



Leigh Ileson

November 22, 1960 - July 27, 2019

Leigh Ileson passed away July 27, 2019 in Penn Valley. She was 58.

Born in Marshall, TX on November 22, 1960 to William and Katheryn Cornelius, Leigh was valedictorian of Jefferson High School in Jefferson, TX, earned a BFA in Selective Studies at Stephen F. Austin State University and a Justice degree at Gonzaga School of Law in Spokane, WA. She had a private practice as an attorney for nine years before serving as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas for another 15. She married Robert Ileson on August 9, 1980, and they had two sons, Atticus and Ian.

Leigh was a black belt in Tae Kwan Do, loved the ocean, her family, enjoyed art and adored her Italian Greyhounds.

Leigh is survived by her husband Robert Ileson of Penn Valley, CA; sons Atticus Ileson of Penn Valley, CA and Ian (Theresed Hoptinger) Ileson of Pike, CA; brothers Bill (Kim) Cornelius of Tyler, TX, and John (Brenda) Cornelius of Jefferson, TX.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Justice William Cornelius and Katheryn Cornelius.

Family and friends are invited to attend a Celebration of Life at 2:00 p.m. on

Sunday, August 11, 2019 at Chapel of the Angels, 250 Race Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her name to Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation, P.O. Box 1810, Grass Valley, California 95945 <https://supportsierranevada.org/>

Arrangements are under the care of Chapel of the Angels Mortuary & Crematory (530) 273-2446

Previous Events

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

AUG 11. 2:00 PM (PT)

Chapel of the Angels Mortuary & Crematory
250 Race Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 273-2446
info@chapeloftheangels.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Paula Marouk lit a candle in memory of Leigh Ileson*



Paula Marouk - August 11, 2025 at 01:00 PM

MJ

“ *Marianne Jones lit a candle in memory of Leigh Ileson*



Marianne Jones - August 12, 2019 at 09:00 PM

WC

“ *Bob, to let you and the boys know, Kim and I have made a donation in Leigh's memory to Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital.*

Bill

William Cornelius - August 09, 2019 at 03:03 PM

WC

“ Leigh was like a cute little "Pixie" to me since I was a full 10 years older. I always admired and enjoyed her fun loving spirit, with just a pinch of mischief thrown in for good measure. She loved people, and loved family outings and get-together's. As we grew older, I came to appreciate how really smart and talented she was. She was first in her class at Jefferson High. She was creative in many different ways. Painting, performing, singing....all abilities she was blessed with. For Christmas, she would always send me a "hand-made" card. And, she had a sweet and gracious spirit that she exhibited toward not just her family, but friends and acquaintances as well. I feel sure she is making someone laugh or smile right now in Heaven. Leigh, I love and will miss you.

Bill Cornelius, Leigh's oldest brother

William Cornelius - August 09, 2019 at 02:44 PM

JG

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Janet Hughes Grace - August 09, 2019 at 11:04 AM

JG

“ Janet Hughes Grace lit a candle in memory of Leigh Ileson



Janet Hughes Grace - August 09, 2019 at 10:29 AM

JG

John & Bill and families -

Life is sure coming fast. Such a precious lady gone to soon.

I have so many memories of Leigh Ann! Best ones are when we would all spend the night at Uncle Rufus' and Aunt Annabelle's home. We would stay up as late as possible and played everything from paper dolls to games. Aunt Annabelle would get us to bed and read her stories to us in hopes we would sleep hahaha. Leigh Ann was fun to be around and will surely be missed. Haven't been in touch with her in years and sure have thought of her often.

On behalf of the Hughes family I extend our condolences at the loss of your sister and our cousin. We loved her dearly. Janet (Grace), Dee (Williams) and Shelley(Bates).

*Love to all,
Janet, Dee & Shelley*

Janet Hughes Grace - August 09, 2019 at 10:42 AM

SB

Bill and John families: I remember spending a great deal of time with Leigh Ann riding horses. Mostly she rode behind me on that great fat white paint horse your family owned.. My sister, Paula, were best friends in Pine Hill Addition. Leigh Ann and I would get off the horse and check out things like snapping turtles, snakes, etc. Leigh was always a bit of a tom boy and wasn't afraid of anything with me.. (I remember your Mother calling in her best singing voice to call Leigh home: "Leigh Ann- un". I enjoyed her so much and and so saddened by her passing. Although we parted as life does to childhood friends, she was always one of my favorite memories. A bright light is gone from us for now, but Leigh's bright light will always be in my heart. My life was happier for knowing her. She touched many souls such as mine. Sending my love to Bill, John and Leigh's families. Sandra Key Henderson Bell, Broken Arrow, OK

Sandra Bell - August 10, 2025 at 02:32 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Leigh Ileson.*



August 08, 2019 at 12:59 PM



“ *Stacy Dorgan lit a candle in memory of Leigh Ileson*



stacy Dorgan - August 07, 2019 at 02:55 PM



“ *Kimberly LeBrun lit a candle in memory of Leigh Ileson*



Kimberly LeBrun - August 07, 2019 at 11:49 AM

KL

“ Leigh Ann was such a good friend when we were in high school. We made quite the odd pair. It didn't matter to us. We were friends. I remember that we were both in drama. We were doing a play and for some reason we needed chairs. What did we do? We broke into the Junior Historian (No 61 Dallas St) building and "borrowed" some. We laughed so much about the chairs that mysteriously appeared. I have thought of her so much over the years. When I finally found her, it was too late. I know, without a doubt, that she is now one of the most beautiful angels in Heaven. I also know that she is now a guardian angel to all of those she loved. My prayers are with all of her family and with my dear friend.

Leigh Ann, shine that candle bright when you spread your beautiful wings in Heaven.

I will always remember you with so much love.

Kimberly McAdoo LeBrun

Kimberly LeBrun - August 07, 2019 at 11:47 AM

BC

“ Leigh Ann was unique and smart. I found it easy to laugh with her and I admired her artistic nature and talent She looked at her family with such love. They were so tight knit it made my heart happy just to see. It made you know that being with them to the end was Gods will, Leigh we love you and yours I feel very very blessed to have known you, Brenda Cornelius

Brenda Cornelius - August 06, 2019 at 10:10 PM

JC

“ Leigh was smart and talented. We weren't around each other much as adults--work kept us far apart most of the time. When I was a teenager and she a tweenager, we got along pretty well. We were into the church youth group activities, music, and boating. Yes, we had some exciting boating adventures, like the time on Lake of the Pines when we hit a submerged log and the boat started sinking. Dad dropped the two of us off on a barge with an elderly couple from Longview (Texas) and he drove the boat on, barely making it to Crystal Cove where he beached it. Or the time when I had tried to fix up a boat that our grandad had taken as partial payment for legal services and we took it down Big Cypress Bayou. On the way back a log hit our motor, rendering it unusable and knocking it up on my shoulder while I was bailing out some water. I was not injured badly but it scared Leigh quite badly. We couldn't make much progress paddling upstream back to Jefferson. At midnight the Sheriff's Department crew found us (Mom had called them) and towed us back to Jefferson.

I will miss her.

John Cornelius, brother

John Cornelius - August 06, 2019 at 08:04 PM