



Sue Valikonis

May 24, 1946 - May 22, 2021

Sue Valikonis (Archibald), longtime Santa Barbara-area resident, passed away Saturday, May 22, 2021 surrounded by family. Sue was raised in beautiful Santa Barbara, where her adventurous spirit proliferated. After high school, Sue took a camping trip to Colorado and fell in love with Steamboat Springs and decided to go to college there. In Steamboat she formed friendships and connections that would continue for the rest of her life. Sue was a lifelong traveler. Her first big trip was to Guayaquil, Ecuador after college where she worked at Colegio Americano. It nearly gave her mother a heart attack to send Sue off on a rickety airplane out of LAX to what was then a very foreign destination. But Sue was fearless and it was a life-changing trip as it led her to her next big adventure in Brownsville, Texas, where she met her husband, Bill Valikonis, and had her two boys – John and Bill. When her husband Bill died, Sue went back to school to become a nurse. After obtaining her degree, Sue packed up, and moved back to Steamboat Springs. Here she found her true calling as a school nurse at Soda Creek and Strawberry Park Elementary schools where she was beloved by children, and peers alike. Later, she moved back to California and worked at Montecito Union School and Cate School in Carpinteria. Students would sometimes make up an illness just so they could spend the night in the infirmary with Nurse Sue. At Cate, Sue's beloved dog Henna was her constant companion. When she wasn't stealing tri-tip from the kitchen, Henna could be found sitting in Sue's convertible Cabriolet waiting for the next adventure! The adventures continued

throughout her life with travels to Africa, China, Thailand, Australia, Mexico as well as being a true “road warrior” domestically. The brightest light in her life was her grandchildren, Sia and Lylas. Grammy and her girls had the best of times doing art, having sleepovers and sharing love. Sue never complained, she was always cheerful, no matter the circumstances. We share her loss with everyone who knew her. Sue was a bright light in this world – a true original. We will all miss her happy nature, easy smile, playful spirit and generous heart. She is survived by her son John Valikonis, grandchildren Sia and Lylas, siblings Robert Archibald, Sally Hertzog, Charlotte Hall and Cece Hall, niece Ashley Hertzog.

Sue will be laid to rest next to her son Bill at Carpinteria Cemetery on June 5th. at 11:00 AM.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Toro Canyon Park afterward.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUN 5. 11:00 AM (PT)

Carpinteria Cemetery
1501 Cravens Lane
Carpinteria, CA 93013

Tribute Wall

PB

“ We were saddened to hear of our dear friend Sue's passing. We met her in Steamboat and knew of her first as our children's school nurse. But we became close friends through an encounter on the school playground between our sons: John & Bill and Aaron & Adam. We spent many good times having dinner together when she lived up on Rabbit Ears Pass. We moved to Grand Junction and a few years ago, Sue was passing through and came by our house to say Hi. We were having a small family pool party. Humble as Sue was, she felt she was interrupting our party. We convinced her to stay and all of us so much enjoyed her presence. She was truly like one of the family! We are grateful for our last visit with Sue about 3 years ago at our son's wedding in Grand Junction. John drove her with him to help celebrate his close friend's, Aaron, wedding. At the reception we were able to talk with her at great length about our memories in Steamboat and catching up with our lives since then.

We will always cherish those memories of Sue and pray that her soul now rests in peace!

We send our love to John and all Sue's family,

Tom and Patti Brown

Patti Brown - June 04, 2021 at 02:25 PM