



Geraldine "Jeri" Louise Holton

August 8, 1939 - April 17, 2023

Geraldine Louise Hoffman – Jeri, as she much preferred – was born August 8, 1939, in Wildwood, New Jersey, the only child of Carl and Adelaide Hoffman. She spent as much time at the beach as possible and developed friendships that endured for life.

Wherever she went, Jeri was always a Jersey girl. She moved to Florida with a friend after high school, finding work, jumping into adulthood and chasing adventure (as she always did!). Her first son, Carl, was born there, followed by Darren, Jon and Julie. Those early four have the wildest of the sibling stories, growing up among orange groves, canals, alligators, bad houses and good friends. Most of the time, Jeri was a single parent, relying on resourcefulness, creativity and grit to take care of her kids – which she always, always did. She was a waitress. A watchmaker. A whatever-maker, selling ceramics and bumper stickers and paintings and more to keep everyone fed and together.

After Florida, Jeri found her way to Arkansas and had two more children, Kari and Tawni. She settled in Pleasant Plains, then Bald Knob, where she seemed to meet everyone in the whole state as a waitress at Kelley's and, later, Who Dat's. She served as the Homefest parade director for years, building fanciful floats and creating elaborate costumes, which were only a little more flashy than her actual clothes. She loved a sequined hat and could not understand why anyone would wear gray.

Jeri did find her way back to South Jersey for a time to take care of her mother. She stayed there for years after her mom passed, working at a produce market and growing flowers in the yard of her childhood home. She made frequent cross-country trips in her old van, making some of her children nervous until she arrived safely in Panaca, Nevada, to see Keith Holton – her longtime love and eventual husband.

Finally, Panaca became her permanent home, and she loved that tiny desert town like she loved the beach. Maybe even more. She and Keith explored, enjoyed target practice (Jeri was a fantastic shot!), grew vegetables, baked cakes and raised chickens. Keith had a major stroke and she cared for him until his death three years ago. Jeri wore his ashes in a bullet around her neck and missed him every day. Somehow time went on, and she continued the life she loved – healthy, busy, stubborn and free-spirited, right up until the very end.

At 83, Jeri left us on a Monday night – April 17, 2023 – just after having her photo taken with Jon, smiling and waving from the hospital bed. She lived how she wanted, and died how she wanted, too: no disease, no surgeries, no machines. At her little desert house, there was a coffee cup on the table, new plants in the garden and baby chicks in the shed. At the time, Jeri's middle son Darren and his youngest daughter had just been in a very serious car wreck (we thought for a time we might also lose Darren). He was finally released from rehab at the end of June, and was able to start taking a few steps in July. So, instead of a funeral for Jeri in April, we are celebrating her life in August – just in time to mark her very first birthday in Heaven. We just know she's living it up.

Jeri was very proud and protective of her family – six children, their spouses and significant others, plus dozens of grands and great-grands. She loved us

all, and we feel it still.

Family and friends are invited to a celebration of Jeri's life on Saturday, August 5, at 2pm at Central Baptist Church in Bald Knob, 1507 West Center Street. No black, please! Jeri loved color – the more the better. After a brief service, we'll enjoy birthday cake, stories, memories and more in the fellowship hall.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 5. 2:00 PM (CT)

Central Baptist Church
1507 West Center Street
Bald Knob, AR 72010

Tribute Wall



“ Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Geraldine "Jeri" Louise Holton



Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services - August 04, 2023 at 01:46 PM

JL

*Thank you for the memories. Jeri was a dear friend to us in Southern Jersey. We met her at the produce market- Marlboro Market in Green Creek, NJ-26 years ago- and our whole family became friends. Her love of art, plants, gardening, fishing and interest in holistic eating and living connected us. She was a lovely person with a creative spirit. No pretense with Jeri. If you needed anything, she was there for you. She knew how to love and care and not judge. Jeri always spoke her mind even, if you did not want to hear it. Her life was genuine. She was an inspiration to us on so many levels. We loved how she decorated for Halloween every year- the best in the neighborhood. We hope you kept the book our son published because she helped him on the origami path- In the back of the book he thanked her. WE know were connected with her in a deep spiritual way because we did not know of her passing- so sorry for this, but we were led to check online today and saw this. She shall always hold a dear place in our hearts. With all our love, sympathies and condolences to the whole family. We have only actually had the privilege of meeting Carl, but Jeri always spoke so much about her family, we feel we knew you all as well. Love and Prayers,
P.S. Enjoy celebrating her life as that is how she would want it. Now she is with all the beautiful flowers and butterflies.
The Lopers, John, Melissa and Byriah*

John, Melissa and Byriah Loper - August 05, 2023 at 07:13 PM

SB

“ I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER JERI'S JUBULANT SMILE AND HAPPY PERSONALITY. SHE WAS SUCH A JOY TO SHARE STORIES WITH AND LOVED PEOPLE. SHE RAISED A LOVING DAUGHTER NAMED KARI, HER LEGACY WILL LIVE ON THRU HER . SHERRIE BARRENTINE

SHERRIE BARRENTINE - July 31, 2023 at 03:54 PM