

Holly Butler Burke

July 27, 1968 ~ August 20, 2023

Holly Butler Burke, age 55, was born on July 27th, 1968, in Murray, Utah, to parents Melvin Boyd Butler and Carol Robinson Butler. She peacefully passed away on Sunday morning, August 20th, 2023, at her home in Herriman, after a courageous battle with melanoma cancer that spanned nearly two years.

Holly's early years were spent in Taylorsville, where she embraced her role as the oldest of seven siblings. Her parents and family fondly bestowed upon her the nickname "Happy Holly," a moniker that perfectly captured her radiant presence. Known for lighting up any room she entered, Holly's infectious laughter brought joy to all who were fortunate to know her.

Deeply devoted to her faith, Holly was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Throughout her life, she served in various significant church callings, including Relief Society President, Young Women's President, counselor, secretary, Ward Chorister, and Organist. A highlight of her youth was her family's mission to the Tongan Islands in the South Pacific from 1983 to 1986, where she shared her love for her faith and her vibrant spirit with those she met.

Holly's academic journey led her from the islands of Tonga to Brigham Young University-Hawaii, where she also worked at the Polynesian Cultural Center. Returning to Utah, she continued her education at Brigham Young University, Provo, graduating with an RN/BSN degree in 1989.

During her studies, she crossed paths with her eternal companion, Matthew John Burke. They were united in marriage on May 5th, 1989, in the serene Millcreek canyon and sealed for eternity one year later in the Salt Lake City Temple. Holly joined Matt, who was serving in the Marine Corps in California, where she thrived as an unwavering support for her husband and the Marine community during Operation Desert Storm.
Holly led the squadron’s military spouses' group in support of the Marines during Operation Desert Storm. She organized and shipped food, care packages, and even a Christmas tree, aiming to alleviate homesickness among her husband and fellow deployed Marines.

After Matt's honorable discharge in 1991, Holly pursued her nursing career while raising three cherished children—Taylor, Alex, and Brianna. Her dedication to both roles was remarkable. Holly's nurturing spirit extended beyond her immediate family, as her home became a haven for countless friends, cousins, and extended family members. Her warm hugs, delightful treats, and boundless love made her house a source of comfort and joy for all who entered.

Holly was an avid proponent of creating lasting memories. She supported existing family traditions like the annual Lake Powell trips that brought her extended family together, and she played a pivotal role in nurturing the love of waterskiing that she had cherished since childhood. Her infectious enthusiasm extended to creating her own events

like the family Christmas Crab party, Hawaii vacations, BYU football games, and hiking excursions that enriched the lives of those she loved.

As her children transitioned into their teenage years, Holly embarked on a fulfilling phase of her career, serving as a Director of EMS Liaison. Her passion for working alongside EMS providers, offering education, patient feedback, and heartfelt appreciation, earned her the endearing title of "sister" in the EMS family—an accolade she humbly treasured.

In recent years, Holly's greatest source of joy was becoming a grandmother. Holding her grandchildren, Jimmy (2) and RaeLynn (6 months), brought immeasurable happiness to her life. Adorned with the title "Bama," bestowed in honor of Matt's grandmother, Holly relished each precious moment, especially when Jimmy affectionately declared, "Love you BAMA."

Holly is survived by her devoted husband of 35 years, Matthew, her loving sons, Taylor, Alex, and Brandon, her daughters, Brianna and Andrea, her adored grandchildren Jimmy and RaeLynn, and soon-to-arrive grandson "Peanut." She is also survived by her father, Mel, mother, Carol, brothers Paul, Mark, Dave, and Russell, and sisters Melony and Jill.

Holly's enduring legacy of love, compassion, and unwavering faith will forever reside in the hearts of those she touched. Her vibrant spirit will be deeply missed, but the countless memories she created will continue to inspire and uplift all who remember her.

Funeral services to celebrate Holly's life will be held at 11AM on Saturday, August 26, 2023 at the Fort Herriman Utah Stake Center, 12737 South 6000 West in Herriman, Utah. A public visitation will take place at the same location on Friday evening, August 25, 2023 from 6-8PM. There will be no public visitation on Saturday prior to services. Interment will take place in the Herriman City Cemetery.

Funeral services will be streamed via Zoom for those wishing to attend the services virtually. To watch the previously held funeral services, please click the "Watch Services" link above.