annual commemorations in Hiroshima & Nagasaki, helping to send other local Downwinders to participate there, as well, over additional years. Specifically, Janet testified against the dangers of nuclear power and nuclear arms development at United Nations meetings in Copenhagen and Geneva. She spoke at worldwide conferences in Moscow, Minsk, Kazakhstan, Berlin, London, Stockholm, and Tokyo.

This farm girl from Orderville, Utah ended up shaking the pillars of congress, and her testimony, her incredible people-skills and tireless dedication to publicizing these issues, were instrumental in the eventual passage of the

RECA legislation. Janet leaves a powerful and lasting legacy behind her.

A memorial gathering will be held at Bella Terra Care Center, 178 S. 1200 E., St George, Utah, on March 7th, 2025, with visitation beginning at 6:30 PM. Services will be held on Saturday, March 8th, with visitation at 10:00 AM, and Funeral at 11:00 AM, at Serenity Funeral Home, 1316 S. 400 E., St George, Utah. An additional memorial gathering will be held in Cedar City, Utah on Saturday, March 8th, at 4:00 PM, at the Kolob Gallery, 111 S. Main Street. Subsequent graveside services and internment will take place at the Cedar City Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Cedar City Cemetery

685 N. Main Street  
Cedar City, UT

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAR 7. 6:30 PM (MT)

Bella Terra  
178 South 1200 East  
St George, UT 84790

## Visitation

MAR 8. 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM (MT)

Serenity Funeral Home  
1316 South 400 East A-5  
Saint George, UT 84790  
<http://www.serenitystg.com>

## Funeral Service

MAR 8. 11:00 AM (MT)

Serenity Funeral Home  
1316 South 400 East A-5  
Saint George, UT 84790  
<http://www.serenitystg.com>

## Memorial Service

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MAR 8. 4:00 PM (MT)

Kolob Gallery  
111 South Main Street  
Cedar City, UT

## Graveside Service

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MAR 8 (MT)

Cedar City Cemetery  
685 N. Main Street  
Cedar City, UT

# Tribute Wall

PE

“ I didn't know Janet but learned about her via the book "Miles from Nowhere." I'm sad to learn she passed away last year. God bless her, she was a brave soul and did good work. I hope she and her brother have reunited in the afterlife.

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Perry - April 11 at 11:34 PM

CD

“ I had the pleasure of speaking with Janet by phone back in 2020 after several people and roads of my research lead me to her name again and again. We spoke by phone for an art project I was working on that I showed at the Cedar City Art Museum at SUU concerning the legacy of nuclear weapons development and testing in our home state. I myself am the daughter/granddaughter of southern Utah Downwinders, and in our nearly two-hour call I was rapt--getting both an incredible education and also an emotional telling of hidden stories. I have put some of hers, as well as others, on a vinyl record that is part of my ongoing exhibitions of my work on this topic in an effort to always center, remember, and share the stories of people from our region who were ignored for years as they did this important work and suffered the health consequences of the atomic testing at NTS. I had wanted to get her a copy of the record, but didn't have an address. If anyone one in the family would like to hear it, or like to have a copy of the entire conversation we recorded together I would love to connect and share it. Janet was incredible, and I'm so grateful to her for her work and getting to speak with her.

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Cara Despain - November 25, 2025 at 08:08 PM

DF

“ Hello. My name is Darin. I took care of Janet for 13 years in a nursing home until her death.. she was never short of anything to say I think when I first met her I said so tell me about yourself.. big mistake.. she talked for 13 years telling me her life story.. but you know what it was a way to kill a 12-hour night shift. Amazing life. First female from the UN to visit Kazakhstan and tell them about nuclear disasters. Funny stories of making her sister eat sushi with the prime minister of Japan.. and waking up in the Grand Canyon with the rattlesnake sleeping on top of her to keep warm.. thanks Janet for killing time with me

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**Darin Fisher** - November 06, 2025 at 12:42 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Service Audio Recording*



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**Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah** - March 11, 2025 at 12:28 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah** - February 28, 2025 at 02:29 PM