

Kathleen "Kathy" "Bean" Frehner Wilkinson

June 27, 1943 ~ October 30, 2024

Kathleen “Kathy” “Bean” Frehner Wilkinson, age 81, our cute little Momma, Grandma and Great-Grandma “Squeezy”, passed away peacefully on October 30, 2024, in Murray, Utah, surrounded by her family.

Kathleen was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Leon and Minnie Checketts Frehner on June 27, 1943. Kathleen was the third of six children and grew up in Sugarhouse. She had a great love for her parents and siblings and shared her fond memories of growing up in this area of Salt Lake. She graduated from Highland High School and the Salt Lake Trade Technical Institute with a degree in commercial art. During her career, she worked for Z.C.M.I. as a commercial artist, drawing models and merchandise for the weekly newspaper ads. It is nearly impossible to describe the breathtaking works of art she created over the years and the talent she possessed. She was truly incredible!

She and Richard Lee Wilkinson were married in the Salt Lake LDS Temple on September 2, 1964, and had five children. They had a son who died shortly after birth, and four daughters, whom she adored and dedicated her life to raising. She was a busy homemaker ensuring she was always there for her girls. She loved them so very much!

Kathy loved to work with children and spent many years as a recess aide at Upland Terrace Elementary School. She never missed a day and was out on the playground come rain or shine. She loved each child and took the responsibility of keeping them safe on the playground very seriously.

She shared her artistic talents in many ways throughout her life. Kathy spent many years teaching children’s community craft classes at the Pioneer Craft House and calligraphy through Granite Community Education. She found so much joy in teaching others!

After raising her family, spending more than 40 years in East Millcreek, Kathy moved to Murray, where she stayed for the past 18 years.

Kathy had a very giving heart and loved to serve. She was thoughtful, prayerful, and always put the needs of others before her own. Her touching legacy and example of humility, patience and kindness will always be remembered. Kathy loved the Gospel of Jesus Christ and was a temple worker in the Salt Lake LDS Temple for nearly a decade. She loved the people she met and those she served with. In the last few days of her life, Kathy expressed her testimony of a more beautiful, better place beyond this, and of her Savior, Jesus Christ.

Kathy loved to laugh, be silly and tell corny jokes; often cracking herself up more than anyone else. She was witty and loved Ziggy, Garfield, Peanuts, or The Far Side comic strips. Kathy had a great love of music, and especially loved to sing along to Patti Page, John Denver, and musicals such as 'My Fair Lady' and 'Sound of Music'.

Kathy viewed the world from an artist’s lens. She would clip pictures from magazines, newspapers, catalogs or other ads that caught her eye. She would use these pictures as inspiration for future art projects, but mostly she

just gathered beautiful things. She loved to go for drives and would pick and press wildflowers. She noticed every little thing from the color of the leaves to the shading on the mountains during a beautiful sunrise or sunset. The artist in her loved paper, textures, colors, shades, and small details. She loved animals, every little creature, and had a deep love for birds of all kinds and loved birdwatching.

Being a grandma was one of Kathleen's greatest joys. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren meant the world to her, and she loved spending time with them. She was known for her soft earlobes and cheeks, famous macaroni and cheese, homemade cookies, always knowing how to make you smile, arts and crafts, joking and being silly, making the grandchildren their very own 'bubba' stuffed pal, and so much more! She was able to see the bright side of things and was always happy to see her family. She lovingly gave "squeeze-a-loves" and sweetly became known as 'Grandma Squeezy' to the youngest little generation of great-grandchildren.

Kathy will be deeply missed by all who know her. Her legacy of kindness, creativity, and service will live on in the hearts of those she touched. May she rest in peace. She earned it!!!

We love you so much Mom, little momma, Bean, Grandma, Grandma Squeezy!!

Kathleen is survived by her four daughters, Melissa, Kristine, Leanne (Sam), Debbie (Jason), 11 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, sisters Roberta and Anita, many loving in-laws, nieces, nephews and their families.

Preceded in death by her precious little son, Richard Lee Wilkinson, Jr., her husband Richard, her parents Leon and Minnie Frehner, brothers Stanford, Conway, Layne, and her sweet granddaughter Dannica Jade.

We would like to thank the loving staff at the Abbington in Murray who treated our mother with the utmost respect, dignity, and love during the past two years. We would also like to thank the wonderful staff of Renew Hospice who were there for all of us in her final weeks.

Services will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2024, at Larkin Sunset Gardens 1950 East 10600 South, Sandy, Utah. A viewing will be held from 9:30-10:15am, with a graveside service following from 10:30-11:00am.