



Benita Wilson

December 4, 1937 - January 30, 2021

Benita Wilson died on January 30, 2021, surrounded in love by her family. Benita was born Lillian Benita Davis, December 4, 1937, in Jacksonville, Florida to Benjamin Harrison Davis and Mary Alice Mueller. She was the youngest of three. Her sisters, Mary Elizabeth and Harris Lynne, have predeceased her.

Benita attended school in San Leandro and San Francisco, graduating from Poly High in San Francisco in 1955. Eventually, Benita obtained her Bachelor degree, Summa Cum Laude, in Journalism, from California State University at Northridge. Benita worked for the offices of the Yosemite Park and Curry Company, eventually leading to a job with the Desert Inn and Country Club, first in Las Vegas and then in their San Francisco and Beverly Hills offices.

It was while working for the Desert Inn, that she met Reed Wilson, a divorced father of two, Karen and Kim. Reed and Benita were married in 1969, with daughters Karen and Kim at their side. Shortly after, Reed's ex-wife was killed in an automobile accident, and Reed and Benita became instant full-time parents. She put her career on hold to become a full-time mom, settling in Sherman Oaks, where they quickly became part of the community and active in school, Scout and sports activities.

In 1987, Reed and Benita moved to Santa Barbara, where she became an

involved and successful fund raiser. A life-long animal lover, she was concerned about the number of cats and kittens having to be euthanized at local shelters and helped form the Animal Shelter Assistance Program (ASAP), so that volunteers could help with the care and feeling of animals, and fewer would be euthanized.

Benita also competed at the Tennis Club of Santa Barbara, where she organized successful social events. After a lot of positive feedback, she branched out and organized fund-raising events in Santa Barbara for the Tennis Patrons, Las Positas Park and the Music Academy of the West. Benita was also a Board Member of Las Positas Park, and a founding member of the Wildling Nature Museum, originally located in Los Olivos, now in Solvang, CA.

Reed and Benita were the center of holidays, as well as family vacations. There were many memorable ski trips with their family to Mammoth. They also traveled extensively as a couple, both for Reed's employment as well as to major tennis tournaments in the United States, the French Open and, a major highlight, Wimbledon in England.

Benita was preceded in death by Reed, her beloved husband of 46 years. He was the light of her life, the love of her life, her soul mate. Her life was never the same without him. Benita is also survived by her daughter, Karen Whipple (Pete) and granddaughter Michelle Benita of Newbury Park; by her daughter Kim White of Arkansas; her grandson Jeffrey Reed Bradley; granddaughter Renee Alice Christie (Ben) and great-granddaughter Millie Reed, and their parents Doug and Donna Bradley of Santa Barbara; by granddaughter Destiny Rose and her parents Debbie and Rod Braly of Paso Robles; by her nieces, Donna Kronin, Alexis Streeter (Larry), Kimberly McGuire (Tom), and Veronica (Roni) Walker (Jane) all of Northern California. She was a loyal friend, loved and beloved. She will be missed by her many friends on the Central Coast and beyond.

Tribute Wall

KW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Karen Whipple - February 07, 2021 at 07:38 PM

KW

Skiing was a big part of our family and here we are at Lake Tahoe with my Mom joining us for lunch.

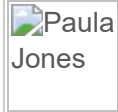
Karen Whipple - February 07, 2021 at 07:40 PM

Paula Jones

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Paula Jones - February 07, 2021 at 03:24 PM



*My dearest friend...
 I M A G I N E
 stepping onto a shore and finding it heaven
 I M A G I N E
 taking hold of a hand and finding it God's hand
 I M A G I N E
 breathing new air and finding it celestial air
 I M A G I N E
 feeling invigorated and finding it immortality
 I M A G I N E
 passing from storm and tempest to an unknown calm
 I M A G I N E
 waking and finding it HOME.*

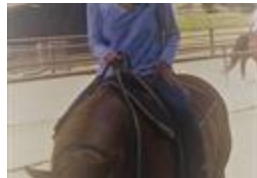
Paula Jones - February 07, 2021 at 03:30 PM



Roni Walker - February 08, 2021 at 11:14 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Roni Walker - February 06, 2021 at 01:45 PM



“ My Aunt Benita was part of my Village; she was always there for me. Auntie never forgot to keep me in mind on special occasions such as birthdays and holidays. We shared many memorable trips together, winter skiing trips, summer vacations in Aptos, or enjoying our family times between Southern California and San Francisco. I will miss her love and advice.

Kimberly Ann Maguire - February 05, 2021 at 04:47 PM

KW

“ I will miss my Mom more than words can say. She poured her life into her family and what an incredible blessing it was for me to be her daughter!

I love you Mom, and I'll see you again some day in Heaven. Say "hi" to Daddy for me.

Karen Whipple - February 03, 2021 at 10:57 PM



I worked with Benita at Charles River. There are not enough words on the English dictionary to describe how wonderful a woman she was. I am so deeply sorry for your loss. She will be extremely missed! It hearts and prayers are with you r it now. Jolene and James Alvarado

Jolene Alvarado - February 16, 2021 at 07:45 PM



I never met your Mom, but I can tell she was a wonderful lady. What precious memories you have. I am praying for God's comfort and peace to surround you during this time of loss. Sending love and hugs.

Rhonda Howard - February 24, 2021 at 07:32 AM



I never had the privilege of meeting your Mom, but I can tell she was a wonderful lady. What precious memories you have. I am praying for God's comfort and peace to surround you during this time of loss. Sending love and hugs.

Rhonda Howard - February 24, 2021 at 07:34 AM

AS

“ How lucky I was to have Benita as my Aunt. And Reed as my Uncle. I will cherish my memories always 😊

Alexis Streeter - February 03, 2021 at 06:11 PM

EK

*She was a true lady...with a twinkle in her eye. The best of friends.
Elayne Klasson*

Elayne Klasson - February 03, 2021 at 08:22 PM

CR

*Jimmy and I are so grateful to have been friends with Benita for 34 yrs.
She was the ultimate nurturing, giving and compassionate lady. She
could always be counted on when needed and had a wicked wit. Our
lives were blessed to have shared so many wonderful life memories!!*

claudette roehrig - February 03, 2021 at 11:14 PM

MM

*I will always remember Benita at luncheons, receptions and small
gatherings to support women's issues. I am very fortunate to have
known this generous and gracious woman.
Marsha Marcoe*

Marsha Marcoe - February 15, 2021 at 06:40 PM