



ZEE ANN PETERSON

October 12, 1936 - June 26, 2014

Zee Ann Peterson nee Lauderdale
October 12, 1936 to June 26, 2014

Zee was a lover of words and Scrabble aficionado, so I am sure that she could appreciate my difficulty in choosing a few select words to describe her. She was courageous, daring, adventurous, creative, imaginative, reliable, dependable, resourceful, versatile, humorous, strong-willed, independent, loving, kind, compassionate – all this and so much more. Her wonderful character manifested itself in everything she touched.

As a child, she was full of fun and folly, and greatly adored by her parents. One of her imaginative phases entailed galloping, kicking, and neighing around the countryside, pretending she was a horse. She eventually spoiled a Tennessee Walker named Star Baby, and lived in many unusual places in order to keep her friend. In later years she would seek the wild horses near Virginia City, completely akin to their free spirit. Horses were only a part of her connection to animals. She always had a dog in her life, and loved and rescued all creatures great and small.

She attended Napa Valley College high school, and her continued creativity and spirit were attested to by the multitude of photos and signed messages of her classmates. Upon graduation, she joined the Air Force. It was there that

she met her husband and was discharged for being with child in 1958. They had four darling children who were cared for with the utmost love and attention.

Her enormous energies were applied to mothering, not only her own children, but all the children on the block. She threw the best parties for kids and adults; always with a creative theme. Every holiday and occasion was celebrated with fun décor, costumes, cakes, games, and fun beyond all imagination. In addition to her parties, camping trips were also considered essential. All kids, dogs, friends and family were welcome and provided for.

Her career started with the Air Force. After her children were considered grown enough, she worked for a local florist and carried on that line of work regardless of where she was located. Eventually, she would move to office work, first at Anderson Pools in Marin County, then Digital Telephone Systems before moving back to Reno and joining the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, and ultimately ending at the Washoe County District Attorney's Office, where she is loved and remembered to this day, and her Halloween costuming tradition is continued.

She retired at the age of 70, and took herself and her dogs and cats to Grass Valley, where she was close to family and made a sweet new life for herself. She costumed for the annual ghost train, remained involved with pets and rescue animals, and settled comfortably in the mountains amongst the pines where she loved to be.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew her, but is undoubtedly happy now to be with all her dearly departed friends and pets that arrived in heaven before her.

Her charities are anything involving the protection and care of animals:

animalsave.org and wildhorserescue.org are two of them. The American heart Association would also be on her list at www.heart.org.

Previous Events

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

AUG **16**. 2:00 PM (PT)

Olympia Glade Clubhouse
918 Pampas Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Michael Peterson - March 17, 2020 at 07:58 PM

CM

“ *Such sad news! Zee was one of my favorites at HDTs, she was also my boss for a couple of years, and she made work not only interesting, but fun!! She was always calling MIS to ask how much it would cost to replace a CRT monitor, because she was SO fed up with those dang computers she just wanted to bring in a sledgehammer to have at it!*

She told wonderful stories about traveling with her kids across the country, and hanging a goldfish (in a bowl of water) from the rear view mirror (if I remember that correctly!) The goldfish survived the travel and she laughed hard and often until tears erupted as she'd tell her life-stories. Her love for her horse Star, was one we all understood - she exuded child-like excitement of having her own horse. I remember her elation when she bought a small blue pickup, so it would be easier for her to buy hay and shovel \$1T from the barn each week. LOL - she'd come in limping and stiff/sore but with the most pleased look on her face, having worked her butt off to care for Star. She always wondered how it was that Star could eat 2 bales of hay, and leave behind 3 bales worth of poop that needed to be shoveled! (c; Zee was such a character!

I actually searched for her about 8 yrs ago, and called her on the spur of the moment to see how she was doing. It was a fun conversation and we shared more laughs. She loved talking about her kids, and granddaughter (her name escapes me, but I recall it was either the name of a hurricane, or the city where a hurricane hit.) She had so much pride in her kids and nothing, even the trials of their teenage years, could ever cause that love to diminish in her words. I can still hear her laughter, just thinking of her, now. I think she'd be pleased to know that! ? Rest well, Zee!

Cindy (Harvey) McIntire HDTs 1983-1986 (Accts Receivable)

Cindy McIntire - August 21, 2014 at 12:23 AM

CM

Camille! (c; I knew the name would find me after I posted my words!

Cindy McIntire - August 21, 2014 at 12:25 AM

MP

Such a beautiful story about my mom. Thank you for sharing. I remember the DTS days. She was so involved. And the countless weddings she did the flowers for (and dragged me into it). I love and miss her so much. It's nice to hear other's experience in her life. Thank you.

Michele Peterson (Camille's mom)

Michele M Peterson - September 18, 2018 at 09:33 AM



“ *Even though mom and I never saw eye to eye on politics or liked me putting around on a motorcycle, she always had time for me and would welcome me with open arms, Im going to miss her hugs and her smile of affection. She was always more concerned for our welfare than her own, it didn't matter who you were or where you came from, she loved you for who you were. I had a friend I met in a mechanic class in Millvalley and he had lost his parents when he was young and didn't have a family, well mom took him in, and told him "you are now a part of my family" for quite a few years me and Bert were true brothers, with a wonderful and forgiving mother. Mom, you will always be in my heart and will never be forgotten, may God bring you eternal happiness as you brought happiness to many here on earth. Your son Michael*

Michael Peterson - August 15, 2014 at 05:58 PM

BS

“ Zee was the most kind and generous person. I had the pleasure of working with her at the Washoe County DA's Office and we became friends. She shared her time, her soup and her Christmas treasures. Zee loved her animals, even that crazy dog who would eat the walls in her house during thunderstorms. She always could find something good in just about any situation. She and my Mom became Art Show partners at the Reno Magic of Santa Show. We still cherish several of her artistic Christmas decorations. She will be missed, but our memories of her and the times shared will always be special.

Michelle and family, may you find peace in memories of her joyous and funfilled life.

Bobbie Schueller

Bobbie Schueller - August 13, 2014 at 04:00 PM

DG

“ Michele I am so sorry for your lost. Your Mom was a great lady and a friend when I lived in California. It's been many years since I saw her but when I think of her I have to smile. I remember when she lived in a chicken coup that was fixed up like a small studio apartment because she wanted to be close to her horse. One Christmas season the employee of HDTs decided to go Christmas caroling on a cable car. Well we all rode down to San Francisco in her motor home singing all the way! Heaven has another angle.
Donna Gizzi

Donna Gizzi - July 20, 2014 at 06:55 PM

MP

Thank you, Donna. Such a fun story. I remember the chicken coup. Prior to that her home was a converted goat shed! Horse must take precedence.

Michele Peterson - July 23, 2014 at 06:18 PM

LS

I knew Zee for 30+ years, first in Novato then every time I came to or passed through Reno and Grass Valley I would stop and visit. I do not ever remember her without a house full of four legged friends. Living in a plywood trailer so her horse had a barn, Making sure her dog had a nice piece of grass after she moved in town. Letting the birds take part of her window screen so they could have a better nest. This was Zee she had the biggest heart! We laughed and watched so many movies and even if it was a repeat to her she always found something new. I will never see a Hot air balloon and not think of you. We had so much fun in Reno chasing a little pig balloon. Of course it had 4 legs. I miss you my friend you were the best.

Linda Stockton

Linda Stockton - July 29, 2014 at 04:56 PM

RM

“*Zee was a most wonderful person, and friend. I have so many good memories, and fondness, it is hard to put it all into words. We took lots of trips up to Virginia City together and once saw a young man who advertised himself as the "best fiddler player ever." After, we agreed that he was. On one of our trips, we pulled over and gazed in awe at a herd of wild horses running on the flats. At work, she used to calm abusive clients down by telling them: :Sir, I am a grandma, and you are offending me. Can you please change your tone? I'm just a grandma." It worked every time! When officers would call in, she would ask: "Young man, are you on your cell phone?" If they replied in the affirmative, she would tell them: "You know, it isn't safe for you to drive and talk." Pre cell phone laws, I might add. She would then say: "I will wait until you pull over, and then I will be more than happy to help you." They always complied! Truly she was genuine, friendly, creative, loving, kind, artistic person, with so many other good qualities that I was always proud and honored to call her my friend. My heart is with her family. Much Love! Rachael*

Rachael Muro - July 07, 2014 at 08:16 PM

MP

Love your stories, Rachel. Thanks for sharing.

Michele Peterson - July 08, 2014 at 01:32 AM

BM

“Michele, I remember when my parent's moved to Idaho and left me in Petaluma to finish out our senior year. I stayed with a family that had plain tamales every night for dinner, I don't like tamales so I didn't eat most nights, when your mom found out I wasn't eating, she insisted that I eat with your family. Every time I came over (Which was a lot) she made sure I never went away hungry. That meant a lot to me. There was also a time when I stopped by to see if you could hang out, you weren't home and your mom Denise were getting ready to leave, instead of sending me on my lonely way, she invited me to tag along with her and Denise. We drove out to a light house and then stopped at an ocean side cafe where she MADE me try fresh smoked oysters. I think I managed to get one down and then Denise ate the rest, but I did try them for her. Your mom always made me feel welcome in your home and took me under her wing when my own mom wasn't there. I'm thankful for the opportunity I had to have your mom as my second mom, during those two years I lived in Petaluma. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Love, a friend always, Brenda (Rowe) McIntyre

Brenda (Rowe) McIntyre - July 07, 2014 at 07:00 PM

MP

Thank you, Brenda. That was a beautiful story.

Michele Peterson - July 08, 2014 at 01:30 AM

MP

“ *The most wonderful Mom anyone could ask for. She would give the shirt off her back to a complete stranger. She loved everyone. She gave me a lot of "shirts" over the years and I hope she knows I appreciated each and every one. Mom, your memory will live forever in my heart. I love you forever.*

Michele Peterson - July 07, 2014 at 01:20 PM

JO

I remember long ago when Zee lived here in Indian Valley, Novato with Bev as a room mate..... very nice person. Jonell O'Day

Jonell O'Day - July 20, 2014 at 03:50 PM

MI

Thank you, Jonell.

michelepeterson333@gmail.com - August 06, 2014 at 07:55 PM

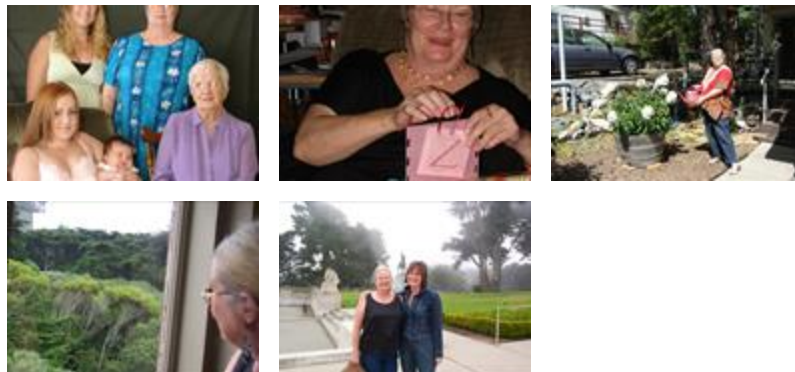
MP

I'm surprised my eulogy isn't here, what happened? Mom had a heart of gold, I remember an owl we injured in 72 and she nursed it back to health, she had an amazing healing spirit. I had a real good friend, like a brother, and Mom would treat him as if he were her son also, there's not a day that goes by that I'm not thinking of my mother, she was a very special person with lots of love for all. See you on the other side Mom!

Michael Peterson - March 17, 2020 at 07:49 PM

MP

“ 11 files added to the album Mom's Life in Photos



Michele Peterson - July 07, 2014 at 12:04 PM

CM

“ CHAPEL OF THE ANGELS MORTUARY lit a candle in memory of ZEE ANN PETERSON



CHAPEL OF THE ANGELS MORTUARY - June 26, 2014 at 11:45 AM

LE

In loving memory, of a beautiful person.

Lillie Esquivelpeterson - July 07, 2014 at 12:39 PM

BE

Michele, I have 4 fond remembrances of your Mom. (lots more but no room to write them all.)

The first is about her sweet dog Darling who loved to romp with Zee's horse Star. It was pure joy watching them play in the pasture.

Another remembrance is also about Darling. I was in the house and Zee had stepped outside for a minute and then began to yell! I ran outside and noticed right away what upset her. Darling had been chasing a mole (we think) and she had dug up several place in the backyard; it looked like a war zone! The only thing Zee and could do was laugh!!!

And then there is Schultz, a beautiful German Shepherd she had rescued from an abusive home. His claim to fame in my memory is when he came to my room and peeked inside to see what was going on. I had two cats, a shy orange kitty and a small female Manx. Well she got one look at him and ran out of the room and chased him down the hallway to Zee's room; he tried to get under the card table and knocked it over. The cat Grace, just sat in the hallway daring him to show his face. Eventually they became friends.

This is a very precious memory. Christmas and tree decorating day. Zee and I were almost through adding the ornaments when I noticed that Zee had just put a small figurine of a female gnome on the tree which reminded me that I had a male gnome in a box and told Zee that they should be placed side by side. When it was time to take the tree down, we decided they would not be separated. So for many years, they were mailed back and forth at Christmas time.

*She was a dear friend and I miss her very much.
Bev Groginsky*

Beverly - August 08, 2014 at 09:52 AM