



## Lori Sue Gustin Wahlen

December 8, 1967 - October 1, 2019

Lori Sue Gustin Wahlen

Lori's spirit left this earth on the morning of October 1, 2019. She will be missed immensely by all who had the privilege to know her.

Lori was born December 8, 1967, in Salt Lake City, Utah. She grew up in Taylorsville, Utah, attended local schools there, and graduated from Taylorsville High School in 1986. She loved school and learning, and practiced those habits throughout her life. She was an excellent student and one of her favorite subjects was math. Lori was very active in sports and outdoor activities as a child. Among her many hobbies and past-times was playing hopscotch; jacks; riding the family horse; participating in track as a sprinter in middle school. She was a cheerleader in middle school, high school, and college; took ice skating lessons and participated in qualifying events that would have allowed her to compete for the Olympic team; participated in several dance groups; was a member of the National Honor Society; and learned to play the piano, a talent she continued to nurture throughout her life. She had a great love of Latter-day Saint hymns and for the music of Bach, Handel, and other composers of the Baroque period.

Lori attended the University of Utah for nearly two years before getting married and moving to Paradise Valley, Arizona, where she remained for the next 5 ½ years. Although that marriage didn't last, it was in Arizona where she got her start in data processing and soon afterwards as a computer software developer which resulted in a lifelong career in that field. She worked the last 17 ½ years of her life for the Department of Veterans Affairs. In that position her duties consisted mainly of developing and improving medical software programs used in the VA network of hospitals and clinics to maintain and improve the care of our nation's veterans. Every day of work was devoted to helping others.

Shortly after returning to Utah in 1994, Lori remarried (this marriage also ended in divorce) and had three daughters who were the love of her life. In the hierarchy of whom Lori loved most, her daughters clearly held the #1 position. She always took time for their phone

calls and worked tirelessly to accommodate and facilitate their passions and extracurricular activities as they grew up. She even home-schooled some of them part-time so they could have a more flexible schedule to devote more time to their activities.

One of Lori's passions was traveling and at the top of her bucket list was a trip to France. She was able to realize that dream in June 2016 when she was accompanied by her daughter Ali on a trip to Paris where they were able to see the Eiffel Tower, Notre-Dame, the Arc de Triomphe, and other sights that she had read about and dreamed about someday seeing in person. She was a lifelong Francophile.

Another passion was being a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, especially during the last 7 years of her life. She was faithful and diligent in learning as much as she could and acting to develop and strengthen a strong relationship between her, Heavenly Father, and her Savior Jesus Christ. She was also an avid reader of the Book of Mormon, trying to read from the scriptures every day as her health permitted. Lori also developed a strong interest in family history and attending Latter-day Saint temples to do ordinances, especially for her deceased ancestors. Her last calling was to be an ordinance worker at the Jordan River temple. This fulfilled one of her goals in life. It is impossible to overstate the joy and comfort that Lori derived from being an active Latter-day Saint. It was a feeling she wanted all to experience.

Lori was diagnosed with cancer in the spring of 2009. She fought valiantly for over 10 years in an attempt to prolong her time in this life, enduring countless series of radiation and chemotherapy treatments and constant pain throughout her body for those 10 years as the cancer eventually spread to her bones and organs. She won many battles but ultimately lost the war as her mortal body was finally overcome.

Some of the things Lori loved were her kids, dark chocolate (especially the imported varieties), France (and anything to do with France), travel, Ben & Jerry's Phish Food ice cream, helping others in a variety of ways, Halloween, warm weather, her granddaughters (she always wanted to be a grandmother), the designs of old doors, cooking, and Harry Potter. Everyone who knew her made a place in their heart for her.

Lori is survived by her mother Patsy Gustin, her sister Joey (Shawn Kennedy), her three daughters Maysen, Tylar, and Alexia, and her two granddaughters Sephira and Nova, plus numerous nieces and nephews.

A viewing will be held Monday, October 7, 6-8pm and again Tuesday, October 8, 10-11am in the LDS church building at 12154 S. 3600 W, Riverton, UT. The funeral service will

follow at 11am. The graveside service will be at Valley View Memorial Park, 4335 W 4100 S at 1:30pm.

# Events

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**OCT** **Viewing** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

**7**

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Copperview 1st Ward  
12154 S 3600 W, Riverton, UT, US

**OCT** **Viewing** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

**8**

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Copperview 1st Ward  
12154 S 3600 W, Riverton, UT, US

**OCT** **Funeral Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

**8**

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Copperview 1st Ward  
12154 S 3600 W, Riverton, UT, US

# Comments

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“ My sincere sympathy to Lori's Family. I worked with Lori through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Although we lived in different states half way across the US, we had the pleasure of meeting through our travels and conferences. First time I met Lori, I knew she was genuine. She was absolutely gorgeous inside and outside. Her bubbly personality always made it fun to be around her. When I heard of diagnosis back in 2009, I was devastated. Lori was a trooper, through everything she still continued to have her same bubbly personality, with such positivity, and a beautiful smile on her face. You'd never know she was battling an illness. She was without a doubt a person you'd love to meet in your life, she brought sunshine to your day. She was a very smart and talented woman. I'm sure she has passed so much of her onto her children and grandchildren. She will never be forgotten. I send prayers to her family. She will definitely live on in everyones hearts she touched. Those of us blessed to have Lori as part of our life will carry her forever in our hearts. I lost touch with Lori after some of our projects together changed. I always asked about her, just goes to show how much she touched me, as I always wondered what was going on with her and I couldn't seem to find her. I was so saddened to read of her passing, another angel that I will welcome following me.

**Joy Pasternock** - October 11, 2019 at 12:31 PM

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“ Just want to send love and prayers to Lori's beautiful daughters, her mom, Joey and family. It was a beautiful service yesterday and a lovely tribute to cute Lori. Lori and I were the same age and had mutual friends growing up, dancing together when we were younger and later cheering at the U together. Lori always had such a great smile and a great sense of humor. Rest in peace Lori.

**Tiffany Johnson-Williams** - October 09, 2019 at 12:21 PM

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“ I met Lori when our daughters did gymnastics together. We traveled to competitions together many times and I was always grateful for her friendship and especially for her example of living the gospel. It was evident that that her testimony had been strengthened by her life struggles and she was so willing to share it and encourage others to rely on the Lord. She helped strengthen my own testimony- thank you. I was amazed at her courage as she battled cancer and wanted to hang on to and make the most of everyday she had with her daughters. Though we haven't seen each other for a couple of years, since our daughters no longer do gymnastics, I was deeply saddened to hear of her passing and hope that your family finds comfort in such a hard time. Lori definitely touched many lives and will be missed, but I'm confident she is in a better place and she will still be with her daughters each and everyday.

**Emily Reich** - October 09, 2019 at 09:18 AM

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“ I've admired and loved Beautiful Lori my whole life Not only was she my beloved cousin she was my friend I know she's with The Lord at peace. Till we meet again

**Aimee Lott** - October 07, 2019 at 06:08 PM

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“ I met Lori in kindergarten, we went all through grade school, Jr High, & High School as “Lori Gu (guh) & Lori Ga (gah) She was like a sister to me (My Dad's favorite) I have the best memories of her & I growing up together....SO many years ago it seems...you know, way back then when you had to ride your bike or take the bus if you wanted to go anywhere & before cell phones .... when having fun was all about being together.... Atari, UofU football games, & a friendship that I will cherish always! It's sad that we let time & “becoming grown-ups” separate us from the people give us character & help shape us into who we are today. I can say without a doubt, I am a better person for knowing & having her as a friend. My deepest condolences to Lori's family & friends at this difficult time, she will always have a special place in my heart, & to my dear friend Lori “May that wonderful smile of yours brighten-up the heavens until we see each other again.” God Bless & Rest In Peace, I will miss you....

**Lori Holmstrom** - October 06, 2019 at 01:39 PM