

Diane Louise Ngatuvai

April 3, 1959 ~ January 25, 2022

Our cherished wife, mother and sister, Diane Louise Ngatuvai (Kautz), 62, was welcomed home by our Heavenly Father on Tuesday, Jan. 25 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her beautiful smile, light and warmth will be missed by all.

Diane was born on April 3, 1959 to Charles and Louise Kautz in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. From a young age, Diane loved getting lost in a good book and adored her cat, Tuffy. When she wasn't reading, you could find her listening to Donny Osmond on cassette while she raced around town in her blue '66 VW Beetle with her friends. She was part of the pep squad and had fun cheering at sporting events. After graduating from Iowa City High School in 1977, she went on to study for a semester at Iowa State University where she made a decision that would shape the rest of her life for good.

While in college she was introduced to two missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by a roommate. As she says, "I was hooked!" She loved to tell how she read half the Book of Mormon the first night she received it and went to ask the bishop the next week if she could serve a mission. She was baptized and a year later served a mission in Rapid City, South Dakota. Her mission was a sacred and joyful experience. She enjoyed sharing mission stories and memories that she considered anchors to her testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Diane was a woman of deep and abiding faith who emulated the love of the Savior in everything she did. She truly was an instrument in His hands, cheerfully serving as the local president in every women's auxiliary for the Church, making lasting impacts on hundreds for decades. It gave her an opportunity to teach and be taught while continually striving to become closer to the Savior.

After her mission, in 1983, Diane moved to Salt Lake City where she would eventually meet her husband, Laponi. They were both young, returned missionaries who had left their families and homes, Diane from Iowa, and Laponi from Tonga, to venture out into the world. We've often said, as their children, that Diane and Laponi gave us the best of both worlds in regard to culture, tradition, and most importantly, their shared love of the gospel of Jesus Christ. They were sealed for time and all eternity in the Salt Lake Temple on May 19, 1984, beginning a forever family.

Diane was a devoted mother, raising four boys she cherished, Sione (Spouse: Sarah, Children: Samea, Noah, Elijah), Spencer (Spouse: Raven, Children: Nathan, Noelle), Stephen and Tomasi. Being a mother was one of Diane's greatest joys and accomplishments in life. As her children, we never grew tired of hearing her musings and each had an individual and special relationship with her that we will hold dear, forever. She was an incredible

mother, caring, supportive, kind and hilarious. We will miss her deeply. Diane truly was a mother to all. She radiated kindness and compassion and people were drawn to her light. Her sons quickly recognized that when friends wanted to come over, it was usually to come spend time with Diane as she was always the life of the party. She was known to many as a shoulder you could cry on and a listening ear ready to comfort and support.

She ended her 45-year career as an Administrative Assistant in April of 2021. Diane had the honor of working with multiple Governors of Utah, mentoring some of Utah's brightest youth, and working with world-renowned doctors and administrators at the John A. Moran Eye Center. Though for her, it was never where she worked, but who she worked with. She considered her "Lunch Bunch" as sacred sisters who have literally saved her life. As her family, we are forever grateful for their kindness and compassion towards her. After retiring, Diane spent her time with her grandchildren, her greatest treasures in this world.

Diane was passionate about music. She enjoyed singing in the Mormon Youth Symphony and Chorus and dreamt of one day being in the Tabernacle Choir. She played the piano beautifully like her mother. She would play for hours on Sundays, filling her home with delightful music. She hoped to pass on her love of reading by gifting and reading books with her grandchildren every chance she could. "Grandma Dee" was also the person to call and recount their silliest of stories. She was witty and smart and loved to laugh often. Diane was the epitome of a gracious person. Her penmanship was perfect and her words even more. Her light and spirit will be missed greatly and we long for the day to be with her again.

Diane was predeceased by her parents, Charles and Louise Kautz. She is survived by her brothers Stephen (Marie), Jeffrey (Anne), and Leslie (Janice) Kautz; her husband: Laponi; Sons: Sione (Sarah), Spencer (Raven), Stephen and Tomasi Ngatuvai.

Funeral services will be held as follows:

Public Viewing:
Sunday, January 30 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Liberty 3rd Ward Chapel
1621 South 1100 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84105

Private Family Viewing:
Monday, January 31 from 9:00-10:30 a.m.
Liberty 3rd Ward Chapel
1621 South 1100 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84105

Celebration of Life Service:
Monday, January 31 at 11:00 a.m.
Liberty 3rd Ward Chapel
1621 South 1100 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84105

Graveside service and burial to immediately follow at Larkin Sunset Lawn, 2350 E. 1300 S. Salt Lake City, Utah 84108.

Those who wish to view the recording of the services through Zoom may access the video streaming with the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/hQVpCWC9N2nsbJKW1KDCDYlCvzkOKXaZ9kQP1oYjKBjd0HHhIUAMfoS-sglJRg.NX

Please send all flowers and notes to Larkin Mortuary.