



Janis Roechelle Balsters

July 15, 1946 - January 16, 2026

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Janis Roechelle Balsters was born on July 15, 1946, in Rocky, Oklahoma. She was raised with three siblings—Peggy Dent, Linda Rowe, and David Smith. She graduated from El Reno High School and lived in several states throughout her life, including Ohio, Utah, Virginia, Maryland, and Texas.

Janis knew both deep love and deep loss. She had two children, Holly and Mark, with her first husband, Richard Harris. Tragically, Richard and Mark preceded her in death following an automobile accident in December 1972.

In February 1978, Janis married Leo Balsters. Together they raised Holly Harris, Lara Balsters McElderry, Sara Balsters Bigley, and Seth (“Sam”) Burke Balsters. She was blessed with 12 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren, and she loved her sons-in-law Gary Bigley and Joshua McElderry very much.

In addition to Richard and Mark, Janis is now joyfully reunited in heaven with her husband Leo Balsters; her grandson, Traver Ryan; her sister, Peggy Barnhill Dent; her aunt, Thoyce Jean Chancey; her parents, Vincent and Hettie Smith; her Granny, Laude; and many other loved ones.

Janis earned a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and a master's degree from the University of Arkansas. She worked in many roles, most notably as a rehabilitation counselor, helping veterans find meaningful employment despite injury or trauma.

Janis found great joy in time spent with family—playing games (and usually winning), hosting gatherings, sharing homemade food, dressing up, and attending festivals of any kind, but especially Renaissance fairs.

Though she will be deeply missed, her family finds peace in her faith in Jesus Christ and gratitude for a life filled with love, a fair amount of silliness, and a lot of grit.

Graveside service is Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 11:00AM at Newkirk Cemetery in Newkirk, OK with interment to follow. Online condolences may be shared at www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com

Arrangements are under the direction of Terri Slay and Slay Memorial Funeral Center.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JAN 31. 11:00 AM.

Newkirk Cemetery
Newkirk, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *My Mother and I loved Ms. Janis she sat at the dining table and kept us entertained every meal. Her laughter and smile are sorely missed.*

Jason Pruitt - January 20 at 12:19 PM