



# Marilyn Joy Mitchell

JUL 15, 1947 - OCT 3, 2016



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## **Marilyn Joy Mitchell**

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**M**arilyn Joy Johnson Mitchell left mortality on October 3, 2016 from a rare, disabling, autoimmune disease that destroyed her nerves. She suffered from immense pain for more than two years. She was born July 15, 1947 in Seattle Washington, living in the Pacific Northwest (Seattle and Spokane) until the early 1990s when she moved to the Salt Lake City area. After sixty-nine years she joyfully reunites with her loved ones on the other side of the veil.

A life dedicated to service, Marilyn had numerous accomplishments and many loving relationships. Giving time and talents in all aspects of community and church activities, Marilyn showed her ability to lead and influence others with eternal impact. Hundreds of people have been lifted by her direct or indirect association. She accepted any task that allowed her to bring light to others. She served at all levels in various organizations. Just a snippet of the way she served includes: Washington State PTA worker (from room mother to state administrator), West Central Community Center associate (from communications director to dispute resolution counselor). She served as the Executive Director of Kids Day, at River Front Park, In Spokane, WA. She was a mental health activist (serving in many capacities ranging from family advocate to association executive director). She was also a church volunteer (service offerings included various callings from teacher to auxiliary president). As an impressive time manager, Marilyn found a way to do much for others while prioritizing the most important focus of her life—her family. Her greatest love and the emphasis of her life was her role of mother. She possessed abiding tenderness and affection for her husband and children as a model for unconditional love. She felt deep humility in recognizing their accomplishments and commitment to family connections. She led and inspired a very close family—giving birth and raising six children who were the joy of her life.

Marilyn's marriage to her eternal companion, John, is a romance story that extended through life's trials of raising a large family and juggling the challenges that come through fifty years together. His calm and kind caregiving during her extended illness gave her a level of confidence that sustained her every day. He is her champion and hero.



## Obituary

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To her siblings Marilyn was a friend, mentor, exemplar, and benefactor. As the third of eleven children and the oldest daughter she took on a mothering role for her brothers and sisters. They all cherish and appreciate her.

Marilyn's creativity spread through all aspects of her life. She designed a tastefully decorated home, hosted numerous memory-making parties, authored three books, wrote delightful poetry, gave extraordinary gifts, and developed engaging lesson plans. Her witty and clever personality made her simply fun.

Marilyn happily anticipated joining those who left earth recently, especially her son Aaron who passed away in February 2015. She is also preceded in death by her father, John Wallis Johnson (d. January 8, 2002), her mother, Bonita Joy Stout Johnson (d. April 1, 2013). Marilyn is survived by her husband, John Clarke Mitchell, Jr., and five children, John Clarke Mitchell, III (Shannon), Matthew Mitchell, Lisa Larkin, Amy Walsh (Tracy), Jeff Mitchell (Sarah), ten brothers and sisters, and ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Funeral Services for Marilyn will be held on Saturday October 8, 2016 at 10:00 am at 8107 S 6700 W West Jordan, UT.



# Tribute Wall

**Marilyn Joy Mitchell**

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**Sheila Carson** posted:

I was saddened to read about Marilyn's death. She, of all people, did not deserve the pain and the betrayal by her own body. Then I saw her wonderful smile, unchanged and unwavering. She always focused on the best and the positive. As tangible proof of her kind spirit, I hold a small green mini album from Marilyn. She made this book full of hand-typed, heart-warming sayings and sent it to me over 35 years ago. I have kept it on my bedstead all these years. Although it's been that many years since I've seen Marilyn, I smile every time I see my book and think of her giving heart and thoughtfulness. Well done, good and faithful servant; Matthew 25.23  
Sheila Carson (Tibbitts)

October 16 at 5:43 PM



**Anonymous** sent a sympathy card to the Mitchell family.



October 7 at 8:10 AM



**Denise May** posted:

Marilyn's sweet ability to be with you, just you, when she was talking to you. A true gift. Her smile is contagious. She leaves behind a great legacy for her family.

October 6 at 7:05 AM



**Sharon Ouimette** posted:

Marilyn Mitchell was the epitome of love and kindness. She taught me more in the short 8 years I've known her than I've learned in my lifetime. She loved, encouraged, listened to and taught me about forgiveness with a Christlike manner. I will forever love and miss you my dear friend. Thank you John for sharing her with me.

October 5 at 6:45 PM



**Diane Rosander** October 6 at 4:53 AM

You are such a good friend and Marilyn was blessed to have you in her life. (Diane Rosander)



## Tribute Wall

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**Bob Greenberg** posted:

Marilyn was a tireless advocate for the mentally ill. She went from the Utah State Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse to playing a key role in the evolution of Four Corners Community Behavioral Health in SE Utah. Marilyn was always ready to take on any task no matter how complex with energy and intelligence. She made a difference and I am proud to have worked with her. Bob Greenberg

October 5 at 12:12 PM



**Diane Rosander** October 6 at 4:55 AM

Thank you Bob. Marilyn spoke of you often. She admired you and learned from you. (Diane, Marilyn's sister)



## Tribute Wall

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AW

**Anna Gough Woodruff** posted:

My kids always put their favorite things in order; first favorite, second favorite, third... I was no different really, and as a little girl Marilyn was my "first favorite aunt on Mom's side." To me she was always beautiful, smelled pretty, made me feel very special and was married to Uncle John. ;) I've always been a compulsive de-clutterer, and through all the cleaning binges I could never get myself to throw out gifts I had received from my aunt Marilyn. They are all so unique and I can literally feel the thought she had for me when she got them for me. Many of them are garage sale items, just special. When I became a mother I sought her advice for many things. She advised me through my postpartum depression after my 2nd baby. My kids grew to love her as their own aunt. I always deeply appreciated how supportive she and John have been to my mom, and it was obvious they are sisters, they are so alike. I remember how my mom and Aunt Marilyn would get together and they'd just laugh and giggle like little school girls. Aunt Marilyn was really funny to me. She was also so fun, and she put on the best parties and family events. She always had the most fun games and best food. I have long missed those family gatherings. Marilyn has the most selfless love for her children, and they and John were the most important thing to her. This was clear to me and in my eyes the most admirable and important thing to remember about her.

October 5 at 6:16 AM

TG

**Terry E Galen** March 16 at 2:03 PM

I am deeply saddened to learn that my friend Marilyn passed a number of years ago. I lost contact with her after she moved from Carbon County, but have always kept her in my heart. This is the first time that I have been able to find a link to her and tears are running down my face. She was a beautiful soul, who worked so hard for the mentally ill population.

NB

**Nancy Bentley** October 18 at 8:34 AM

I first got to know Marilyn when she was on the Board of the Utah Statewide Independent Living Council. There were some tough times and tough decisions to be made and carried out; and as Chair (all volunteer work), Marilyn manage to take care of the difficult situation in a logical, extremely ethical, and left everyone with their dignity. When she moved to Price, she sat on Active Re-Entry's Board of Directors and people with disabilities to better their lives as well as be a mentor to me; we were all much better for her association. I am sorry she was in so much pain the last couple of years of her life. Marilyn was a gem of a human being.

MS

**Malia Shaw** October 6 at 9:28 AM

Our family loves Marilyn Mitchell. So many times I would get my mail or open my email to find a sweet, encouraging note from Marilyn. She was wise and kind, yet strong and courageous. When I had my baby she mailed me a stack of easy recipes to help me in my transition. Her thoughtfulness for me personally was always so touching and appreciated. Marilyn LOVES her children and her love for and devotion to them was always evident in every conversation. She will be so missed.



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**Diane Rosander** October 5 at 6:03 PM

I love Anna's comment. It brings back the high energy Marilyn we all cherished and admired. She had suffered for so long I almost forgot these wonderful qualities. Thank you Anna. I love yoy!



**Premier Funeral Services** shared an album called **Memories Album**.



October 4 at 9:15 AM



# Media

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Premier Funeral Services shared 4 photos to the **Memories Album** album.

October 4 at 9:15 AM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Marilyn by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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