



Dawn Dunbar Bender

September 27, 1946 - February 18, 2019

Dawn Aliene Dunbar Bender, at the age of 72, passed away in her home, in Cedar Hills, Utah, in the early morning hours of February 18, 2019. She was surrounded and supported by her family. She is finally at peace, after a long and arduous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Dawn was born on September 27, 1946, in Boulder, Colorado, to Felix Holt Dunbar Jr. and LaVera Jean Beamer.

Dawn was the first of four children. She was born premature and was always a very tiny little girl. What she lacked in stature she made up for with personality and determination. She even won a junior high school talent show with a skit she did with her friend. Her parents always made sure their family went camping and exploring across the United States, so she learned to love nature and adventure. Her parents encouraged each of their children to have a "Great Life Experience" before they got married and Dawn was always in search of hers. After graduating high school, Dawn went to Brigham Young University to study interior design and art. In her freshman year she won an art contest and her professor chose her, along with six other students, to tour Europe studying art. She got to explore Paris and Switzerland and had her "Great Life Experience".

It was at Brigham Young University that Dawn met Norman Clair Bender. In 1967, they were married and sealed for time and all eternity, in the Salt Lake Temple, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Over the next 12 years, they were blessed with three daughters: Shellie, Angelina, and Jennifer, and three sons: Kelly, Cory, and Jared. During her husband's government service, she had the opportunity to live in California, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, and Texas, before settling in Utah to finish raising their children.

While raising her children, Dawn furthered her passion for art by painting, making pottery, and creating beautiful stained glass works of art. She also shared her love of nature and adventure on camping trips with her husband and children.

During her life, Dawn worked as a photograph retoucher, as an art teacher in three schools, as a teacher at a school for the deaf and blind, as a Real Estate Agent and Appraiser, an appraiser at an auction house, served on the Sandy City, Utah, Planning Commission, and homeschooled some of her children. She also worked for a company scheduling seminars for doctors of alternative medicine and critiquing the books they presented. She then went on to be the manager of a health food store and the co-owner of her own health food market. She used all this knowledge, along with her continued love of nutrition, research, and healing, to help many people feel better and get healthier. She even used this knowledge to beat the lymphoma she had many years before she had pancreatic cancer.

During her life, Dawn was a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She served in many ward callings. Her favorite was as a teacher and consultant at her stake Family History Center.

Dawn is survived by 6 children, 12 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren. She has had a life full of love, creativity, and service, and has had many great life experiences. She will always be remembered and loved by those who knew her and will be greatly missed.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday, February 23rd at 12:00 pm at the Cedar Hills 10th Ward, 9737 Chesterfield Drive, Cedar Hills, Utah, where a Viewing will be held prior to services from 10:00 to 11:30 am. Interment in Memorial Mountain View Cemetery, 3115 Bengal Boulevard, Cottonwood Heights, Utah.

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary.

Cemetery

Memorial Mountain View Cemetery

3115 Bengal Blvd

Cottonwood Heights, UT, 84121

Events

FEB **Viewing** 10:00AM - 11:30AM

23

Cedar Hills 10th Ward

9737 Chesterfield Drive, Cedar Hills, UT, US,
84062

FEB **Funeral Service** 12:00PM - 01:00PM

23

Cedar Hills 10th Ward

9737 Chesterfield Drive, Cedar Hills, UT, US,
84062

Comments



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Norman Bender - February 26, 2019 at 06:00 PM



“ From her husband Norm Bender (Part 1)

MY LIFE WITH DAWN-February 23, 2019

This story began in 1966 at BYU

As I remember it, my roommate wanted me to go with him to take chocolate chip cookie ingredients to his girlfriend. Little did I know that while we were talking to her at the door, one of her roommates spotted me and I never had a chance. Later when we were invited for dinner, guess who I sat next to. Her name was Dawn Dunbar from Colorado. Our first conversation revolved around our birth days. As it turned out I was exactly 3 years older and we both had the same birth day and month. Little did I know that I would spend the next 52 years of my life with her.

From the very beginning I realized that Dawn was not only beautiful but had very strong convictions and wasn't at all hesitant to stand up for the right. She was also spiritual, loved the Lord, and loved me.

She was very talented in the arts including painting, pottery, sculpturing, and stained glass. When I had the opportunity to meet her family in Colorado, I immediately realized what a fine family she had who accepted me and I knew that she was the one I wanted to spend the eternities with.

We were married in May, 1967, and lived in a small 8 X 30 foot trailer off campus at BYU until I graduated in accounting in 1968. That little trailer was also the first home of our daughter Shellie.

After graduation, we move to California where my parents lived. I was the comptroller for a small manufacturing company for three years until I applied for and was accepted as an agent with the FBI. Our son Kelly was born during that time and later Cory. While I was at Quantico for three and a half months, Dawn managed our family and the sale of our home.

My first office assignment as an agent was Oklahoma City. During our 7 month stay in Oklahoma, Dawn was very strong and supportive. She became the ward choir director and embarked on a BYU correspondence course learning how to do genealogy which became her passion for the rest of her life.

Our next two year assignment in Puerto Rico brought us a great deal of spiritual growth. We attended an English speaking branch and rubbed shoulders with some great members of the Church. We both had branch and district assignments. The birth of Angelina was a highlight of our stay there and we returned to the mainland in 1975 to Texas.

For 15 years we were assigned to San Antonio, Texas, a beautiful city with sweltering heat and lots of bugs. During those years, Dawn's interest in our family health caused her to increase her knowledge in the use of natural remedies and good health practices. We moved to the country, raised bees, chickens, rabbits, and

everyone became tired of all those wonderful peaches. She never again could eat peaches.

In addition to her health studies, Dawn was able to help many with their health issues and provided service to many of the church members, neighbors, and friends. We also traveled to several of the smaller church branches. The birth of Jennifer and Jared were both highlights of our San Antonio assignment.

In 1990, we were assigned to Salt Lake City and I finally retired in 1998. After retirement, I continued working in local law enforcement and we lived in Sandy and Midvale. Dawn worked in the Midvale Family History Center where she assisted patrons with their genealogy. She and I taught many classes at the center and also on Sundays in two different wards.

Norman Bender - February 25, 2019 at 02:47 PM



“ From her husband Norm Bender (Part 2)

Approximately four years ago, Dawn spent time in Colorado assisting her mom in preparation for her move to Utah. When LaVera walked into her home here, she knew this was where she wanted to live. Dawn and I were very impressed with the area and we moved here also. What a blessing it has been to be a part of this Ward.

When my mom move here from Arizona two years ago, she stayed at the Charleston. Dawn and I were deeply involved with her until Christmas 2017 when she passed. After her funeral in California we spent January making plans.

After one month, on February 6, 2018, Dawn was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Since then this year has been full of doctors, hospitals, medication, and mostly pain which progressively got worse. Palliative care and more recently hospice provided some relief along the way but Dawn's battle was lost at 3:45 AM this past Monday morning. She was surrounded by her family and we all miss her and her love that she had for each of us.

I can only express my love and gratitude for these 52 years together. She has been my life and together we were blessed with a wonderful family. I already miss her.

Our granddaughter expressed this feeling with the following:

"Those that love us don't go away,
they walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near.
Still loved, still missed and very dear.
Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,
love leaves a memory no one can steal."

And from the poem entitled
Crossing Over
"Oh, please don't feel guilty
It was just my time to go.
I see you are still feeling sad,
And the tears just seem to flow.

We all come to earth for our lifetime,
And for some it's not many years
I don't want you to keep crying
You are shedding so many tears.

I haven't really left you
Even though it may seem so.
I have just gone to my heavenly home,
And I'm closer to you than you know.

Just believe that when you say
my name, I'm standing next to you,
I know you long to see me,
But there's nothing I can do.

But I'll still send you messages
And hope you understand,
That when your time comes to "cross over,"
I'll be there to take your hand."

So who was this extraordinary woman who in her later years was known as
"Gramma Dawn"

She was a daughter, a sister, a cousin, a friend, and a child of god.

Most of all, she was my wife and I love her and miss her.

Norman Bender - February 25, 2019 at 02:43 PM



“ From her daughter Jennifer Petersen

When It was time to go

I set my alarm and laid down beside you
Wondering if you knew I was there
I put my hand on your shoulder to feel your every breath
Hoping that I would be awake for your very last
Wanting you to have comfort and love for every second that was left
I feel a sleep for what seemed to be only a moment
Dreaming I was talking with you about all of the good times we shared
When all of a sudden I heard
(Knock, knock, knock)
“Jennifer it’s time to go”
I jumped up out of bed and turned to Shellie
Who awoke suddenly at that same moment
I then kneeled by your bedside and saw you’re beautiful face
Then I told Shellie that the time was close
She ran to wake everyone to gather by your side
Each of us told you how much we loved you
And that it was ok to go because it was time
I thought to myself “mom please open your eyes
Tell me that you’re all better and that this was just a nightmare
And not our last goodbye”
I watched your every breath knowing each one could be the last
I stroked your hair telling you it was ok
But my heart was breaking because I wanted you to stay
Then it happened you took your final breath of air
I couldn’t believe it
You were gone
This was cruel and not fair
I wasn’t ready for you to go
It was hard to realize that this was the end
But then I saw your face and knew you were finally at peace
And not suffering any more
You were busy beginning your new journey in the afterlife
And your body would no longer be sore
I held and squeezed you tight
I just lost my mom, my rock, my best friend tonight
All I could do is just cry
I got up slowly not knowing what to say
It was so hard I couldn’t walk away
Mom you were my entire world and I will miss you forever
No more calling you to talk
No more going on road trips just you and me
No more shopping for hours on end
Just because we enjoyed each other’s company
For now I’ll have to wait until we meet again

You will always be in my heart and thoughts
My sweet mom, my best friend
Our hearts will always be connected to the end of time
Your little girl always and forever until we meet again

Love you mom

Norman Bender - February 25, 2019 at 02:00 PM



“ From her son Jared Bender

Mom

When we were at Bear Lake. You asked the question. What we thought of you as a Mother growing up. One of my first memories of you is when I was an infant. I was in severe pain because of an ear infection. We were in the front room of the San Antonio house. You calmed me down by rocking me in the rocking chair. Another memory I have of you. I fell off my bike and I was bleeding a lot from a gash in my head. You knew exactly what to do. You dumped cayenne pepper all over my head to stop the bleeding

I remember all the countless times you would read to me until I would fall asleep. I remember all the times you stayed up late with me to help me finish my book reports. I remember all the times you took me to all of the different doctors to find out what was going on with my hearing. After every operation that I had on my ears. You were the first person I saw after awakening up.

I remember the Christmases that you stayed up late wrapping presents. I remember you making me feel special for every one of my birthdays. I remember the places that you would drive me to. Baseball practices, baseball games and scout meetings. I remember all the games you would play with us kids. What I have written in this text I is a small fraction of everything you have done and shown.

The answer to your question is. I see you as a loving mother that would do anything for her children. I am thankful and blessed to have you for a mother. I have never seen you back down from anything. You are going to fight and overcome.

I love you mom.

Norman Bender - February 25, 2019 at 01:57 PM



“ 23 files added to the album Memories Album



Norman Bender - February 25, 2019 at 01:28 PM



“ I only met Dawn once or twice and both for a very brief moment. I have had the privilege of working closely with her son. I remember the first time I met Dawn, she took interest in my family's life and how we were doing, despite not ever meeting any of them. You could tell she had a great love for everyone and only wanted the best for them. Soon after meeting Dawn my wife was diagnosed with Celiac Disease and so I thought I would call Dawn to get some advice. She went above and beyond to help give me and my wife not only places to go but also she looked up numerous secondary information online and other resources. She did not have to do any of it, but she did because she knew it was important to us so it was automatically important to her. My mom was diagnosed with pancreatic, stage three cancer about a year before Dawn. I remember when I heard that Dawn had it that my heart broke knowing that my mother was going through the same thing at the same time. You were taken away far too early but hope your family can find solace in knowing that she is now watching them at all times wanting to see all of them again. Thanks for your example Dawn.



Rhett M Mano - February 22, 2019 at 08:05 AM



“ It was my pleasure to interview in higher Dawn for her first real estate job. I also mentored her a very long time. In later years when we were very good friends I told her how I used to dread the first few months she was in the business because the first thing every morning she would be knocking on my office door with a yellow legal size pad. She was so thorough and so anxious to know and understand everything she could about real estate that she would make a list of questions that she had thought of during the evening or sometimes even a word that she would come across in some of her reading. I felt like I was having an oral exam every morning LOL at the time she finished my brain was pretty well fried. But of course I never complained she was so serious and I was so impressed with her desire to learn. I would usually just smile and say how did I do today she would give me a big smile and say you did great we'll see how you do tomorrow. Through the years I've had very sweet memories of my dear friend. She blessed my life and assisted me with my genealogy research and I will forever be grateful for the laughs and Precious Moments we shared. Farewell my sister till we meet again. My love and condolences to Norm and her children and Mom great is your loss.



Myrlene Heller - February 21, 2019 at 01:22 AM