

Sonja Ione Welch

September 2, 1939 ~ May 11, 2024

Draper, UT - Our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, Sonja, passed away peacefully on the morning of May 11, 2024, at home, surrounded by her family.

Sonja was born on September 2, 1939, to Ione Marian Shore and Herman Wilhelm Heinecke. During her youth, and indeed throughout her life, she was nearly inseparable from her one-year-younger sister, Kathryn. Sonja graduated in 1957 from Jordan High School, for which she always maintained a sense of school spirit. She married her childhood sweetheart, David Douglas Welch, on July 17, 1959, and their marriage was solemnized for time and eternity in the Salt Lake LDS Temple.

Sonja loved the outdoors and being in the beautiful mountains and southern portions of "color country" at every opportunity, where she enjoyed favorite activities of 4-wheeling, hiking, biking, and boating. However, she didn't mind the Marriott either… and boy could she shop! She loved to visit the ocean, viewing it at times from the West Coast, East Coast, Hawaii, and the UK. Indeed, she made a special trip to say goodbye and walk on the sandy beaches of California only a few months ago.

Sonja worked part-time for many years in the Wedding Registry at ZCMI in the Cottonwood Mall, where she enjoyed serving others. She also had the wonderful opportunity to be at home with her family as a homemaker and lifelong caregiver to us all. Sonja was a faithful member of the LDS Church and served in many callings, including primary teacher, librarian, and in her later years as a service missionary with her eternal companion. She was a blessing and inspiration to many.

Sonja is survived by her sons: Glenn (Michelle) and Brett (Elisabeth); daughters: Christine (Dale) and Sherri; sister Kathryn, and many beloved nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Sonja was preceded in death by her parents, husband, brothers: Jim and Ted; and brother-in-law Stan.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to the many wonderful doctors and nurses at Lone Peak Hospital and the caring staff (especially our cousin Shannon) at Symbii Hospice, as well as good friends, neighbors, and ward members who cared for Sonja when she needed it.

Funeral services for Sonja will be held at 11:00 am on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 East Dimple Dell Road (10600 South), Sandy, UT. Viewings will be held Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and on Thursday morning from 10:00 to 10:45 am prior to the services. If you would like to watch the services, please click on the blue "Watch Services" button above.