

Eileen Marion Ewing

September 23, 1943 ~ June 11, 2021

It is with love and sadness that our family announces the death of Eileen Marion Ewing, who died on June 11, 2021, at the age of 77 years, 8 months and 19 days. Eileen (also known as Sam) was born on September 23, 1943 in Beaumont, Texas. Eileen passed on in her lovely apartment in Salt Lake City, UT, with views of the mountains, tended by her eldest daughter and an honor guard of friends and professional caregivers.

After a difficult year of illness and physical challenge, Eileen developed a serious pulmonary condition in mid April 2021, followed by several other lung ailments, including a break-through case of COVID-19 at the end of May 2021. After weeks of struggle and multiple hospital and nursing home admissions, Eileen requested hospice care. She died resting on her side, covered by a favorite blanket, with the scent of California sage in the air.

Although Eileen's early years were spent in Beaumont Texas, she was primarily raised in Shreveport, Louisiana along with her three younger siblings. Few people know that Eileen also had a twin sister, Carolyn Ewing, who sadly died shortly after their birth. Eileen believed they would be reunited one day. While in Louisiana, Eileen was a promising artist and young model. Inheriting the family love of travel and adventure, she left college after two years and set out for California in the late 1960's.

She eventually settled in San Francisco during the counter culture revolution. There, Eileen was part of a radical communal family called the Diggers, who were instrumental in feeding hundreds every day, securing them free health care and attending to their physical needs with a Free Store. She also continued her art and participated in many seminal cultural events of the era.

People who knew her well from that community describe her as "breathtakingly beautiful," "strong yet vulnerable," "a gifted seamstress and designer." Several remembered her as a "big sister." She helped many young women learn how to live communally, heal with herbs, tan animal skins and offered them support when they most needed it.

Eileen's commitment to the "back to the land" movement continued in Southern Humboldt County through the early 1990's, where she was an avid gardener as well as a practicing artist. Friends noted Eileen's strong connection to nature, particularly the Northern California redwoods.

Always restless to explore new landscapes and communities, she moved frequently, particularly with her youngest daughter, Miranda. They lived in numerous towns across the Western United States.

In 2016 Eileen moved to Salt Lake City, UT where her elder daughter Ariel lived at the time. She made good friends there who described her as "sweet," "feisty," and "an incredibly special lady."

She continued to explore the Utah landscape as long as she could, but when she became nearly immobilized by spinal problems, she settled into an elegant assisted living community, Legacy Village. There, she was surrounded

by attentive caregivers, who remember her unique perspectives on life, artistic nature and infectious laugh.
Throughout her life Eileen delved into numerous religious, spiritual and metaphysical traditions. Most consistently she practiced Nichiren Sh■sh■ Buddhism, Native American rituals, and more recently she discovered great solace and community in the LDS faith.

Eileen adored animals and always had a pup as a companion. Her fur baby of the last 11 years, Lucy, has been adopted by a loving caregiver who Eileen knew well and trusted completely.
A long time friend summed up Eileen this way, “She was such a generous and loving spirit—beautiful, talented, complex and never, ever boring”

Our family is especially grateful to the staff, management and CNA’s at Legacy Village, who cared for her with compassion, humor and dedication for the last 18 months of her life. We would also like to thank the caregivers at Canyon Hospice and the overnight aid from Right at Home, all of whom went beyond the call of duty to treat Lulu (as her granddaughter calls her) with dignity, kindness, patience and joy.

Eileen leaves behind her daughters, Ariel Coyote Ford and Miranda Rose Valadez, as well as her only grandchild, Evangeline Ruth Ford. She also leaves her son-in-law Alexander Ford and her siblings Diane (Scott) Lawrence, Steve (Karen) Ewing, and Barbara (Noel) Miner, as well as a “surrogate” daughter, LaRisa Call, along with nieces and nephews, friends, dedicated dog walkers, and a caring church community.

A celebration of Eileen’s life will be held in northern California and will be announced as soon possible.

If you feel moved to donate in her honor, the following are programs she supported:
www.heroesandhorses.org
www.utahfoodbank.org
https://slco.org/animal-services/