



Susan Marie Murphy

October 2, 1958 - March 16, 2026

Susan Marie Murphy, who spent most of her life in Goleta, passed away peacefully at home on March 16, 2026, at the age of 67.

Born on October 2, 1958, Sue was the daughter of Gilbert and Kathleen Murphy. She moved to Santa Barbara County at age 12 and made her life in the community she knew so well.

Sue spent much of her working life helping people get where they needed to go safely and confidently. She worked as a Goleta Union school bus driver, served with Easy Lift as an operations manager and driver trainer, and taught First-Aid and CPR certification classes. She maintained her Class B license for many years, training drivers for the City of Santa Barbara and occasionally driving the blood donation bus. Even later in life, while driving for Uber, she was still doing what came naturally to her: welcoming visitors, offering guidance, and sharing the best of Santa Barbara. Over the years, she also worked in a variety of other roles, including as a bookkeeper at UCSB and other local businesses.

Her care for others extended far beyond her work. Throughout her son's journey in Scouting, from Cub Scouts through Eagle Scout, Sue served in leadership roles and gave countless hours to helping young people and their families. She was also an active part of the Santa Barbara Seashells Association, where she helped run events and kept watch from the safety boat, always ready to help young sailors who needed a hand. Beyond Scouting and sailing, Sue—never one to leave an authority position vacant—

also gave her time as Sam's earliest coach for youth basketball and referee for soccer.

She will be remembered for the good she did, the families and young people she supported, and the many quiet ways she showed up for her community. She now rests with her parents and her brother, Kenny in the afterlife.

Sue is survived by her son, Samuel Verhasselt (Karen Toro); her partner, Kathy Murray; her sisters, Sheila Davies (Steve) and Sally Gilmour (Chris), and her nieces, Kathleen and Molly.

A viewing will take place on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at ^[1]_{SEP} Welch-Ryce-Haider Funeral Chapels
450 Ward Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93111

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at ^[1]_{SEP} St. Raphael Catholic Church
5444 Hollister Avenue, Santa Barbara, CA 93111

A burial will follow at approximately 11:30 a.m. at
Calvary Cemetery
199 North Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

A reception will be held following the burial at approximately 1:00 p.m. at ^[1]_{SEP}
Pepe's Mexican Restaurant
254 Orange Ave, Goleta, CA 93117

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

199 North Hope Ave
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805) 687-8811
http://www.archdiocese.la/directories/cemeteries/info.php?cemetery_id=3

Previous Events

Viewing

APR 8. 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Goleta
450 Ward Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
(805) 965-5145
info@wrhsb.com
<https://www.wrhsb.com>

Funeral Mass

APR 9. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Raphael Catholic Church
5444 Hollister Ave.
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
<http://www.straphaelsb.com/>

Tribute Wall

LM

“ A very fond memory of mine is at my daughter’s wedding when Sue was dancing with my nephew, Michael. They were “rocking out”. It brings a smile to my face. I know she will be missed.



Linda Markov - March 30 at 02:15 PM

RE

“ To all of Sue's family my condolences for your loss. Sue was an amazing person in so many ways. She definitely left our community a better place from her endless dedication, love and support.

Rod Every - March 28 at 10:35 AM