



Rachel Laurene DeFazio

October 7, 1967 - May 24, 2020

Rachel Laurene (Risberg) DeFazio passed away Sunday May 24, at her children's home in Rancho Cordova following a courageous battle with cancer. She was born to Gary & Laurene Risberg in Vallejo, CA on October 7, 1967. She graduated from Benicia High School in 1985, after which she attained an Associates Degree from Heald Business College. Rachel married Steven in April of 1988 with whom she had two children. She was involved with the Mills PTG and volunteered in the classroom as well as the community. Rachel and her husband Steven owned and operated Capitol Glass from 1995-2004. Rachel worked for the Benicia Unified School District for 10 years at the District Office as well as at BHS.

Rachel served on the board of Benicia Main Street, was the treasurer for the Benicia Lions Club and was active with the Benicia Bocce League. She loved camping, gardening, cooking, canning, crafts, and shopping. Rachel enjoyed many camping trips with her family to the California Coast; High Sierra Mountains and the sandy deserts of Southern California.

Rachel and Steven moved to rural Cool, CA in 2015 to enjoy a quiet country lifestyle while raising farm animals. Rachel went on to work for the El Dorado Union High School District as a Fiscal Technician for 5 years and was also involved in the California State Employees Union.

Rachel was a devoted mother and wife. She was very generous, friendly and caring with a great sense of humor. She loved music and enjoyed attending concerts. Rachel also loved the sounds of nature and watching sunsets from her back patio. She never gave up hope during her illness and she fought hard until the end. She was taken much too soon and will be greatly missed by her family, friends and community, but will live on in spirit to continue to watch over her loved ones.

Rachel is survived by her husband, Steven; Son, Nicholas(27); Daughter, Kaitlin(24); her dog Zoey; Sister, Heather (Kevin) Cullum and 3 Nephews, 1 niece and 2 great nieces.

Due to the current state of affairs, memorial services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, Rachel requested that donations be made to: Kaiser Foundation Hospitals - Sacramento Hospice, 2025 Morse Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95825.

Comments



“ I was so shocked and saddened to hear of Rachel's cancer and passing. We shared so many fun memories growing up as best friends and neighbors. Rachel's family are in my thoughts. Sending hugs to you all. Barbara Tafoya Downing



Barbara Downing - June 10 at 03:50 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Barbara Downing - June 10 at 03:48 PM



“ I will always remember her tall, quiet demeanor with a smile to light up a room. Many condolences to the entire family. Much love, the Burdicks

Ruth - June 02 at 05:31 PM



“ Dear Steve, Nicholas and Kaitlin, I am so sorry that you have lost your wife and your mom, and the world has lost such a wonderful, caring person. Before I met Rachel, I worked with her mom Laurene at BMS. Such a character! I enjoyed her so much. Then I got to work with Rachel at the high school. Rachel was a character in her own right. I loved her work ethic, her wry humor, her commitment to her family and the city of Benicia. She really loved you, Nick and Kaitlin, and was so proud of you. You, and all of us, lost her much too soon. With love and condolences, Joan Changus

Joan Changus - June 01 at 11:30 PM



“ I've known Rachel since she was in grade school. Our Families new each other and we were neighbors growing up and she was a good friend to my sister Barb. I just remember going over to the Risbergs house and hanging out there. good times. RIP Rachel!



Ron Tafoya - May 31 at 02:45 PM



“ The Cawley Family is deeply saddened by the passing of this beautiful woman. That she had to suffer makes this even harder. Steve, Heather ,Nicholas and Kaitlin, and the whole family I wish there were words to express our sorrow. May her memories always be a comfort to you all, and to everyone that knew her.



Leeann Cawley - May 31 at 12:42 PM



“ Rachel, my beautiful sister
You're wings were ready, but my heart was not.
For the rest of my life I will search for moments full of YOU I'm a shadow of my former self In all that I do, as the old me died with you. I will love you and miss you forever. H.

Heather Cullum - May 31 at 12:07 PM



“ So sorry to learn of Rachel’s death. I have fond memories of her from Benicia High School. She was always kind to my son, who is a friend of Nick’s, and our family. She will be greatly missed. My deepest condolences to Steven,Nick,and Kaitlin and the rest of the family.May you all carry her memory and her love with you always.
Nanci and Tahir Finley



Nanci Finley - May 31 at 11:54 AM