



Carolyn Jean Britten

June 20, 2022

Heaven gained another beautiful angel on June 20th, 2022. Carolyn Jean was born

January 18th, 1960, in Portland, Oregon to Betty and Gordon Smith. Shortly after, the young

family moved to Visalia, California where Carolyn spent most of her life.

Carolyn was the

youngest of three children, following her older siblings, David and Jan. She attended Conyer

Elementary, Divisadero Middle School, and Mt. Whitney High School. She was a spirited

young woman who led her school as a cheerleader and song leader.

Additionally, she loved

tennis and was on the varsity team for the Pioneers. After high school,

Carolyn went to the

University of Southern California where she earned a Liberal Arts Degree.

Carolyn was a

proud Trojan and sister of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority. Carolyn continued her education at

Fresno Pacific University, where she earned both multiple subjects and special education

credentials. However, before beginning her career in education, Carolyn started her

professional life in the insurance industry, working her way up to an underwriter. She then transitioned to the pharmaceutical world where she worked as a sales representative for Bristol Myers Squibb. After many years in the private sector, Carolyn realized she wanted to pursue her career in education. Carolyn was a gifted teacher and compassionate educator. She was a resource specialist at Hurley elementary and St Paul's Schools for 10 years. She was so proud of the growth her students achieved and did everything she could to help them succeed.

On March 10 th , 1995, Carolyn's life changed forever. Travis John Jacobson was born in Visalia, California. Travis was an energetic, charismatic child who loved sports and music.

Carolyn and Travis shared an incredible relationship based on mutual respect, laughter and most importantly love. Travis brought so much light to everyone who knew him, especially his mother. Carolyn was compassionate, generous, creative and an incredible friend, but her best quality and role in life was being Travis's mom. The world was not created for Carolyn without Travis. Similarly, Travis wouldn't have been the man he was without her. She was an exceptional mother and being Travis's mom was what filled her with immense pride and purpose. Unfortunately, she completed her role as a loving mother earlier than anyone would have hoped. On August 13 th , 2019, Travis tragically passed away.

Carolyn was a lover and connoisseur of the arts. She loved paintings, antiques, writing and reading. She found great joy in discovering new artists and over the years, she amassed a beautiful collection of art. Carolyn was also extremely artistic and creative. She wrote a children's book titled "I, Zoe" after the death of her brother, David. The book was narrated through the eyes of a cat who lost its owner to cancer. Carolyn wrote the book to help herself through the grieving process, and also to reach children who may be suffering through the loss of a loved one. She read her book at many local elementary schools. She had an innate understanding and ability to identify with young people that made them feel understood and special. This was truly her calling. In 2004, Carolyn married Scott Britten, her devoted husband of 17 years. They enjoyed travelling, spending time at their beach house in Morro Bay, and hosting their friends and family at countless dinner parties and holidays.

Carolyn dedicated her energy to help spread awareness on the tragic fentanyl epidemic that plagues the country. She organized a Public Service Announcement and had billboards erected to warn young people about the danger of fentanyl. Carolyn fought to spread Travis' story on a wider scale. In 2020, she was scheduled to speak to the U.S. Senate

in Washington D.C. about the drug epidemic that took her son's life, but was unable to honor

this arrangement due to the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions.

Carolyn loved animals, but she had a special fondness for German Shepherds. During

her life, she had Bella and Sarah who were adored members of the Britten family. As a

tribute to Travis, a Belgian Malinois was donated to the Tulare County Sherriff's department

by a family friend and trained as a drug enforcer. The newest member of the drug

enforcement squad is named "TJ," after Travis. This cause was deeply important to her and a

beautiful way to honor Travis's life.

This loss is heart-breaking for all who loved and knew Carolyn. She was light personified to all who were blessed to be in her presence. The world is a little darker without

her in it. We should all find comfort knowing that Carolyn has reunited with Travis in a place

without pain and suffering.

Carolyn joins her son, Travis, in Heaven as well as her mother and father, Betty and

Gordon, her brother, David, and her nephew, Chris Fonken.

Carolyn is survived by her husband, Scott Britten and his children, Ben Britten, his

wife Abby, their children, Garreth and Eva, Amy Britten, and Alex Britten. Her sister and

brother-in-law, Jan and Steven Fonken, their children Meghan, Kyle, and Ryan. Her sister-in-

law, Nancy Smith;

In lieu of flowers, we would ask you to please donate to the Tulare County

Sherriff's

Foundation, Attention K9 unit, under Carolyn Britten's name. 833 South Akers,
Visalia, CA
93277.

Tribute Wall

JH

“ We are so saddened to learn of Carolyn’s passing. While we only new her a short time, her beautiful spirit radiated from her. She was a lovely woman inside and out. We are praying that she has found peace.

Scott...we are sending you so much love, and big hugs to you and your family.

With love~

Henry & Jan Howison

Jan Howison - July 12, 2022 at 11:18 AM

MC

“ I'm deeply sorry about Carolyn's passing. My sincere condolences go to Scott and her family. Carolyn was a smart, strong, beautiful and kind woman. She was a loving mother and wife and a sincere and wonderful friend. Since the moment that I met her about 14 years ago, she showed me how friendly, happy, sweet and big-hearted she was. Carolyn and I became closer friends after she lost her son Travis. We had many conversations over the phone and shared many memories about our children and our lives. I enjoyed our conversations very much and I was always looking forward to our next one. I miss her a lot and I always will, but at the same time I feel happy and thankful that I had the good fortune to know such a special woman. Rest in peace my dear friend and I hope someday I will see you again. Love, Marta

Marta Cordero - July 10, 2022 at 12:06 AM

SM

“ I am deeply saddened to hear of Carolyn's passing. She was a wonderful person. The All American girl. Athlete, scholar, cheerleader, friend, teacher, author, business woman, and beloved daughter, sister, mother and wife. I will cherish my memories of Carolyn always. My heart goes out to her husband Scott and sister Jan. My thoughts and prayers are with you both. Rest in Peace, Carolyn.

Stu McMillan

Stuart McMillan - July 04, 2022 at 05:04 PM

MJ

Sweet Carolyn!!!! My ❤️ will always be thinking of you & Travis & Scott. All your Family.
The memories we shared..many years. You are forever parenting.
❤️☐
Rest easy Dear Sweet Friend.

MJB - July 08, 2022 at 10:49 PM

NS

Carolyn was more than a friend, she was the sister I never had - I am her sister-in-law, Nancy, her brother's wife! I miss you Carolyn more than words can say! I cannot believe you are gone physically from all of us but take comfort you are with your beloved son Travis. You never recovered from suddenly losing your sweet son. You were such a wonderful sister and friend to me after losing my husband/your brother in 2014. I want to thank you for being such a positive force in my life - you could turn any bad thought or situation into something positive - you had a gift. You especially had a gift with children. The book you wrote, *I, Zoe*, was such a great gift to kids who were going through or who had been through loss - it gave them hope. I will keep your spirit close to me and look forward to the day I see you, Travis and my husband, David again. Love you beyond words Carolyn - miss you dearly.

Nancy Smith
Sister-in-Law (8/14/22)

Nancy Smith - August 14, 2022 at 09:12 PM