



Valorie Black

June 20, 1950 - April 26, 2018

Valorie Jean Black, born on June 20, 1950 in Pocatello, ID, passed away peacefully at the home she shared with her sister and brother-in-law, Tracy and Don McDiarmid on April 26th, 2018. Valorie was the beloved daughter of Floyd Lamont Buckendorf and Miriam Lovina Dopp. Valorie married Stephen LeGrand Black on December 26, 1972 in Elko, NV and remained happily married to him until his untimely death from lung cancer on June 20, 2007.

Valorie graduated from Pocatello High School in 1968 and went on to attend Idaho State University where she also later worked as a coordinator in the Disability Services Office as well as a Recruiting coordinator for 8 years, retiring due to health constraints in 2010. Previous to that She worked at the law offices of McGuire and Kress for 18 years as a paralegal. Valorie's greatest joys were found in time spent with her family. She and Steve raised two sons, Adam Christopher Black, 37, and Jason LeGrand Black, 35 of Bend, OR. After her husband died her sons continued to be the focus of her love and attention.

Valorie was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, where she attended the Cedar Hills Ward in Pocatello until 2012, the Blossom Hill Ward in San Jose, CA from 2012-2017, and the Mount Mahogany Ward in Pleasant Grove, UT, since March of 2017. She loved gardening, but claimed to have a black thumb.

Valorie loved her family unconditionally and used her sense of humor to lift others' spirits in whatever circumstances she found herself. She was patient and humble and truly a joy to be near.

Valorie is preceded in death by her husband, Steve, parents Miriam and Lamont, and grandparents Sylvan H. and Arda Dopp. She is survived by her sons Adam and Jason, sister and brother-in-law, Tracy and Don, and numerous aunts and cousins.

A Memorial Service will be held to remember the life that Valorie lived on Saturday, May 5th at 11:00 am at the Mount Mahogany 6th Ward building, 1541 North 1300 West,

Pleasant Grove Utah.

Events

MAY **Memorial Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

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Mount Mahogany 6th Ward
1541 North 1300 West, Pleasant Grove, UT, US, 84062

Comments



“ Valorie is my older sister. She was 9 1/2 years older than me. I had the privilege of following her everywhere, cause mom said she had to take me. We also shared a room on 725 Cypress in Pocatello. Since there were monsters in the closet often times I ended up in her bed with my arms and legs wrapped around her. As we got older she would talk about how she would care for me when I had seizures and when I got injured playing. She was less impressed with me as I got older in my teen years, but when I turned 18 and suddenly became a nicer person she started acting like she liked me again, which surprised me a bit.

When we would talk on the phone, which we had to do often because I lived in California and she in Pocatello, it was like we were best friends. We would discuss our mom's latest crazy episode or her dogs, or the kids and what they were doing. I would want to call her whenever something great would happen and she would do the same.

After Steve died I went to stay with her to help her with affairs and helped plan his memorial. I wondered at the time what the future would hold because I knew this would be a super hard time for her, and it was. She was dealing with illnesses alone while still working. When she became unemployed and then lost her home I wanted her to come live with me but she had the two big black labs and 3 kitties and we couldn't have animals because of my husband's asthma. I was relieved when she went to stay with our aunt in San Jose, but during that time she experienced 5 surgeries from broken bones. I would cringe whenever I got a phone call from her, never knowing what new calamity she was experiencing. She broke an elbow, an ankle and a hip and needed two surgeries just to take care of problems with the screws and plates inserted to hold everything together.

So life was hard for Valorie for the last 10 years, but the thing that I loved about her and will always remember is her resilience in the face of all her trials. I would call her and we would always end up giggling like school girls. She would never focus on how hard things were except for every now and then joking about being a female version of Job.

I was ecstatic when she decided to move to Utah with me in March of 2018. She got here a week after I moved in and the day before my daughter's wedding. While she lived here she suffered from many health problems but would always have time to talk to me when I got home from work. She was always my best cheerleader. She would tell me I looked pretty when I came home from an exhausting day of teaching middle-schoolers. We would giggle and laugh and life predicaments. Every now and then she would feel good enough to go for a ride in the mountains or go to the store with me, or to the movies or to visit family.

One thing Valorie had been trying to do since Steve died was to go through the LDS temple. She struggled with all the moves and her health keeping her from attending church sometimes, and difficult financial circumstances, so it had eluded her for longer than she wanted to talk about, so getting to the temple was our goal. We were able to do that on December 9th, 2017, and she couldn't have been happier. She felt blessed to have been able to attend the temple and we then started planning to have her sealed to Steve. That was going to happen a couple weeks after the day she passed away, so now we have to wait until the next April 26th.

Having her in my home was the greatest blessing. We had dreamed and talked

about living together since before she got sick, "when we're old ladies." My husband and I had wanted to have her come and to take care of each other. We were building a room with an adjoining bathroom and a laundry room next door in our new home in Pleasant Grove and were about 6 weeks from moving her in. She made us laugh and told us stories and we were hoping for at least 10 more years. We love you Val.

Tracy McDiarmid - May 10, 2018 at 11:49 PM



“ When we moved to Pocatello Jason and Adam were the first people we met. Just little boys at the time. They became fast friends with my boys. So our families became fast friends as well. Val was my boys second mom and I was her boys (and the dogs) second mom. They were either at her home or mine all the time. She loved my boys and they loved her. Together we laughed at our kids antics, fought for them when necessary, guided them and loved them. Her sense of humor and her tender heart were ever present. Val, Steve, Adam and Jason, Thank you for being a part of our lives. We are all better by knowing you. Changes in our lives have separated us physically but loving you all will always remain. The JACK PACK will never be forgotten! The years together will always be remembered. Our thoughts, prayers and love are with all of you at this difficult time. Kathy Blomquist

Kathy Blomquist - May 02, 2018 at 12:16 AM



“ Kathy thank you to you and Harold for the beautiful bouquet of flowers. As time and circumstances have separated us, our love for your family has not diminished. Thank you again so much for the many years of cherished memories we will carry with us for the rest of our lives. Love Adam & Jason.

Adam - May 04, 2018 at 11:00 PM



“ Valorie was one of my dearest friends. I was her visiting teacher for at least 15 years. I enjoyed every visit. She always invited us in and by the time we left we had a few good laughs. I watched the boys grow up and I sorrowed when Steve died. I became acquainted with her mother and met her sister. She made dang good salsa! I have lost a wonderful friend and sister in the gospel. Rest in peace Valorie until I can give you a loving hug once again. Lynnette Evans

Lynnette Evans - May 05, 2018 at 06:31 PM