

Shirlee Jacobsen Knell

September 3, 1929 ~ June 30, 2023

Shirlee Jacobsen Knell, a wife, mother, grandmother, and cherished member of her community, passed away on June 30th, 2023, reuniting with her beloved husband of 68 years, James Karl Knell, her son Jeff, and her granddaughter Erica. Her departure from this world leaves a void in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

Born on September 3, 1929, in Salt Lake City, Utah, Shirlee was the third of four children born to Andrew T. Jacobsen and Edith V. Budd. She grew up in a nurturing environment where she learned how to work hard alongside her grandparents, parents, siblings, and cousins at the family's business, Gem Grocery. Shirlee's journey led her to the University of Utah, where she pledged Kappa Kappa Gamma and sang with the Kappa Quartet; which she stated were some of her happiest times. While at the "U," she was crowned the "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi." And that she was! An absolute sweetheart! It was during this time that she found her eternal companion, Jim, and while he was away on his mission, she joined the HMMM club (How Many More Months). With friends alongside of her, they all eagerly awaited the return of their missionaries. On August 18th, 1950, Shirlee and Jim sealed their love in the Salt Lake Temple, embarking on a journey filled with love and devotion to one another. Together, Shirlee and Jim built a beautiful family, raising six children: Brent, Jeff, David, Kathy, Carolyn, and Scott. Shirlee's dedication and love knew no bounds as she created a warm and nurturing home. She balanced her role as a mother with grace and compassion, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of her children and instilling in them the values of love, respect, kindness, and service.

Shirlee's life extended beyond the walls of her home, as she actively engaged in her community and church. But her passion was truly being the best friend you could ever have with devotion to the very end. Each day of the week was dedicated to one of her friends where she was there for them in whatever capacity was needed.

Her love for adventure and the great outdoors was evident in her passion for skiing and camping. Shirlee's zest for life took her to the slopes, where she made an appearance in a movie alongside the renowned Jean-Claude Killy, fearlessly chasing him down the ski hill in a memorable scene. She loved her ski days with the "girls", and boy, were these "girls" known on the mountain. Her last ski day was on a beautiful sunny day at Deer Valley at the age of 85. She also found joy in her weekly tennis matches with a group of close friends, finding solace and friendship in the sport.

Shirlee's attention to detail and love for her surroundings were evident in every aspect of her life.

To her grandchildren and great-grands, Shirlee was lovingly known as "Grammie." She delighted in creating a warm and welcoming environment for them, hosting an unforgettable bed and breakfast experiences, constantly making cookies, and serving her famous rolls during Sunday dinners. Grammie's love knew no bounds, and her grandchildren were the recipients of her adoration, guidance, and unwavering support.

Shirlee leaves behind a legacy of love and resilience that will be carried on by her surviving sons, Brent, David (Ellen), Scott (Jacqueline), and daughters Carolyn and Kathy (Keven). Her ten grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren will forever be inspired by the love and values she instilled in them.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, July 8, 2023, at her home ward at 4176 South Adonis Drive, Salt Lake City, Ut with visitation from 10:00-11:45 and funeral services at 12:00.

Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/93072916236?pwd=Q1pOWWREWmtlbnVtVFU1ZHpneU03dz09
Meeting ID: 930 7291 6236
Password: 955159