

In Loving Memory



Geraldine Bates Pezely

1945 ~ 2023

FUNERAL SERVICE

Friday, January 5, 2024 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Larkin Sunset Gardens

1950 East Dimple Dell Road, Sandy, Utah



“Goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes.
Because for those who love with heart and soul
There is no such thing as separation.” Rumi



Geraldine Bates Pezely

BORN

August 3, 1945
Rexburg, Idaho

DIED

December 25, 2023
Holladay, Utah

DAUGHTER OF
Irvin Bates and Ruth Nelson

Life Sketch

Geraldine (Geri) was born on August 3, 1945, to Irvin Bates and Ruth Nelson in Rexburg, Idaho. Irvin was killed in Okinawa during WWII. Geraldine was reared by her mom (Ruth) and stepfather (Harold Nedrow). She grew up on a farm with five siblings: Alice (Bob) Riley, Kerry (Mary) Nedrow, Linda (Neil) Sheldon, Paul Nedrow, and Alan (Becky) Nedrow. Even through the chaos, the siblings managed to find their own paths and become friends and supporters of one another. She relished her siblings' triumphs and loved the people and parents they have become. They could always share a laugh while reminiscing about their youth. At the farm they would do daily chores before going to school. Harold worked hard on the farm growing wheat, alfalfa, and potatoes. Ruth was always on call at the house for meals, laundry, and sewing. Ruth also taught at the elementary school.

They didn't have the easiest life. Ashton was cold and snowy. As kids they slept in an unfinished basement with no heating vents. One year when Geri was in third grade, she walked to school in the snow. The highway was closed, and the snow drifted so high that she was the same height as the power lines. She got sick while at school and someone took her to stay at the neighbor's house. While there, she was attacked by a parakeet. That started her fear of birds. She was always one for a good story and to make you laugh. She kept that sense of humor throughout her life.

Geri was always in school. She was a school teacher for 37 years. Mainly teaching English and Home Economics at Central High School. She liked being a teacher because that is where she met the best people.

She made lifelong friends while at various schools. Her favorite school was BYU Hawaii where she met Mary, Lotti, and Diann. Later she met JoAnne while teaching at Redwood Elementary and Karol while teaching at Central. She would cherish those friendships. After retirement, she would still do lunches with both the Granite and Salt Lake teachers. But her most important school was Utah State; that is where she met her husband Gerald (Jerry) Pezely in 1972. Jerry and Geri were married on February 15, 1975.

They hit it off immediately because they could remember each other's name. They were a perfect team because they always supported one another. Together they had two children: Ryan (April) and Rachel (Trenton Louie). With her kids she loved doing traditions. She would do Valentine's Day story boards. Corn beef and cabbage for St Patrick's day. Easter egg hunts with riddles. Putting flowers on graves for Memorial Day. Going to Ashton for two weeks in the summer. Hosting Thanksgiving. Making gingerbread houses and lighting candles on the tree for Christmas.

Jerry and Geri were ecstatic to be grandparents (Colton, Madison, Aniston, and Emerson). She loved her grandkids, often sending pictures of them to her friends and siblings. Grandma's house was always the best way to wear out the grandkids. From books to toys to walking with Grandma's cane, attention from her was always the best gift. They loved sitting on her lap and getting treats in the drawer with Grandma. She always sent them with a candy bag for the road.

Traveling was her favorite treat. She loved to go cruising. She went on excursions to Hawaii, Europe, the Caribbean, the Panama Canal, and Alaska.

But our favorite part of Geri was the small things. She could take the mundane and make it interesting. Like when she would turn a trip to the gas station into an amusement park. She would take the kids to get candy and popcorn and then hit the car wash. The car wash became a short movie where they would have to zig zag on the way home to make sure the car was dry. Listening to her give commentary on the newscasters was always more interesting than the newscast. Just hanging out in the kitchen was fun. From her sticking her finger in your lasagna to see if it was warm, to handing out the fancy paper plates, to waiting for the ice cream to melt before serving it. She managed to make the little things matter. She was warm and witty and made everyone feel welcome. She was the rock of her family. She had a gift with words and emotions. She soothed the discord of those around her, she celebrated everyone's victories and showed empathy to all.