



## Sue Carol Zola

June 7, 1949 - May 24, 2026

Born on June 7, 1949, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Sue Carol entered the world under dynamic circumstances, raised proudly by deaf parents. This upbringing instilled in her a profound resilience and shaped her lifelong identity as a member of CODA (Children of Deaf Adults).

Sue grew up in Milwaukee, and went on to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Education—a foundation that underscored her sharp intellect, articulate presence, and a quick wit that she kept polished throughout her life.

Though educated to teach, Sue Carol found her true professional calling in Sales, dedicating 35 successful years as a Modern Optical International sales representative. Her career brought her to Tarzana, California, where she firmly established her domain in the San Fernando Valley. She was a powerhouse in her industry, commanding respect with an uncompromising work ethic, an unmistakable presence, and a wicked sense of humor that could disarm a room and close a deal all at once.

Beyond her professional achievements, Sue Carol was defined by her unapologetic choices and specific tastes. Hilariously candid and utterly unfiltered, she lived life entirely on her own terms. She loved the simple perfections of a good cigarette, a hot rotisserie chicken, and an authentic

Chicago-style hot dog. A passionate cinephile, Sue Carol found joy in the dark of a movie theater, frequently orchestrating marathons to watch as many films in a single day as possible while not wanting to share her popcorn.

Conversely, she held zero tolerance for the beach or the pretenses of fusion food, preferring things to be exactly what they were meant to be, and she was never shy about delivering a perfectly timed, funny barb to point out the absurdity of anything less.

The cherished daughter of the late Evelyn and Philip Zola, Sue Carol was also preceded in death by her beloved cats, Mister MoJo and Louie from Chicago, who shared many years of her colorful life.

She is survived by her devoted brother, Fred Zola, and his wife, Nieves Vargas, of Benicia, California, niece Monica Vargas, nephew Matthew Zola and many cousins and friends who loved her very much.

In accordance with her steadfast and private nature, formal services will respect her enduring spirit of independence. Her family asks that in her memory, you enjoy a movie, skip the beach, share a good laugh, and toast to the true Queen of the San Fernando Valley.

Nieves and Fred will sit shiva at their home, 528 Cambridge Drive, Benicia, California, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 27 & 28, 3:00pm - 8:00pm.

We will have party to celebrate Sue Carol at our house Sunday, June 7, noon - 5:00pm. That day would have been her 77th birthday.