



# Melodie Ann Echols (Palmer)

OCT 21, 1947 - DEC 29, 2024



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## **Melodie Ann Echols (Palmer)**

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**M**elodie Ann Echols (Palmer) passed away on December 29, 2024 in Lehi, UT at the age of 77.

Melodie was the oldest child of Ivins Palmer and Irita Hundley, born on October 21, 1947 in San Diego, CA. Much of her childhood was spent moving frequently while following her father in the Navy, but her favorite location was always in Thatcher, AZ with her beloved Grandma Motes. We know that heavenly reunion was sweet.

While participating on the Pom Pom team at Eastern Arizona College, Melodie met and later married Michael E. Forte, captain of the basketball team. They welcomed and loved five children into their home in Phoenix, AZ: Michael, Timothy, Summer, Clinton, and Rhapsody. They divorced 27 years later.

Melodie continued her love of dance all her life. She was proud to be a Jazzercise instructor for 15 years, often practicing her routines in the living room for her children to inadvertently memorize as well. She brought so much joy to those she instructed with her high energy, enthusiasm, and good humor to musical classics such as “Great Balls of Fire,” “Papa’s Got a Brand New Bag,” and “The Safety Dance.” She often volunteered to teach classes to kids at Tavan Elementary School and church girls’ camp at Camp Lo-Mia. People still comment about her fun personality, warmth, and “Jazz hands.”

Melodie retired after 24 years of working at her neighborhood Safeway Grocery Store as a bakery clerk. She was committed to “Superior Customer Service” and won countless awards for her assistance. Customers easily became her friends. She brightened the day of so many. She was always known for being everyone’s favorite “free cookie lady.”

Her faith in Jesus Christ motivated her in all that she did. She was a dedicated member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She loved teaching children’s primary classes, leaving behind boxes of carefully colored and cut lesson materials showing her dedication. She enjoyed



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serving in the temple weekly and found great peace there. She was often found helping a friend by juicing oranges, giving rides, mopping floors, distributing food, and making blankets for charity because “that’s what Jesus would do.”

Melodie’s greatest assets in life have always been her family—her five children, 20 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Rocking babies, watching ball games, and traveling to visit her family brought her tremendous joy. Her family’s successes were her triumphs. She loved her family with all her heart.

In May 2022, Melodie married the man of her dreams, Richard Echols. Nothing made her more happy. They enjoyed traveling, home projects, gardening, and movies with popcorn. Dementia and health complications cut their time together short. Their love story will continue in the next life.

She is survived in death by her husband, Richard Echols and her five children, Michael Forte (Sheila), Tim Forte (Michele), Summer Peterson Spratt, Clint Forte (Mandy), and Rhapsody Eyring (Jordan), as well as her 20 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Melodie’s memorial will be held on January 25, 2025 at 10 AM at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 745 N. Val Vista Drive, Mesa, AZ 85213.



## Tribute Wall

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RE

**Rhapsody Eyring** posted:

Zoom Link for the Memorial Service:<https://zoom.us/j/91453367428>

January 24 at 4:15 AM

DC

**Dolly Brown, Cousin** posted:

I had decided to join a Curves in my area, a few years back. And I was doing my thing on the Matt's and exercise equipment all of a sudden I heard ' Dolly, is that you ?' I stopped dead in my tracks. There in front of me was my sweet cousin Melodie doing the Hoola Hoop, a 5# one like it was nothing. We hugged for about 5 minutes I think. Anyways I told her how impressed I was to see her Hoola Hoop she said it was easy and I should try it . Well after about 10 tries or more I stopped. However, I tried until I had gotten the hoop down pat. Thanks to her love ❤️ and confidence that I could do it and my pushing on I can still do Hoola hoop with. 5# er. She was always smiling no matter what hand she was dealt in life. If she was ever upset or disappointed I never saw it. She was a happy person and people she was around became happy, that's how I will always remember her. Rest in Peace sweet Melodie and enjoy your well deserved Angel Wings, Love ❤️ Dolly

January 5 at 1:59 PM

DW

**Donna Wheat** posted:

Ps I failed to mention Melodie and her friend spent the night with me because my husband worked nights periodically.

January 5 at 10:22 AM

DW

**Donna Wheat** posted:

I've known melody since she was a teen. I helped her with her hair and makeup when she went to prom, dates and dances. She and her friend Linda Estes use to spend the nights at my home when I first got married because I was afraid to be alone. Seminary was right around the corner and her high school was across the street. They would get up the next morning and off they would go for their day. I had just spoke with her a few weeks ago as she had been on my mind. I'm so glad I did. She will be greatly missed.

January 5 at 10:16 AM



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**David Sanders** posted:

Melodie and Richard were good friends of mine and were my next door neighbors in Mesa, AZ. I was saddened when they moved to Utah in the summer of 2024, but I knew it was in the best interest for Melodies' care. I miss them both and wish Melodie a peaceful after life and wish Richard the strength to endure his future without her.-David Sanders

January 3 at 7:55 AM



**Kathrynrenee** January 9 at 12:08 PM

Love and miss you. Blessed to go before me and see Jesus face to face.



**Maddy Peterson** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



This is a photo of Grandma with a Liberty Market cookie ice cream sandwich. I (Maddy Peterson, grandkid) had just snapped this photo of her on her birthday in 2019 after getting this sweet treat for free. Every year on everyone's birthdays we would drive around hitting as many places as we could to receive birthday freebies. Grandma often would tag along or be the chauffeur for others on their birthdays, but that year I was lucky enough to be hers. Across the street we hit up Joe's Real BBQ for a free \$14, many Dutch Bros for a free drink, Someburros for free \$10, and of course couldn't miss a free car wash at the place on Mckellips and Lindsay. Grandma was especially happy in this photo because a free sweet treat was one of her favorite things. I remember throughout most of my life, Grandma was always on some kind of diet, but whenever she came to our house, that day was miraculously a "cheat day" if something sweet was available.

January 2 at 12:22 PM



**Lanae Hoopet** January 4 at 7:01 AM

Happy memories!!



## Media

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January 2 at 12:22 PM





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

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



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