

Susan Elaine Kjar Thomas

September 24, 1943 ~ February 7, 2021

Our dear sweet mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, and friend passed away peacefully in her home in Cottonwood Heights, UT on Sunday, February 7th, 2021.

Susan was born September 24th, 1943 in Ogden, UT to Elaine Koster and Louis Clinton Kjar. She was the oldest of three children and raised in Midvale, UT. She married Jay Douglas Whiting on March 14th, 1964. They had two children and resided in Cottonwood Heights, UT. They later divorced and she married Harry A. Thomas Jr. on March 13th, 1976. They had two more children and later divorced. Susan loved her family and getting together. You always knew you were loved and belonged. She continued to be close with all those she welcomed into her family over the years.

Susan participated in many clubs and activities throughout her life: 4-H club, girl scouts, dance, where she excelled in ballet, and the piano which she continued to share and enjoy throughout her life. She graduated from Jordan High School in 1961 where she was an active member of her high school community, dance club, and continued to participate in preparing and planning reunions throughout the years. She was loved and adored by her classmates. She continued her education at the University of Utah in dance and loved her time there living with her aunt Marge while they attended school together.

Susan spent much of her working career in the dental field and teaching young children. She was a welcoming face in the dental office often helping people feel happy to be coming to the dentist. She worked as an office manager for many years for her late brother in law Floyd R. Tanner and later for Precision Dental Care for Dr. Richard D. Fisher in Holladay, UT.

She taught and directed two daycare centers Brighton View Children's Center and set up a private Daycare Center for Rhodes Bread employees. She provided a vibrant and enriching curriculum to delight any child. She incorporated her musical abilities in planning and directing programs for the children. She also taught at Carden Memorial School in Kindergarten and was loved and cherished by the children and their families.

Susan's greatest accomplishment was that of her children and grandchildren. Anything they accomplished in life was seen as grandiose and often retold to others with embellished details. She made it a point to be at every sporting event, recital, school program, graduation, marriage, birth, and any major/minor life event where she could cheer you on. She was our biggest cheerleader, loved you unconditionally, and was always ready to feed you.

Susan was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints where she served in many capacities and brought love and comfort to others through her service and musical talents.

Susan’s love and light will continue to shine on in all of us. We are all better people by knowing and sharing our lives with her. She showed her love through her little notes, treats, and warm hugs. She loved music, dance, theater, and sports. She spent many years cheering from the sidelines of the Jazz games with her mother and delighted in watching and cheering loudly at home. She listened and made you feel like you were the most special person on earth. She was a true friend and had many wonderful friends over the years that will always be very special to her and our family. The world was definitely a brighter one with her in it. We will all miss her and her cute mannerisms, funny sayings, dancing, celebrating, cheering, always smiling and finding the good wherever she went. Let us all continue her legacy of love, joy, kindness, and celebration. We love you dear sweet Susie, Sue-Sue, Mom, Grandma, and Mama Bear.

We would like to thank the staff at Carrington Court Assisted Living for the kindness, care, and compassion, they showed our Mom over the last year, and in her last few days. She truly enjoyed her time there with all the social activities, sit and be fit, memory games, pajama parties, ice cream socials, and bus rides all over the valley to see the beautiful state in which we live.

Susan is survived by her three children & her grandchildren, Jay D. (Tracy) Whiting Jr. and their children, Parker (Alivia), Bailey (John) Gehrke, Hannah, Jackson, Maddy & Mitchell Jones, Eric J. (Vickie) Whiting, Rebecca M. Thomas Roper (Artem Kakadiy) and her children Rachael, Naomi, Jacob, Andrew & Eden, Pamela K. Thomas (Richard Todd) and daughter Audrey, Rodney (Jeanette) Thomas and son Trent, Harry A. (Rhonda)Thomas III and children, Crissy (Lee), Jenny (Mike), Cherise (Kevin), Justin (Ashley), & Damien.

Her Brother Jeff (Kathryn) Kjar, Sister JoAnn Tanner, all her nieces and nephews who loved her, and many treasured family & friends.

Proceeded in death by her parents Louis Kjar and Elaine Kjar Tanner, son Anthony Lewis Thomas, Brother-in-law Floyd Tanner, aunts, uncles, & dear friends.

A private family funeral service will be held on Friday, February 12th, 2021 at 2:00 pm at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 E. 10600 S. Sandy, UT. Family and Friends can share in Susan’s life at a viewing from 12:00-1:45 pm at Larkin Sunset Gardens prior to the funeral services. The services will be live-streamed via Zoom using the attached link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83466297727?pwd=UUdFRk9kSjFLZmtkWGJkVXFOZStLUT09