



Zola Hancock

August 4, 1940 - November 12, 2017

Zola Marlene Higginson Hancock, 77, passed from this mortal life on Sunday November 12th, 2017 at her home in American Fork, Utah holding hands with the love of her life and eternal companion J Albert “Buddy” Hancock. Zola’s passing was a sacred and peaceful event and she was surrounded by loving family.

Zola was born in Blackfoot, Idaho on August 4th, 1940 to George Anson and Elfie Augusta Goetzl Higginson. Ten minutes after Zola came into this world her identical twin sister Zada was also born and their unique relationship became a blessing throughout life. Family and service were a focal point of Zola’s life and she shared much of it with her four siblings and their wonderful spouses: Gary (Beulah) Higginson, Gay (Wayne) Covington, Zada (Larry – Deceased) Smith and LeAnn (Steve) Castleton.

Growing up in rural Idaho afforded Zola many opportunities to work and learn where she developed a love of sewing, cooking, canning, sports, and all things related to running her own home. After graduating from Snake River High School in 1958 and then Brigham Young University in 1961 with a Bachelor’s degree in Home Economics Education she began teaching school at Mt. Jordan Junior High School in Utah’s Jordan School District where she taught for three years.

Also in 1961, Zola met a handsome young man recently home from Army boot camp by the name of J Albert Hancock. Friends and family called him “Buddy” and the little spark they felt grew into 54 years of marriage beginning at the Idaho Falls LDS Temple on June 28th, 1963. For many years, Buddy borrowed the A from Albert in his name and the Z from Zola’s name for his communications and gifts to her with the phrase “From A to Z, with Love!”

Zola’s skill at organizing and managing projects were put to good use in the community and in church service throughout her life as she was often called upon to help with the production of plays, creation of costumes, set designs, parade floats, relief efforts for disaster victims, school events, and the list goes on. Her volunteer work with the March of

Dimes, voter registration, and the Federal Census were important to her as well.

In 1965, Paula Maxene was born to Zola and Buddy and after the couple settled in Pocatello, Idaho was followed by Lane Albert in 1969 and James Anson in 1972. Their children were raised in a home of warmth and love with wonderful examples of upholding the right, serving those in need, and faith in the Lord.

Getting to know Zola was as simple as standing next to her in line at the grocery store and she would do the rest. Her mental library of personal connections and instant power of recall on a seemingly limitless number of names and dates made the chances of finding common ground on even the shortest conversations and near surety. Her warmth and ease of conversation turned strangers into friends and friends into family which was the joy of her life.

She is survived by her husband, all four siblings and her three children: Paula (Drew) Lytle, Lane (Jenna) Hancock, and James (Brenda) Hancock as well as twelve grandchildren: Arianne Elizabeth (James) Merrill, Kylie Marlene Lytle, Cooper Levi Lytle, Audrey Justine Lytle, Jayda Hancock, Brooke Hancock, Carson Lane Hancock, Zan Charles Hancock, Grant Anson Hancock, Gabe James Hancock, Andra Lynn Hancock, Raquel Ashlynn Hancock and two great-grandchildren: Hayden Bleak Merrill, Carter Magrath Merrill.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday, November 18th at 11:00 am at the Hillcrest 1st Ward, 949 North 540 West, American Fork, Utah, where Viewings will be held Friday, November 17th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm and prior to services on Saturday from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Interment in Pleasant Grove City Cemetery.

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary.

Cemetery

Pleasant Grove City Cemetery

600 North 100 West

Pleasant Grove, UT, 84062

Events

NOV **Viewing** 07:00PM - 09:00PM

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Hillcrest 1st Ward

949 North 540 West, American Fork, UT, US

NOV **Viewing** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

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Hillcrest 1st Ward

949 North 540 West, American Fork, UT, US

NOV **Funeral Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

18

Hillcrest 1st Ward

949 North 540 West, American Fork, UT, US

Comments



“ I was SO sad to read in the paper of the passing of this wonderful woman. Oh, Buddy, you must miss her terribly. She was so full of life and energy, she will leave an enormous hole in your life. I know that I still think of her and you every time I drive by your old home--and you guys haven't lived there for years! I have never known anyone quite like Zola--so committed to figuring out how our lives were connected so that she could include you--hopefully--in her family, and if not in her blood family then in her extended family of friends. I think she saw everyone as the Lord sees them--one big family, interconnected and wound together in lives that swirl in a pattern we mortals cannot detect--except for Zola. She knew the truth: that we are all related and so should just get on the with loving and accepting. I adored this about her.

I also loved her enthusiasm and ready smile. She laughed easily and smiled to everyone I am sure. I certainly never saw her unhappy or cranky.

My thoughts and love go out to her family. How lucky you were to have her in your lives. She was a wonderful woman who will live on in my memory for the rest of my life. Hugs to you all during this difficult time.

Marjanna Hulet - November 21, 2017 at 01:40 PM



“ I remember being about 4 and going on Uncle Buddy and Aunt Zola's ski boat and i had to hide under the front because I was so scared. I received a laundry bag before my mission and a quilt when I went to BYU. It was my best friend on bad days.

Marlene Page - November 19, 2017 at 02:48 PM



“ Our love and our thoughts and prayers are with this wonderful family! No question that Zola and Bud are special friends and people. We will always have the wonderful memories of times with them and always picture Zola's happy face and contagious smile. We send our love. Gene and RaNae Crandall

RaNae Crandall - November 18, 2017 at 11:10 AM



“ In spite of health challenges, Zola was always focused on others. She greeted everyone with a beautiful smile and a cheerful attitude. Buddy tenderly cared for his sweetheart and it was easy to see how much they loved each other. They were rarely apart - doing about everything together. We pray that you will feel God's peace and comfort at this time of separation.

John & Leila Gardiner

Leila GARDINER - November 17, 2017 at 06:55 PM



“ Brother Gardiner I am sad to hear of Sister Gardiner she was always so gracious and loving, you and your family will be on my prays

Robert Jarrett

Robert Jarrett - November 17, 2017 at 07:30 PM



“ I met Zola soon after she and Buddy moved into "the condos" in American Fork. She was a kind and loving neighbor who was always more interested in others than herself. She was an amazing example of enduring failing health with grace. I will miss her greatly, but know that she is in the care of our Heavenly Father.

Lisa Deason Whitehead - November 17, 2017 at 03:04 PM



“ Zola was a dear friend. I so much enjoyed her happy spirit when working with her in the stake Relief Society in the Alameda Stake many years ago. We know Buddy and her family will miss her but they certainly know that she is in a wonderful place today. Please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers. Our love to you - - Pat and Jack Stone

Pat and Jack Stone - November 17, 2017 at 01:57 PM



“ Loved loved this wonderful lady. She always had some wonderful project going, a smile on her face and her laughter was contagious. She listened, learned and could recall names and events with ease. There are so many times throughout the day that I will think to myself, "I wish I had a memory for names like Sis Hancock". I'm so grateful for the whole Hancock family. I love you all and pray that you will be blessed and find peace during this time. I still make her banana bread recipe. Yummiest ever

Love and hugs,
Veanne Craner Elg

veanne - November 17, 2017 at 12:19 AM



“ We were saddened to receive this sad news!!! Zola was a dear friend who I treasure my association and her example to me!!! Our hearts, love and prayers go out to you Buddy, Paula, Lane, James, and families. We hope you will feel the Lord's loving arms around you at this difficult time, and that you will find comfort in the love you shared and all the happy memories you experienced together. With deepest sympathy, Jim and Dianne McCurdy and Family

Jim and Dianne McCurdy - November 16, 2017 at 10:09 PM



“ Sweet, cheerful, funny Zola! We will miss her so much. She always shared thoughtful comments in Relief Society, always had a smile on her face, and sunny optimism in her heart. I will never forget our fun lunch bunch conversations. Our hearts ache for Buddy and their sweet family, and we pray that they will feel her nearby as they need her.♡

Karen Oakes - November 16, 2017 at 10:40 AM