



Marian W. Vanzee

October 23, 1946 - March 11, 2024

Marian Vanzee, 77, was born in Hotchkiss, CO, on October 23, 1946 to Robert “Bob” and Helen (Shoffner) Watson. Marian was the eldest of four siblings. To her two brothers, Harvey and Gary, she was the mean big sister, to her little sister, Bobbi, she was her protector. Her sister and brother “somewhat” fondly remember how Marian would beat up Gary and his friends whenever they picked on Bobbi.

She grew up in Arkansas and Western Colorado, but the family eventually moved to Woodland and Modesto, CA. Marian was raised by her single mom until 1952 when she remarried and Marian gained her forever Dad. She graduated from Downey High School in Modesto, CA. Her Dad was a US meat inspector so they moved frequently for his job. She would always tell us how this helped her “to never meet a stranger.” She graduated college from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1969 with a degree in physical education.

John and Marian met at college and were married on June 19, 1970. They started their life together in Las Vegas, NV. John was in the Air Force and Marian taught PE and synchronized swimming. They lived in Las Vegas for 2 years before moving to Washington state where John would work on a ranch and Marian would raise their two children. John and Marian moved to Tulia, TX in 1977. Marian attended West Texas University and received her nursing degree in 1982. She was a third generation nurse. During their time in Tulia,

Marian was a OB GYN nurse at High Plains Baptist hospital in Amarillo for 15 years and John was the feedlot manager at Wrangler Feedyard. Marian loved to tell stories of how she would stay awake on those long drives home after working a 12 hour night shift - drinking countless Mountain Dew's and putting ice down her shirt.

Marian and John have always had a passion for horses - Mom loved to trail ride while Dad loved to team rope. Mom got her first horse, Sweetheart, when she was around 13. Her mom, Helen, gave her a few lessons but she basically taught herself how to ride. One funny horse story involved her little sister, Bobbi. They were going for a ride and Marian put her little sister on her horse behind her facing backwards. She told her to hold on to the horse's tail. Bobbi knew this was a bad idea but didn't dare defy her older and wiser sister. They took off down the canal bank and proceeded to go by a house with a well known yippy little chihuahua. Bobbi told Marian this wasn't a good idea but Marian insisted, "It would be okay. Sweetheart would not be spooked." Marian was proven wrong as Bobbi was thrown by the horse. Apparently, Marian couldn't stop laughing and saying how Bobbi looked like superman. Growing up, Marian also belonged to a riding group that participated in parades.

She was also a great seamstress and enjoyed embroidering. John was the recipient of her creations until their girls came along. She took great pride in making each grandparent a shirt embroidered with all of the grandchildren's birth information. These shirts are still worn today at each grandchild's birthday.

John and Marian moved to Krum, TX, in 2009 to be closer to family, especially their grandchildren. Marian would try to instill a love for riding in her grandkids. She was very stern with them in how to behave around horses, how to properly care and saddle a horse, and they were to always wear helmets

whenever they rode. She also made some wonderful memories and new friends while heading down the trails at the Decatur Grasslands, Caprock Canyon, and Lake Ray Roberts' trails.

Initially, John and Marian became members of Riding for the Brand Cowboy Church but currently attend North Texas Trinity Cowboy Church. Marian became quite the prayer warrior in her later years as she was often seen praying over each chair in their cowboy sanctuary as well as being the foundation for their prayer ministry. They loved being a part of these churches where their cowboy and cowgirl mentality flourished along with their beliefs in the Lord.

Her health battle started about 5 years ago with kidney disease, dementia, and then a blood disorder. During her last few months she received the best care and was truly loved by her various caregivers, Niyah, Claudia, Genevieve, and the ladies of Golden Meadows assisted living home. Even though Marian couldn't speak to them she would always want to hold their hands and give them the best hugs. As her time drew near, she was surrounded by family and friends. While listening to "How Great Thou Art," and holding her husband and daughters' hands, she went to be with our Lord on March 11, 2024.

Marian is survived by her husband John of Krum, TX; two daughters, Katie Vanzee Paul and husband Michael of Krum, TX and Jennifer Vanzee Thompson and husband Shawn of Denton, TX; five grandchildren, Makenzie Paul, Zachary Paul, Caden Paul, Taylor Thompson, Samantha Thompson; brother, Gary Watson of Modesto, CA; sister, Bobbi Hansford of Cedaredge, CO; three nephews, Robert, Matthew, and Tony Hansford; and niece, Tara Ocegüera.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Bob and Helen; brother, Harvey Watson; grandparents, Nicholas and Margaret Shoffner and Ethel and Charles Watson; aunt, Charlotte Watson; and brother-in-law, Victor Hansford.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00PM, Saturday, April 6, 2024 at Slay Memorial Chapel in Aubrey, TX with Pastor Ken Peterson officiating. Online condolences may be shared at www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Bradley R. Shotts and Slay Memorial Funeral Center.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 6. 2:00 PM (CT)

Slay Memorial Chapel of Aubrey
400 South Highway 377
Aubrey, TX 76227
info@slaymemorial.com
<http://www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com>