



Judith L McElfresh

April 11, 1943 - March 19, 2021

Judith L. McElfresh, 77, of Decatur, IL passed away March 19, 2021 at her residence.

Jude was born April 11, 1943 in Norwalk, CT, the daughter of Bernard and Louise (Reichert) Buba. At the age of 21 she purchased a one way ticket and moved to Hawaii. She stayed there for 11 ½ years in Honolulu and then Los Angeles and finally transferred to Chicago. Her marriage to married Rick McElfresh, brought her to Decatur where she worked for Franklin Travel since 1982. In 2007, she joined Bill Owen at Tour Group Pro, now known as Tour Group Planners.

Jude was a travel agent and had worked for Franklin Travel for many years. Judith loved to travel and often enjoyed going on trips to far off places. She enjoyed her family, Travel and animals, and was an avid reader.

Surviving are her stepchildren, Tawani Chapman of Branson, MO, Ramona Niehaus (Greg) of Pawnee, IL, Connie Beaman of Taylorville, IL, Dee Rickett of Syracuse, CA and niece, Tami Schultz of Fuquay-Varina, NC and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Rick and stepsons, Dale and Jimmy McElfresh.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

The Graceland Fairlawn Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Jude.

Condolences may be left to her family at <http://www.gracelandfairlawn.com>.

Comments



“ Judy and I were friends since the age of 7. We had sleepovers at each others houses and spent lots of time together as youngsters. Judy was great at inventing games and making me laugh.

We moved to Hawaii together when we were 21 and shared an apartment in Waikiki near the beach. Both of us took several months before we started looking for work and spent that time on the beach. Judy got her first job in a travel agency after that. I left the island first and went to Colorado, but came back a few years later and we shared an apartment again. We both left Hawaii at some point and went our separate ways. After a time, the two of us found ourselves living in Los Angeles next door to each other. Our lives really were intertwined.

Although Judy moved back to Decatur with Rick, we spoke to each other on the phone once or twice a year and always sent birthday cards. Judy had a knack for picking the perfect card for me. She came back to LA several times to see family and always spent time with me, even staying at my house for a few days.

I had planned to visit her in Decatur and I am so sorry that I never did. I miss her very much. She was a beautiful person.

Diane Cantwell

Diane Cantwell - May 16 at 05:24 PM