

Maurine J Maxwell

July 6, 1950 ~ June 20, 2024

Our beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, Maurine Maxwell, age 73, passed away after a courageous two-year battle with breast cancer on Thursday, June 20, 2024, in her home in Taylorsville, Utah where she had lived for 49 years. We are grateful for the many physicians, nurses and staff at Huntsman Cancer Clinic as well as the caregivers from Huntsman at Home who helped to alleviate her suffering.

Maurine was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 6, 1950, the nine pound four-ounce youngest child of Alfred Lorin James (Lorin) and Nedra Robertson. She liked to amaze her family by telling them that her grandfather, Richard Sanders James, was born in 1866. It was true! That was possible because she was Richard's youngest grandchild, and her father, Lorin, was Richard's youngest child. She was blessed to have two great brothers – Richard Thomas James (named after his two grandfathers) and Jerry Lorin James – and cherished many special times together with her family.

Her parents built several of the homes for their family, including one at 2267 Gregson Avenue. She attended Sherman Elementary School located at 2300 East and 3300 South, lamenting each time she passed-by that location that it has since been torn down. Although she didn't meet her husband, Gene, until years later, they graduated from the same junior high and high schools – Evergreen and Skyline.

She received a stuffed bear from someone before her first birthday. That stuffed bear was the beginning of a collection of stuffed bears and figurine bears, so many that the room in her home where she kept most of them was designated the "Bear Room". Why did she collect so many? She said the stuffed bears were soft and cuddly and were reminders of places she had visited, including Yellowstone, a favorite family vacation spot. She also loved to collect watches and handbags.

Maurine has always loved kittens and cats. She always had at least one. She gave each of them extraordinary love and care, and they loved her, especially for the carefully selected cat food and treats and for times spent cuddled next to her in the laundry room or on her bed.

She was a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, baptized and confirmed by her father when she was 8 years old, graduating from Primary when she was 12, earning achievement awards as a young woman, serving as a Primary Secretary and Teacher, Relief Society Secretary, and faithful Visiting Teacher/Ministering Sister as an adult. Her favorite church calling was Nursery Leader. She was always very supportive of her husband while he served in his Church callings. Her favorite ordinances in the temple were the Sealing to Parents and the Sealing to Spouse. She enjoyed visiting quite a few temples with Gene, including the Laie Hawaii Temple for their 40th Anniversary.

She met Gene on a blind date on December 31, 1971 while she was living with her parents in a home her family built at 3597 Flynn Circle. First date: the New Years Eve Dance at the Salt Palace. Smitten by her beauty and charms, Gene proposed on April 15, 1972 after watching a movie at the Villa Theatre. The movie was “What’s Up Doc?” starring Barbara Streisand, who, coincidentally, played a character named Judy Maxwell.

They were married for time and all eternity in the Salt Lake Temple on August 30, 1972. While Gene finished his accounting degree at the University of Utah and worked part-time as an accounts receivable clerk, Maurine was employed for several years by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. One of her responsibilities was to send ordinance cards to the 13 temples in operation at that time. How times have changed she would say. There are so many temples now.

Shortly after Gene graduated from the University in December 1974 and went to work for First Security Bank in the Trust Department, they bought an unfinished home in Taylorsville and moved-in during the Memorial Day weekend in May 1975. It was here that they were blessed with 4 wonderful children – Bryan, Brenda, Patrick and Nicole. She loved being their mother. For many years, Maurine was the main source of their transportation and care. To supplement the family income, she also tended other children in her home. She loved to go shopping for clothes and groceries, usually by herself. She wasn’t afraid to try new foods despite the varied tastes of her children. She would shop at several different stores for the best prices and the best quality, using coupons clipped from the newspaper each week.

As the family grew, she insisted on a minivan; she liked to be up high so she could see better. And the minivan was great for family vacations to Disneyland, Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, Mesa Verde National Park, Seattle Washington, San Diego, etc. She loved the Church History vacations too, traveling by bus to sites in Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, New York, Vermont, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

She was famous for family rules like these: “No singing at the table!” And, “Eat your salad first!”

Maurine didn’t like her naturally curly hair; as an adult, she preferred to have it straightened. When it started turning gray, she always got it colored about once a month at Terrie Treat’s home. She tried to take good care of herself, purchasing vitamins and minerals from one of her favorite Visiting Teachers, Arlene Lamont. She loved to read fictional books and biographies and looking through magazines. She studied many books to help her in her calling as a Primary Teacher.

She loves her family so much! When Brenda was living in Texas and Arizona with her growing family, visits were a must. When Brenda brought her family back to Utah, she helped take care of Brenda’s children while Brenda was employed. When Bryan got married and started raising his family in Arizona, visits to Arizona were a must, especially during the first few weeks after each child was born. Tyler, Brett, Paige, Brynlee, Dalton, Virginia and Russell, you are all so precious to her!

She provided great love and counsel to her husband. She was the more practical one. The one who got the family to read the scriptures together at dinner time. The more careful one with family relationships. The one who kept things organized and knew where everything was. She was the one who would laugh easily while talking late in the evening to her daughter, Brenda, or to her friend, Pam, or to her sister-in-law, Marti. Maurine was the one who decorated the house, changing decorations for each season of the year. She was the one the family sought out when they needed to know what medicine to take. Always faithful and trusted. Patient when times were hard, extending gratitude to those who were caring for her, whether in the hospital or at home. She endured to the end.

There will be a viewing on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Bennion 4th Ward located at 6100 South Kamas Drive (2600 West). There will also be a viewing on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, from 9:00-9:45 a.m. at Larkin Sunset Gardens located at 1950 East Dimple Dell Road (10600 South), Sandy, Utah. The funeral will begin at 10:00 a.m. at this same location. Interment at Larkin Sunset Gardens.