



Judy J. Cota

March 17, 1940 - June 13, 2017

Judy J Cota (Judith Jane Pritchard Cota), 77, passed away peacefully Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center in San Luis Obispo, California surrounded by her family.

She was born on March 17, 1940 in Aurora, Missouri alongside her three beloved brothers. Growing up in a small town shaped her fun-loving attitude which helped her overcome obstacles throughout life.

Her parents, Theodore and Ella Pritchard, owned the Aurora Skating Rink and managed the Aurora Swimming Pool, so she became a talented skater and an avid swimmer. She was active in the Presbyterian Church and played hymns for evening services throughout her high school years. Some of her first jobs allowed her to earn money while doing one of the many things she loved to do, sewing.

In her senior year of high school, she travelled to California and met her future husband, Harold Cota. After a few years of a long distance courtship, they married once Hal had graduated from U.C. Berkeley. After a summer in California, they moved to Evanston, Illinois where Hal attended graduate school and Judy worked at Wiebolts Department Store. Evanston and Chicago were a culture shock for a small town girl. Judy and Hal then moved to Sunnyvale, California for two years where Rebecca Jo was born. They then moved to Norman, Oklahoma where Cynthia Jane was born and Judy became a true homemaker. In her spare time, she helped in the Methodist Church Nursery while Hal attended graduate school.

In 1966, they headed to San Luis Obispo. Judy continued her work as a homemaker while supporting Hal who had started a new job as a professor at Cal Poly. Amidst all the change, Michael Maurice was born later that year. Over the years, Judy was totally devoted to her children and their friends. She served as a campfire leader and was very involved with the San Luis Obispo Seahawks swim team. She became a skilled ceramist, home project guru, seamstress who made most of the kids' clothes, played the piano for the United Methodist Sunday school, and eventually worked with the Junior High youth.

Her pride and joy were her children and grandchildren and the great things they are doing with their lives. One of her favorite hobbies was spoiling the ones she loved for no particular reason except out of adoration.

Judy was preceded in death by her parents, Theodore and Ella Pritchard and her brothers Ted and Gary and their wives Carol and Linda.

She is survived by her brother Michael "Mickey" Pritchard and wife Mary Ann; and husband Harold Cota, her children Rebecca Jo Cota, Cynthia Jane Cota - Magliari and her husband Greg, and Michael Maurice Cota; her grandchildren Morgan, Dominic, Jesse, Aidan, Aaliyah, Jayce, and Haven. She is also survived by numerous beloved cousins and extended families.

Judy enjoyed visiting Morro Bay, Laguna Lake, and spending time outdoors. Judy was fun-loving, fearless when trying new things, and loved animals. She also loved to bend the rules (or should I say make her own rules) and this was particularly useful whilst playing cards. She always kept up with the news and was concerned by the state of world affairs. In spite of all this, her faith in God was straight forward and her prayers frequent.

Interment will take place at the San Luis Cemetery Mausoleum. A Celebration of Life service will be held on July 1, 2017 at 11am at the United Methodist Church (1515 Fredericks Street, San Luis Obispo).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church Scholarship Fund.

Please make sure to sign her guestbook at sanluisobispo.com/obituaries

Cemetery Details

San Luis Cemetery-Mausoleum

2 Higuera
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 1. 11:00 AM (PT)

United Methodist Church
1515 Fredericks St
San Luis Obsipo, CA 93405

Tribute Wall

KH

“ *My brother Doug and I are so sad to hear of Judy's passing. Judy was such an inspiration when we were growing up. Her infectious smile and laughter will remain with us through out our lives. We send our love and prayers to Hal, Becky, Cindy and Mike, always.*

Karen Harvey-Gray - July 05, 2017 at 06:21 AM

TH

“ *The Staff of The Sports Club at Mission Hills purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Judy J. Cota.*



The Staff of The Sports Club at Mission Hills - June 27, 2017
at 08:14 PM

MT

“ *Marivic Tennell purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Judy J. Cota.*



Marivic Tennell - June 26, 2017 at 03:33 PM

DK

“ 4 files added to the album *The Pritchards in Missouri*



Debbie Pritchard Kiag - June 16, 2017 at 05:48 PM

“ My mother was the center of our family. She was an amazing mother, wife, friend, sister. I am blessed to have so many wonderful memories with my mom. I am so going to miss making new memories with you.

One of my childhood memories would be during our swim years. Our family was heavily involved with the local swim team called the Seahawks. My mom used to take us and pick us up for practices and we spent many weekends, all day at swim meets. My mother was always there. As a teenager I didn't always like it but, as an adult, I am so grateful. I brag now to people and say that my mom went to every single one of my swim meets except one. I begged her to not go to that one because I was a freshman in high school and wanted to go to CIF by myself to stay in the hotel with the 3 other older girls that made it. She let me stay in the hotel but she was at my races.

I think the one thing we shared the most was our love for dance. When I first started dancing, she used to come watch my classes at Pat Jacksons American Dance studio. She came to all of my performances and cried with pride every time I was on stage. She then came to many of my professional shows and when I became a teacher she was a fixture in the front row of every studio show we did. She sat there with such pride even though none of the dancers were her children. It didn't matter, there was something about children and dance that just made her so happy. My dancers would come off the stage and tell me they saw my mom sitting there, smiling at them.

When my daughter, Aaliyah began dancing at the age of 2, my mom was so excited. She was at every performance. When she would travel to the desert, she would come to all the classes that I was teaching and Aaliyah was taking. She would come to all the rehearsals and of course every performance sitting front and center. She was so proud of Aaliyah.

Last year, even though my my mom had such difficulty walking and sitting for long periods, her and my dad traveled to Aaliyah's Nationals and was able to watch her dance after not being able to see her dance live for a few years. She was so happy and sat

through the hours of competition because she wanted to see Aaliyah do what she loved. I remember looking over at her face and seeing the tears roll and her face and body fill up with such happiness and pride. She told Aaliyah that she had something so special when she was on stage. Aaliyah will always remember how her grandma supported her.

Mamas, I am going to miss you so much. You were always a phone call away and we did spend many hours on the phone. All the traveling I did, you always kept me up until I got home. All the calls on my way to teach or on the way home from class. You always made me feel special and loved. I feel blessed that God gave me you to be my mom. Your heart was so big and your feisty attitude that always got you in just a little trouble. Who will we give the queen of spades to? The hole in my heart is enormous and I hope that I can become half the mother you were. I love you always and I know you are "Shining" down on me. God truly gained an angel.



Becky Cota - June 16, 2017 at 02:24 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Judy J. Cota.



June 16, 2017 at 12:52 PM