



Thelma Evelyn Welch

September 5, 1941 - March 28, 2026

Thelma Welch passed away after a lengthy illness on March 28, 2026. She was born in Vallejo on September 5, 1941. A fourth generation Californian, Thelma was raised by her great aunt, Elizabeth Bradley, after the sudden death of her father when she was 7 months old. She attended Vallejo schools and worked in various administrative positions until her retirement in 1996. After retirement, Thelma embarked on two passion projects: supporting foster children, and being a champion for autistic children and others with learning disabilities navigating the school system. She started a not-for-profit organization (Kids Helping Kids Education Network), worked in two special needs schools, and served as a foster mom or grand mom to a number of children.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Kenneth Welch; her children, Elizabeth Grassi and Jerry Grassi; her stepdaughters, Deana Welch and Denene Welch; and her foster daughter, Joanna Gonzales. She was the proud grandma of twelve grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her stepdaughter and good friend, Donna Tenbusch.

A Celebration of Life service will be held for Thelma at First Baptist Church on Wednesday, April 15th at 11 am. The church is located at 2025 Sonoma Blvd. in Vallejo.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR **15**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

First Baptist Church
2025 Sonoma Blvd.
Vallejo, CA 94590

2025 Sonoma Blvd., Vallejo