



## Janene Kay Welcker

September 16, 1960 - March 5, 2021

Janene Kay Welcker of Sandy, Utah passed away on March 5, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Janene was born in Great Falls, Montana on September 16, 1960, to Kemmer and Janet Vance.

Married Christopher Paul Welcker in Highland, Utah December 18, 1981

Their Children: Amy Spencer (Jeff Spencer), Christopher Welcker (Marial Welcker), Jody Findlay (Cameron Findlay) and Emily Richards (Ben Richards)

Parents: Kemmer & Janet Vance

Siblings: Kyle Vance, Kevin Vance, Jackie Wilson, Julie Cook, Kirk Vance

Grandchildren: 21

### Viewing

Friday, March 12, 2021, 6-8 pm There will be a viewing for Janene at Premier Funeral Services 67 East 8000 South, Sandy, Utah 84047

### Funeral Services

Saturday, March 13, 2021, 9:00 am There will be a public funeral service for Janene at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 9636 South 1700 East, Sandy, Utah 84092. We are limited to 150 people in this location due to COVID restrictions. If you are able to watch the zoom link it would be appreciated, we understand that for some, this won't do, but only 150 will be allowed.

Saturday, March 13, 11:00am. There will be a family funeral service for Janene at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 9636 South 1700 East, Sandy, Utah 84092. This service will be only for family members, again we are limited to 150 and a Zoom link



childhood memory of all these things. And this she would cherish all the days of her life.

As Janene grew, she involved herself more and more in school sports graduating from Simms High School in Simms, Montana. This gave her a chance to prove herself in athletics where she excelled in track and field. She won many medals, achieved school records, and competed at state. She also played basketball where she was a starter on the team and became a great player. She also made the cheerleading team and enjoyed cheering and traveling around. School sports and activities also meant more time with friends and less time working on the farm each day. It was also fun to have her parents support as they came and watched and cheered her on.

After High School, she moved to Rexburg Idaho where she attended Ricks College (BYU Idaho). While there she tried out for and made the Ricks College Volleyball Team. She also played on campus intramural teams in basketball and softball. But even that wasn't enough sports, so she also played on city softball teams in the evenings.

During her college years she worked for Porter Printing for four years. Because of her hard work ethic, she became one of their valued employees. When her department head got mad at her once, and threatened to fire her, the company fired him instead and kept Janene on the job. She saved her money and went on a three month trip to Hawaii with her best friend Samantha Williams who also worked at Porter Printing with her.

After returning home from Hawaii, she went back to work at Porter Printing who quickly hired her back. She also got highly involved with church activities and helped to run the student ward. She signed back up for sports teams again and regularly played city softball.

Then one day, a young man from Utah and his friend showed up to one of her practices. A fellow teammate told these two boys to each pick out a girl from the team and she would set them up. The young man from Utah looked over all the girls on the team and chose the girl out in left field "with the green shorts on." The rest became history in their relationship.

Janene and her new friend Paul could be found having fun in all sorts of activities. Some of their favorites were bridge jumping into rivers, playing at sand dunes, swimming at Rigby Lake, traveling to Jackson Hole, attending church student activities, and playing games with roommates in student housing. Their relationship began as a good friendship and it never changed. They traveled to Utah and attend the new Jordan River Temple open house and later they were married and sealed in the same Temple.

For a short time, they stayed in Rexburg, ID but later moved to Utah and started a family.

After moving a few times, they settled in Draper where Janene and Paul raised 4 children, Amy, Christopher, Jody, and Emily. As the demands of life began to mount, Paul decided to go back to school and complete a teaching degree. During these 5 years, the two of them usually only saw each other from 11:00 at night, till 7:00 in the morning as Paul also worked full time as a custodian in a local junior high for Jordan School District.

Janene spent her time involved with her young family, friends, city sports, and church girls activities. While living in Draper, she coached and refereed church girls sports, was a leader for church girls camps, and taught primary. She also worked at a local farm and ranch store on weekends, and a local fruit stand as well. As her children grew, she joined the school PTA, and worked as an aid for teachers. She also began coaching her children in different sports.

But Janene always found time to play city sports in the evenings and could be found playing basketball, softball, and volleyball with all her friends from Draper. She just packed her kids with her everywhere she went and then spent many hours also teaching her children how to play sports at the various parks and gyms. She also organized regular basketball in the mornings with her personal sports friends at 5:00am every Tuesday and Thursday. And they played pickup games that were both competitive and fun. She loved these regular weekly games and even though the friends who came changed over the years, Janene remained committed and she continued playing for 30 years.

With Janene, family was always 1st and in order to get more time with Paul, she regularly took her children up to the school where he worked as a custodian and helped Paul do his custodial job. By doing this they all got to spend more time together in the evenings as a family while they worked. They would also get Paul's cleaning route done in half the time so that he could study for his college classes the second half of his evening shift. Her hard work and service gave the family more time together and got Paul through school with good grades.

When Paul graduated from college with his teaching degree, he joined Janene in coaching - and together they coached recreation and competition sports teams for 10 more years. Some of the teams went on to win state championships in Fast Pitch Softball and Soccer. They also won championships in Sandy City basketball.

But again, Janene always found time to spend with her family. She and Paul took the kids on many trips to Southern Utah, and to the National and State Parks, and also the mountains of Northern Utah. Whether it was a picnic, a day trip, or a longer trip, Janene loved to go

et out and enjoy the outdoors. She was good at camping & cooking and she was good at recreation activities. She prepared lunches in day packs for each child, and put in plenty of snacks in for the trail. She made each trip a fun adventure. And kids loved to go! But most of all - she loved playing and exploring with her children, hiking on trails, playing in the lakes and rivers, or climbing to the top of some big rock or mountain. Janene loved the great outdoors and she made the journey fun!

Many family trips were also made around sporting events as well. And as the family grew and played competitive sports, weekend trips were made to watch the kids play in tournaments. Janene tried her best to go on all of these and never tired of watching and cheering for her children. But when the games paused, or came to an end, she always found time for recreation and fun. Janene loved to see her children experience new things and play together as much as possible.

Janene also loved to be with her parents and siblings too. Her extended family lived all over the West. But Janene stayed connected with them all through the years. Regular trips were made back home to the Montana farm where her kids could be connected up with the childhood she loved. She also made regular trips to visit her siblings and parents all over Idaho, Montana, and Washington, for family reunions, baby blessings, church ordinances, sporting events, holidays, vacations, or for any other reason she could find. Janene dearly loved her extended family and would take every chance, and make every effort, to be part of them. Even if Paul had to work and could not go, she would just pack up the kids and go anyway. Family was always number 1 with Janene, and she always found a way to be with them.

Janene also grew to love and serve Paul's family too. And since they lived close by, she would plan fun days with them as well. And since weekends were usually the only free time, these activities often included picnics, barbecues, and get togethers. The kids would meet up with their cousins and play all day long.

And since Paul's family lived close by, most Christmas Eve's were spent there too. Janene loved to put on events on Christmas Eve to help make Christmas Eve special. Each year she would put on plays, puppet shows, or programs - of the Christmas Story. These became productions where each of her children had parts or jobs to perform. Sometimes these productions became so fun that they were taken to primary on Sunday and performed there as well.

Occasionally however, the trips down to Paul's parents house in Highland also included service as well. Janene would put her kids to work helping their grandparents to do all kinds

of yard work. Service was important to Janene, and if anything needed to be done, she organized the project and got it done.

Janene became good friends with Paul's family. Paul's dad was a principal and saw her love for children. And after seeing her hard work ethic, enthusiasm, and potential, he encouraged Janene to become a teacher on many occasions. Janene took a job for a couple of years as a special ed. aid at Altara Elementary School working with a down syndrome student (Jordan) at her father in law's school. Janene turned this job into much more than just working with Jordan each day. It soon turned into working with the whole special ed department at the school, helping the classroom teacher, and bringing Jordan to her house in the evenings so that her children would learn how to work with Jordan, and to give Jordan's parents a break too. Janene always went the extra mile and thought of others.

Janene loved to spend time with Paul. She decided to get involved with a square dance club in Draper. She pushed her reluctant husband into taking a year long class with her and she organized a square of 3 other couples as well. She really enjoyed the time dancing with Paul and went every week. After a few months, Paul decided he liked it too and began teaching his students how to dance as well. This was the start of the two of them calling hoedowns and barn dances over the next 30 years together.

As the family grew, it became time to move. At the same time, a preschool business became available when the owner died. Seeing an opportunity, they decided to buy the house and continue the business. Janene went to work right away to get the school going again. She put her heart and soul into the new school as she became the new owner and the teacher. This new school took up the whole basement of their new home. She taught 4 classes of 3 and 4 year old students each week. The first year was lean while she got the business going. But with her hard work ethic and her energetic personality the business began to grow. By year two, classes were full and the school was going well. Janene was happy! She had found what she truly loved to do in life! She loved working with people, and she loved working with young children. It was the perfect job! This new school proved to be her defining career and she continued to run and teach in the school for the next 25 years.

As the kids continued to grow, Janene's life became very busy. In order to get her exercise, she got up at 5:00am to run 5 or more miles each day on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays. On Tuesday and Thursdays she continued to play basketball with her Draper friends. Her days were spent teaching and running the preschool school full time. And her evenings were usually spent running kids to sports and talents lessons. Weekends were often spent watching kids sports games or tournaments. And sometimes she would also run 5 or 10 K races if time permitted. Occasionally, she would travel around with Paul to help him call

hoedowns and barn dances. She also continued to play city sports and had to rely on Paul to continue getting the kids to their daily events.

Janene was also very busy with her church jobs too. She continued teaching primary, running girls camps, coaching church girls sports, refereeing church and city games, and pushed her children into refereeing as well to teach them how to work and be reliable. If she had any spare time she could be found gardening, cleaning, or cooking a meal from scratch, much of which came from her garden. She bottled up to 400 quarts and pints of various things from her garden each year. Janene rarely took time to stand still and was always moving to "get it all done." Even as busy as she was, she occasionally still found time for extended family by attending blessings, ordinations, or traveling to see her parent.

As the family continued to grow, Janene's life got busier and busier. She attended her kids high school sports games, and even delivered dinners to them as they off-times didn't come home afterschool. She continued to run 5 and 10K races but now pushed her kids to run them with her. On weekends she occasionally ran half marathons and ragnar races too.

Janene's home was the communitie house. Her kids and their friends would just hang out. There was always fun, food, cookouts, activities, and lively interaction. The back yard looked like and was a playground. kids collected here and she loved it.

She continued to serve by teaching primary, and running church girls sports for the ward, stake, and region levels. She also spent many evenings running the tournaments and doing the refereeing. She was asked to take charge of the ward activities committee for 5 years and did her best to have monthly activities. She later served in various Stake Positions such as the Primary Presidency, Stake Trek Committee do all the games and dancing, and Stake Sports.

But as busy as she was, she always found time to play sports. She now began traveling each year to play 3 on 3 basketball once a year up in Spokane Washington to play sports with her extended family. Organizing all the cousins and parents into many teams, they had a great time together for an entire weekend. It became a yearly tradition that lasted for many years.

As the family aged, she and Paul bought a camper and began traveling around on weekends. Janene quickly set up an extended family camp trip to Downata Hot Springs each Memorial Day that lasted for 15 years. It became a tradition and a highlight of the year. The family also bought street bikes and enjoyed these as well. Janene really enjoyed her motorc

ycle and drove it everywhere. She and Paul and the kids drove bikes up to Seattle twice, Yellowstone, Canyonlands National Park, and all around Southern Utah. She drove up to Idaho and Montana to see family, and later organized a yearly trip to Jackson with Paul and her brother. Janene love to play and she loved the outdoors.

In her later years, Janene's life took on more service. She taught the cub scouts for 12 years, continued teaching primary, she cooked for missionaries, cook for funerals, and bottle lots of things for her children. She volunteered for cleaning the temple, cleaning the church, and working at the church farm. Just about every service project that came her way, she would volunteer herself for - and Paul too. The two of them enjoyed temple work and would go once a week for a number of years. She use to say that, "With Paul - 1 plus 1 makes 3, because we work so well together."

Janene was "one of a kind." She loved spending time with Paul, traveling to visit and play with her children and grandchildren, working out each day in her exercise classes, assisting with calling trek dances, spending time with friends, playing pickle ball, spending time with her horse, working in her garden, chatting on her electronics, and teaching preschool. Janene was connected to the whole community!

Janene taught preschool up to the last month of her life. She loved teaching and did not want to quit. She was a loving and loyal wife, and always trusted her husband to always take care of her. She just knew that he had her best interests in mind, and she looked to him for council and wisdom in everything. Even in her last thoughts of her life, she asked her husband for his help and advice. She was deeply concerned about leaving her husband, children, grandchildren, and her parents, and just how to handle things. She also wanted help and advice for when it was time to go. Her trust and loyalty will be dearly missed. She was a wonderful daughter, sister, aunt, mother, and wife. She will be missed by all.

# Cemetery

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## Alpine City Cemetery

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# Comments

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“ So sorry and sad to hear of Janene's passing. I have so many fond memories of playing basketball in the mornings with Janene, Bonnie, Judy and all the other fantastic draper women. "Wash ladies bball team" Although I was fresh out of highschool when I started playing with them. Janene and all of them were always so welcoming to me and everyone that wanted to play. It's been almost 30 yrs since I played ball with them but remember it like yesterday. Janene was such a great athlete. One of my funny memories of her was when we were playing Rec ball and her finger got jammed (no that wasn't funny but her reaction was ) You could tell she wanted to scream and swear outloud. But instead she jumped up and down saying very calmly and mostly quiet 😊 "oh swear word, oh swear word" to this day when I smash my finger or stub my toe I say oh swear word. Instead of the actual swear word. You will be missed Janene... Rest in peace Keeping your family in my prayers

Laura seder - March 17 at 07:21 PM

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“ I'm so grateful to have know Janene. She has blessed my life. She was one of my young women's leader's, we played sports together and she was my friend. I ended up moving across the street from where Paul taught school and I always looked forward to every spring when he would shoot rockets with the kids because I knew Janene would be there and we would get a chance to visit. I had the great opportunity to get to help her with her preschool one year. It was a joy to watch her teach the kids. She loved working with them and she was an excellent teacher. She was an amazing person. I will miss her.

Toni Talbot Allred - March 13 at 06:14 AM

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“ Janene was my pre school teacher like so many. Little blue engine was the foundation to do much of my growth. She was so kind and always happy. Even long after I was 3-4 years old, she would always say hi when I ran into her. She remember all of us students. Love you Mrs. Janene

Jordan Gomez - March 12 at 11:43 PM

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“ I remember how much she loved my brother and wanted him to marry one of her daughters. Haha! I remember how she gave great hugs. I remember how she was always a ref at church sport activities that I went to. She was funny and kind. I remember how she always made me feel loved and cared about. I remember how she loved my son Zachary and would talk to me about how special and smart he is. She told me how I needed to get him into private school because he's so smart. She was such a wonderful person and I'm glad I had the privilege to know her.

**Anna Stagg** - March 12 at 10:15 PM

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“ Janene and I went to school from 6th grade through graduation from high school. We had a lot of fun times. I'll talk about some funny ones. We both had study hall together right before lunch. Now our lunches were really good. They were homemade and smelled fantastic. So when the bell rang to end study hall we dropped down a steep metal fire escape and could be first in line for lunch. You could really shoot down that thing! Well, there was this one particular day as we were zooming down it that I just happened to accidentally hit our librarian as I shot out of the bottom. I do not know what happened to her as I really picked up speed on my two feet at that time. Oops Another time I will tell you about is when a bunch of us girls we're driving around after school in my parents 59 Fairlane. Well, we were out in the country and Janene was up front with me and I went over some railroad tracks really hard (I'm sure we were not speeding or anything) and the whole steering wheel came off!! On the other side I just put it back on and away we went!! Janene was so fun and so sweet. I can't believe she's gone and so fast. She will always be in my heart and memory. Carla Wardner Hinderager

**Carla Hinderager** - March 12 at 12:11 AM

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“ I was one of the lucky girls she served in Draper sports and girls camps. I am truly blessed by her time and service there! I'm sad to learn of her passing. May the Comforter attend!

**Desiree Hutcheon** - March 11 at 08:10 PM

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“ Janene would frequently attend my Pilates classes at 6 am on Friday mornings. She was a joy to be around and I am truly a better person for knowing her. She was always so kind to not only me, but the other participants. It was fun when we made the connection that she was friends with my sister-in-law, Tammy Jones. They played church sports together and both raised their daughters on softball teams. Love you sweet friend! Heaven is blessed to have you!

**Kathryn Butler** - March 11 at 06:14 PM

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“ Played so many ball games with Janene. My favorite was when she was catcher while I pitched. When I ran the bases, she would yell “arms and legs, arms and legs.” I usually batted third and she was clean up. I knew I needed to run fast, or she would run me over. We were so much like sisters and I love her dearly.

**Loe Pierce** - March 10 at 11:25 PM

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“ We had the privilege of being neighbors with Janene and serving together at church. She had the biggest heart and the most amazing energy that just lit up the room. Janene was kind and caring of everyone around her. She loved children and was an amazing teacher. Janene always gave of herself willingly to help wherever was needed and never hesitated to stop to listen to a friend to offer encouragement and support. She and Paul were the cutest couple. They enjoyed doing everything together and raised some amazing children. Her children and grandchildren meant the world to her. She would light up just talking about them. We are so grateful to have shared our lives with her and will miss her so much!!! Sending our love, hugs and prayers to the family. Greg & Cherie Jaramillo

**Cherie Jaramillo** - March 10 at 10:59 PM

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“ I remember Janene as being full of energy and being so active. We interacted with each other while our kids participated in high school sports. It was always fun to see her at region sports, either playing against her or refereeing with her. She will be missed.

**Ann Haertel** - March 10 at 10:10 PM

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“ What a wonderful example of a woman! She was a dear friend from the ward. I don't think I. Ever saw her without a smile on her face. She was always sincere when she would talk to you and you could feel the love she had for everyone around her, especially the little ones! I am so grateful for the opportunity to have been blessed by her life! I will always cherish her as my friend! She is a woman that I admire and adore and a role model for all of us to follow! Until we meet again dear friend!

**candice Black** - March 10 at 09:26 PM

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“ I love Janene so much. My best memories come from playing sports together. We played in a Salt Lake County basketball game. We were around 45 years old and had an amazing team. I was guarding a lady who was much taller then I was. She mowed me over and threw my shoulder out of socket. Janene ran right over to the lady and got in face and yelled at her for hurting her friend. She always had our backs even if she was the smaller opponent. One feisty gal. She didn't back down from a good fight especially when she was sticking up for a team member.

**Bonniw Webb** - March 10 at 07:53 PM

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“ We got to ride patches and Goldie to the park for church and played volleyball there. And of course got up early to milk cows. We also played basketball out front of the Vance house. I miss these memories of all my cousins. You will be greatly missed.

**Amy Gray** - March 10 at 07:40 PM