



## Connie Lee Haynes Livingston

July 23, 1950 - July 19, 2019

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Connie Lee Haynes Livingston, mother of boys, lover of unexpected flowers, collector of mixing bowls, and connoisseur of popcicles, passed away on Friday, July 19, 2019.

Connie grew up in a little green house in Rupert, Idaho, and was proud to call herself an Idaho farm girl. She was born in Great Falls, Montana, and moved with her parents, Seth and Idalu Haynes, and her brother and sister to a potato and sugar beet farm when she was three years old. As a girl she would often venture into town to spend time with her Grandma Davis, who owned the general store. Throughout her life, she returned to Rupert often, especially on the Fourth of July, where she took her children, and later her grandchildren, to the Rupert parade, carnival, and fireworks. Back at the farm, the family would stage their own parade, kids marching and riding their bikes up and down the gravel drive, followed by sparklers at twilight.

Though she loved her farm life, she was a city girl at heart, and, when she was eighteen, she set off to the bustling metropolis of Rexburg, Idaho to attend Ricks College. It was there that she met the love of her life, John Dee Livingston, and despite his high-waisted pleated slacks and his briefcase, she

loved him from the start. Their courtship took far too long by LDS standards (nearly four years!), but when the time was right, barreling down I-15, John turned down the radio near the Point-of-the-Mountain, and, with the prison twinkling in the distance, he offered, "We should get married." Holding daisies and standing against a vibrant blue sky, John and Connie celebrated their new marriage in front of the freshly-constructed, unlandscaped Provo Temple on May 25, 1972. They moved into Wymount Terrace and attended BYU, where Connie majored in Fashion Merchandising, and began to build their life in Provo.

It was there that she gave birth to Michael John, the first of her five sons named after their father. Because they were both second children, John and Connie never wanted their second child to feel any less-than, so when another son arrived thirteen months later, they named him John Spencer. They agreed that they would end this tradition as soon as they had a daughter, who would be named Emily. Within the next six years, they had John Patrick, Christopher John, and John Casey. Emily has yet to arrive.

Connie loved a good gathering: parties, baseball games, plays, and family dinners. In the last few years, she enjoyed watching her grandchildren splash around in the pool near her home. She was famous for her dramatic flair, and though she only performed a few roles in actual plays, they were spectacular. Most notably, she starred as Mayzie the Lazy Bird in the Provo 110 Ward's 1983 roadshow production of Horton Hatches an Egg before the LDS church quashed competitive theatre. She remembered her lines for the rest of her life, and quoted them liberally:

I'm tired and I'm bored  
And I've kinks in my leg  
From sitting, just sitting here day after day.  
It's work! How I hate it!  
I'd much rather play!

I'd take a vacation, fly off for a rest

If I could find someone to stay on my nest!

She also relished dressing up, as when she and John attended the Bishop's Halloween party; he dressed as Vegas-style Elvis and she as a die cube in opaque black tights and heels—to show off her incredible legs.

She had wide and varying parenting philosophies, not the least of which was that you give each child what they need in that moment, regardless of fairness to the other children. She was not a defender of fairness. She always took time thinking deeply about each child (and later, each grandchild) and what they needed from her. At Christmas and on birthdays, she would spend at least one full day dedicated to thinking only of that child and what made them unique, and uniquely hers. She loved reading books with the kids and believed that children's books should be cleverly written and beautifully drawn. If they weren't both, they didn't make it into her extensive library nor on the list of books given to her grandchildren for every occasion. She also adored decorating for holidays and believed that the circumference of the gifts beneath the Christmas tree should be so vast that one could not stand at the edge of the circle and still reach the branches.

Connie served joyfully in numerous callings in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She particularly enjoyed serving in the Young Women's presidency, during which time she perfected her "Young Women's" voice—a shift in tone that allowed her to seamlessly move from corralling five rowdy boys to sweetly answering the phone with perfect unruffled calm. She also served for years as a Gospel Doctrine teacher and, later, as the Secretary in the Orem Park Stake Relief Society.

She worked at Brigham Young University for nearly thirty years, most notably as the Assistant to the Dean of Students. At BYU, she made lifelong friends,

some of whom she planned to retire with and move to the seaside, where they would sit on the veranda watching the tide in their floppy hats and gossamer dresses. She was beloved of the students who interacted with her, especially the rugby team. This was due to the fact she loved them like her own children (and that she was generous with the free Jamba Juice coupons she was tasked with handing out). On lunch breaks with colleagues, she perfected her own brand of lighthearted gossip that is still widely practiced by those of us fortunate enough to be invited to her table.

Later in her life, she remained both practical and whimsical. For example, she often argued that (and there's no delicate way to say this) "at 50 years old, a woman's breasts ought to turn into hands—you know, to hold her purse or apply lipstick. Generally, to make themselves useful." In the last couple of years, she enjoyed living near her mom again, for the first time since she was a child, spending time with her sister Mary Lou, and seeing her kids and grandkids. She was devastated by the death of her husband, John, in 2015, but knew she would see him again. Their reunion must have been joyous.

Connie is survived by her Mother, Idalu Davis Haynes; her four siblings, Susan (Lowell) Hafen, Tom (Susan) Haynes, Marylou (Jeff) Tiedeman, Terry (Ed) Brown; her five boys, Michael John, John Spencer, John Patrick, Christopher John, and John Casey; her daughters-in-law, Joanie Pead Livingston, Lindsay Adamson Livingston, and Steph Russell Livingston; and her 16 grandchildren: Jake, Cate, Calvin, Elle, Luke, Symon, Daisy, Milo, Matt, Mason, Livvi, Lola, Lennyn, Asher, Beck, and August. She was preceded in death by her loving father, Seth, and her best friend and eternal love, John.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, July 23 (Connie's birthday) at 12:00 pm at the Park 7th ward LDS chapel 50 South 750 West, Orem, UT 84058. A viewing will be held prior to the services, from 10:00 to 11:30.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you send more flowers—she loved them!

Friends and family are invited to share condolences online at: [www.Serenityfhs.com](http://www.Serenityfhs.com) Arrangements are under the direction of Serenity Funeral Home, Draper, (801)255-2801

# Cemetery Details

## East Lawn Memorial Hills

4800 East Lawn Drive  
Provo, UT

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JUL **23**. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (MT)

Park 7th Ward  
50 South 750 West  
Orem, UT 84058

## Funeral Service

JUL **23**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (MT)

Park 7th Ward  
50 South 750 West  
Orem, UT 84058

# Tribute Wall



“ *Connie Lee Haynes Livingston*

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October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *The Popes love the Livingston family. However, Connie was a favorite. As next-door neighbors, Connie and I spent many an evening discussing family, the gospel, and even current events. She was so special; so open, so kind and she so often said how much she loved her boys (she included John as one of her boys). I always felt she was a great read of people and she often helped me act a little more grown up. I feel so blessed to know Connie and John. The Livingstons are exceptional people and John and Connie will live on in the lives and loves of their children. I wish them peace and comfort. Rulon and the rest of the Pope family.*

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**Rulon Pope** - July 23, 2019 at 03:53 PM

KJ

“ Dear Livingston boys

*My husband Randy i were soo sad to hear of the passing of your mom. When we first moved into what was then the 6th ward your dad was bishop and we came to know your mom quickly because of her welcoming smile and friendly way!!! I have enjoyed watching each of you grow up in our ward...many memories of watching you participate in Young Mens while i served in Young Womens. To see many of you leave and serve missions and return grown up due to your experiences. It was fun for me to sing next to Patrick in the choir at the dedication of the Timponogos Temple. Of course being able to serve with your mom in Young Womens was always a high light for me. She always had me laughing and her strong spirit always reflected to me and those around her, her desire to serve the Lord!! How greatful i am that she inprinted my life for good!!! May you all be blessed to feel her near you today as well as many days that will follow and may you all be filled with peace and the reassurance that she continues to live and is happy being now with your dad. We love your family!!!  
May God bless you all!!  
Kelli Johnson*

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**Kelli Johnson** - July 23, 2019 at 02:13 PM

JS

“ Connie was one of the very first people to welcome me to a new job back in 1992 when I began my career at the BYU counseling center. We were kindred spirits and became true friends right from the start. I was grateful that she agreed to come with me when I was given a new professional opportunity as dean of students. She had a great sense of humor and seemed to easily diffuse tense situations. In addition to her loyalty to friends, BYU, and the Church, I was touched by her spiritual sensitivity. In fact, I would often use experiences I had with Connie as positive examples as I spoke to students over the years. I will always treasure her friendship over the years and know that I am better because of her.

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**Jan Scharman** - July 22, 2019 at 01:25 PM

DB

“ We were all so stunned when we heard the news of Connie's fall and the seriousness of her situation. I remember when they first moved into our ward and I was so taken by her cute hairdo and loved the comments she made during lessons. It wasn't long before Connie was one of the teachers. I loved Connie's lessons both in Relief Society and Sunday School She was gifted. Connie and I were visiting teaching companions later and that was even more joy. One Sunday her son sang in our ward and I have never heard "How Great Thou Art" sung so beautifully before or since and I would beg Connie to get him to come back and sing . My condolencense to all her family at this tender time.

*Dorothy Bramwell,  
Orem, Utah*

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**Dorothy M. Bramwell** - July 22, 2019 at 01:16 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Photos of Connie



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**Serenity Funeral Home** - July 22, 2019 at 11:45 AM

RP

*Our family is heartsick because we missed Connie's funeral. We are sorry we missed the boys talks and Patrick singing. I loved the obituary. It brought back many memories that she and I shared. She was a true friend and lover of the gospel of Jesus Christ. When we moved to Cherry Village John was the bishop. They were delightful friends and we had many adventures together. Connie and I spend hours at the pool discussing life at the moment. Our condolences to all her family at this tender moment. We love all of you and loved Connie and John.*

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**Rita Pella** - August 06, 2019 at 01:53 PM