



Sharon Lee Ferguson Shaw

OCT 5, 1952 - SEP 24, 2024



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Sharon Lee Ferguson Shaw, “Fergie”, 71, of Saratoga Springs, Utah, passed away peacefully from natural causes on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 12:51 pm at CommonSpirit Hospital in Lehi, Utah.

Sharon was born on October 5th, 1952, in Farmington, New Mexico to Mary Althea Wilkins and Donald Lee Ferguson. She grew up in New Mexico where she spent a lot of time on her grandfather's cattle farm during the summers and often visited Ramah, New Mexico. Sharon said that during this time her family had the best milk and beef ever! She grew up with her siblings, step-father Dale Harper, step-brother Robert Harper, and her favorite cousins Ruthanne Bridges and Richard Wilkins. She often reminisced about and missed her favorite cat, a Siamese named Shaney. Her hometown of Gallup was near the Navajo Reservation and she admired their artistic abilities and skills. She also took Spanish in high school and loved to practice it at any opportunity.

Sharon graduated from Gallup High School in 1970. Excitingly she attended her 51st high school reunion and visited her childhood home in 2021. Sharon graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University (BYU) in 1975 in Elementary Education with a minor in Social Sciences. She did her student teaching at Loveland Elementary school in West Jordan, Utah. Sharon and her family moved to Washington State in 1990's, where she taught a major portion of her career at Jefferson Elementary School. She later went on to earn her Master's Degree in Education from Heritage University in Washington. Following her career in Washington, she followed a family friend out to California for more teaching opportunities, to finish her teaching career. She taught primarily at Wardlaw Elementary School. During her 27-year teaching career, she taught 1st grade through high school, specializing in elementary special education. She moved back to Utah to retire.

She met Ralph Ernest Shaw, “Ernie”, in the spring of 1974 at BYU and they were sealed together, for time and all eternity, in the Manti temple on December 20th, 1974. December 2024 will be their 50th marriage anniversary, though she has passed on. Sharon and Ernie loved to watch



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movies, listen to audiobooks, and hold hands. She learned ASL and loved to sing the hymn “How Great Thou Art” while Ernie sang in church. You could often see Sharon signing in her seat while the church congregation sang that hymn. Ernie enjoyed serenading her with love songs. Sharon and Ernie both wanted a big family, and were blessed to welcome six children into their marriage: four boys and two girls.

Sharon is known for her fierce kindness, intelligence, determination, smile, and sense of humor. She had a voracious mind; and she loved to read novels and nonfiction. She traveled to Alaska, Peru, Mexico, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, to name a few. Sharon loved to watch old movies, medical dramas, and crime shows. Sharon loved to sew, repair clothing, quilt, and crochet for herself and others, which gave her joy. She also embroidered by hand; and after retiring, she learned how to machine embroider. She enjoyed toll-painting and later in life, she took up oil painting where she focused on landscapes. Sharon loved to tell her family and friends stories of growing up in New Mexico and all her shenanigans. Her mother, Mary, made the best caramels and candies; Sharon endeavored to whip up these treats the same way her mother made them; she even compiled a recipe book with her mother’s recipes and stories.

Sharon was a great woman of faith and deeply loved God our Eternal Father and His Beloved Son Jesus Christ. She practiced his teaching and followed his Spirit faithfully and obediently through it all: sufferings, heartbreaks, illnesses, struggles, and pains. In equal measure, she found and freely shared her strength and love. By listening to the Spirit, she was able to reach out to serve others: those with needs unseen and unspoken. Forgiveness, love, and mercy were her stock and trade! She will be sorely missed here below the heavens. Sharon was called back to our eternal heavenly home to continue serving the Lord. Our beautiful wife, mother, sister, aunt, cousin Sharon now rests from the labors and travails of this mortal life.

She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Ralph Ernest Shaw; her sons, Ernest Lee Shaw (Sommer Alishia Shaw), Sean Michael Shaw (Otilia Rojas Shaw), Greg Dale Shaw, and Brett Eric Shaw; and daughters, Laurel Bloomfield Shaw, Erin Kathleen Cole (Thomas John Cole), and “adopted” daughter Sol Eva McNally. Sharon is also survived by her sister, Linda Thornburg; her grandsons, Samuel Ayani Everton, Skyler Lee Everton, Joshua Spencer Shaw, Jonah Reilly Shaw, and James William Shaw; granddaughters, Amanda Joy Shaw, Valerie Michelle Shaw, and Emily Megan Shaw; and great grandchildren.



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Sharon was preceded in death by her parents, Mary Althea Wilkins and Donald Lee Ferguson; brother Andrew “Andy” Dale Harper and step-brother Robert Harper.

Services will be held on Saturday, October 5th, 2024. The viewing will start at 10:00 am with the Funeral Services at 11:00 am, both at her LDS church building at 2181 Harvest Moon Drive in Saratoga Spring, Utah. Following the funeral, she will be laid to rest at the Lehi City Cemetery. We celebrate Sharon’s life on what would have been her 72nd birthday.



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CT

Christine Tietjen posted:

I am Sharon's Aunt Christine I took care of her many times while she was growing up. I am the one she came to visit in Alaska. I really liked her visit. Wish I could have seen more of her after I got to Utah.

October 3 at 9:39 AM

RG

Ronda Burnett (Gillespie) October 3 at 3:05 PM

I remember at Mary and Uncle Dell Harper living in Gallup New Mexico and they lived right across the street from the swimming pool. Those of you that don't know me very well need to know that assuming Paul and water were my most desired things. It was strange though because when we got to the water I was always afraid of getting in. I remember every single time that Mom it took myself and the other younger kids (Mary and Eric). I remember that Eric loves going to Gallup because then he could play with his favorite cousin Andy. Mary and I usually wanted to stay with Mom as she ran errands. I remember Uncle Dale so distinctly. I understand why Aunt Mary loved him but I also understand why she knew eventually that she needed to leave to improve her life. I remember Aunt Mary marrying rulon Jones I think was his last name. They lived right here in Ogden where I lived and we went to see them and number of times. Her husband was such a righteous kind loving man. My memories of Sharon the few times that she came and stayed with us was you heard getting ready with Beverly and within usually to go to a dance. She was the nicest older cousin that I have ever had. I just could not believe how kind and loving she was! I wish I could have seen more of her in my later life. I have not one single doubt that she is in heaven, the celestial Kingdom with our savior and our Heavenly Father. Hey hope and pray with all my heart that I get to see her again in the presence of our savior and Heavenly Father and the rest of my family that I am sure are all in the celestial Kingdom! I love you dear family, every single one of you, every single one of my cousins I know you and I love you and I am grateful for the times we've had together. You know being such a large family sometimes it was really hard to get to know each individual cousin. I have had some very special experiences with almost everyone of my cousins and my mom's side of the family. I get jealous sometimes of people here in Ogden that still have all of their siblings living here in Ogden and their parents that also live here in Ogden and they get together at least once a week usually on Sundays. I've always wished that we had that. However I do know that a number of my siblings really and truly felt like they were where they were supposed to be and they were working in the mission field. When I think of Sharon I can see her beautiful smiling face that was always accepting of me and so very kind. I loved it when we would go to Gallup sometimes and Mom would ask Sharon to take care of us girls (Mary and I). Sharon was just so amazing and I never ever have had one bad thought about her. I think she was as close to perfect as anybody can get. Love you all big family. ❤️



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Alexandra Everton lit a candle in honor of Sharon.

She the sweetest lady ever. I'm so glad I was able meet her. She would tell me lots of stories. She just full of sunshine.

October 3 at 8:44 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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