



Carol L DeLay Fraga

December 26, 1943 - January 13, 2025

She was born the day after Christmas (and was thus christened as her parents' "Christmas Carol") while her father served as an Army Lieutenant in WW II in El Campo, Texas. She grew up in LaGrange, a suburb of Chicago, in a home in which her parents lived for 36 years. She attended Lyons Township High School, was an excellent student and was elected to the student council. As her high school was quite large (4,000 students), Carol decided to attend a smaller institution for college and so enrolled in Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill. She majored in American Studies (political science and history) as she had developed an interest in public service and government policy. She was in the Washington Semester Program while in college experiencing politics and government in Washington, D.C. After graduation, Carol went abroad to Germany and traveled extensively throughout Europe.

She moved to Manhattan with a girlfriend and landed a job as the private secretary of Margaret Mead, the famous Anthropologist. Carol wanted to further her education and after doing graduate work at Columbia, received her master's degree in urban planning from UCLA School of Planning and Urban Development.

Upon graduation, she worked for Kennard, Delahousie & Gault Architecture and Planning firm in Los Angeles but then moved to Santa Monica and worked for the City as their Housing Rehabilitation Coordinator. There she met

her future husband, Edward, who was then the City's Assistant Director of Data Processing. They were married in 1979 in the chapel at Pepperdine and their reception was at the Inn of the Seventh Ray in Topanga. In 1986 they moved from their townhouse in Santa Monica to Topanga near the Inn and lived there together for 36 years.

In 1981, Carol went to work for the City of Culver City as a Planner and steadily rose through the ranks to become the Director of Urban Planning for the City, retiring in 2002. In her retirement, still believing in public service, Carol joined the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (TCEP.org) and eventually became the Director of the Hotline, ensuring the TCEP phone was always answered but especially during local emergencies, to provide accurate, current information to the residences. Carol performed these duties for many years until she was no longer able to do so.

She and Ed traveled extensively all over the world, usually in the company of their good friends, John and Jan. They went on trips to Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, the Baltic Counties, The Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, Tanzania, Argentina, the Falkland's, Antarctica, Uruguay, Galapagos, Ecuador and Peru. Carol and Ed also traveled to Portugal and the Azores, China, Japan, Hawaii, Alaska, Mexico, Israel, Turkey, Greece and most of Europe.

Carol departed this world amid the "Palisades Fire" which threatened her home and joined the angels, pain-free, on January 13, 2025. She had a 2-year debilitating illness beginning with a very rare, never-smoker, lung cancer together with other morbidities. She was 81 years old.

She is survived by her husband, Edward Fraga, and her siblings, Lorna Gershon, Margaret Palmer and Alan Patterson DeLay as well as her nephews, Richard, Mark, and David Gershon, William Palmer, and Patrick Alan DeLay.

She is also survived by Lorraine Fraga Holton, Jack, Steven, Michael Holton and family, and Bernadine Fraga Hake, Rick, Anthony, Kenneth Hake and family, and Susan Maria Harris, Mark and family as well as her many friends, colleagues and neighbors.

Carol loved flowers and you can order them through the mortuary but if you would rather, you can make a donation to the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (TCEP.org), which remains instrumental in protecting the Topanga Community she loved.

Carol L DeLay Fraga, 81 of Topanga, California, died on Monday, January 13, 2025, in Santa Monica, California. Carol was born to Frank DeLay and Gretchen Patterson on December 26, 1943 in Texas.

Celebration Of Life services will be held 7pm Friday, January 24th, 2025 at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 9am Saturday, January 25th, 2025 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 608 N. Church Street, Visalia, with burial to immediately follow at Visalia District Cemetery, 1300 W Goshen Ave, Visalia.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 24. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave.
Visalia, CA 93277

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 25. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
608 N. Church Street
Visalia, CA 93291

Graveside

JAN 25. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (PT)

Visalia District Cemetery
1300 W Goshen Ave
Visalia, CA 93291

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Carol L DeLay Fraga*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - January 17, 2025 at 05:52 PM

SC

“ *Mobile Webcast of Mass at St. Mary's church on Saturday January 25th at 9am and the Graveside Committal service at 10:30am*

<https://www.viewlogies.net/salser-and-dillard/ovzd88il-?pin=131166>

Salser and Dillard Funeral Chapels - January 17, 2025 at 05:54 PM

“ *Eulogy for Carol DeLay-Fraga by Her Brother, Alan Patterson (Pat) DeLay Part I*

I'm Pat DeLay, her brother. Thank you for being here. Thanks to Jody and Jan for sharing their memories in this beautiful celebration of Carol's life.

Even in my earliest memories, Carol was a leader – She was intelligent and fiercely independent. She was successful in grade school as a cheerleader and as a student government member and these kinds of successes continued for her through high school and college.

I can't remember a better example of her drive and determination than this: In the summer for several years, our family would spend 2 or 3 weeks at Lake James in Indiana. One summer, I guess it would have been early in her high school years, Carol decided that she would swim across the lake. Now Lake James, I believe, is about a mile across. So, with Dad and I keeping pace in a small outboard boat, she swam across the lake with no hesitation or pause.

Determination and toughness – two of the traits which would define Carol throughout her entire life.

I believe that it was around this time also that her sense of style in appearance and dress developed and then continued to blossom throughout her life.

Carol's college years are a bit hazy to me as she was away a lot. Perhaps it was during this period that she fully developed another definite trait. Carol was not a morning person! I firmly believe that she purposely and determinedly, arranged her life so that she did not have to get up early, which kind of flew in the face of Poor Richard's Almanac (“Early to bed, Early to rise...”), but it worked very well for Carol.

When she was home, we would all go to Johnny's Spaghetti Bowl, her all-time favorite restaurant.

After college, Carol traveled extensively and held some fascinating jobs, but our contact was fairly limited for several years. In my first year of college, however, Carol was living in Boston and a couple of friends and I took a trip to experience NYC and when we were there, I mentioned that my sister was in Boston, so why not? I got in

touch with Carol and she said, “sure come on up”. We visited and Carol and her roommates put us up for the night on their living room floor. It wasn’t until sometime later that I found out that their landlady had heard that these single young ladies had had several MEN stay overnight! Well, they could consider their lease terminated. Needless to say, after explaining that it was her kid brother and his young friends, the situation got resolved. It was the 60’s – a different time than now.

Edward Fraga - February 06, 2025 at 11:36 AM

“ Eulogy for Carol DeLay-Fraga by Her Brother, Alan Patterson (Pat) DeLay Part II

After spending time in NYC and working as an assistant to the noted anthropologist, Margaret Mead, Carol ended up in the LA area where she settled and began her involvement in city government and there met her life-time partner, Ed. Early in this period, I decided to get married in Las Vegas to my son, PJ's, future mother. Carol and Ed joined us to witness and enjoy the event, because, again, why not?

Carol was always generous with her time and whatever she had, always having "extra" airline points to help when things were tight and it was exciting for father and young son (his mother now an ex-wife) to visit Disneyland, Magic Mountain and the San Diego Zoo with Carol. Times were always good when going to see Aunt Carol and Uncle Ed.

It was around this time, Carol's sense of style again raised its head and she was determined to connect everyone she knew with their particular colors. Fortunately, I escaped this fate, but I believe Ed did not.

Carol and I shared a love of reading, something which seemed to be in the DeLay DNA. Phone calls and visits would always have time spent on, "what are you reading? what have you read? and what are you going to read?". Carol introduced me to Guido Brunetti and Elvis Cole among others, and I introduced her to Jack Reacher, Dirk Pitt and Walt Longmire.

Carol cared deeply about family, organizing events around family member milestones, notably 50th birthdays and anniversaries. After Dad had died and Mom was in decline, Carol literally put her life on hold to ensure that Mom was well taken care of. And after Mom passed way, Carol became the glue that held a far-flung family together with siblings in Toronto, St. Louis, Tucson, Topanga and a nephew in Florida, getting us together could be a challenge but she always got it done.

Carol was adventurous, welcoming and fun to be around, and she was also a fighter, one tough cookie. When an unfortunately misdiagnosed malady gained an upper hand she kept fighting and

rallying until finally she couldn't any longer. As Carol said to me when our Dad died, "It wasn't supposed to be this soon". Carol was a good person, a great sister and she is, and will be missed, but she will never truly be gone.

Edward Fraga - February 06, 2025 at 11:35 AM

“ *Eulogy for Carol DeLay-Fraga by Jan Twomey Part I*

It is truly an honor for me to pay tribute to my wonderful friend, Carol DeLay-Fraga. I am pleased to be able to share some of my treasured memories of this very special woman.

Carol and I met in Los Angeles 32 years ago when we were both in our late forties. We were busy with our careers and worked and lived in different cities, but we seemed to have an immediate connection and a mutual interest in getting to know each other.

Fortunately, there were opportunities to nurture our budding friendship because our husbands were already friends dating back to their college days at Santa Clara. We four began getting together socially after work and on weekends, and the rest is history-- with a big challenge to overcome, which I will explain.

My initial positive impression of Carol proved over time to be completely accurate, and my respect and admiration continued to grow as I got to know her. Carol's numerous fine qualities placed her in the distinguished category of "exceptional human being."

She was a uniquely genuine and sincere person. She had a genteel, elegant demeanor. She was quite private and reserved, but she was not timid. She was intelligent and insightful. She was thoughtful. She was thoughtful in two ways. First, she sincerely cared about others and was very kind and compassionate. Second, she was thoughtful in her measured approach of considering all sides of an issue, carefully weighing the pros and cons, carefully balancing her assessments of situations. I always knew that her position on any of a myriad of topics had been carefully developed. She was not quick to judge, but she did not hesitate to advocate for what she believed was just—whether it be in the larger community or on an individual basis.

The challenge to our new friendship which I referred to earlier happened just a year and a half after Carol and I met. For professional reasons John and I moved to NM. The challenge of geographic separation was rapidly overcome when without hesitation the four of us expressed that we wanted to continue cultivating our friendship. We decided we would meet in CA & NM whenever we could. Then we started to plan vacation trips.

Our first trip together was to Lincoln, NM to see among other things the jail in which Billy the Kid was briefly held and from which he quickly escaped. This already interesting trip was greatly enhanced by our Old West aficionado Ed who entertained us with his expansive knowledge of Billy's biography.

During the next several years the four of us traveled the world—to 6 of the 7 continents, missing only Asia. These numerous shared adventures created priceless bonds among us.

Our 1st continent was Europe where we toured England, Scotland & Ireland, and we later visited seven of the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea—Denmark, Germany, Poland, Estonia, Russia, Finland & Sweden.

In Africa we went on a National Geographic safari in Tanzania and were fortunate to see the Big Five game animals plus other stunning examples of wildlife and geology. Additionally, we met with the Maasai, and we trekked down Olduvai Gorge with paleoanthropologist Meave Leakey whose mother-in-law and father-in-law had discovered Homo habilis there in 1960.

We covered North and South America from the Glacier Highway in Canada to the tip of Patagonia in Argentina. In south America we also explored Uruguay, the Falkland Islands, the Galapagos Islands, Machu Picchu in Peru, & we stood on the Equator in Ecuador.

In Australia we did a land tour through the Outback and north to the Great Barrier Reef before getting on a ship to travel south to Tasmania and then east to New Zealand. In the Outback we tested our adventurous spirit by ordering the Outback combination plate at a remote lodge. That plate included camel, kangaroo, crocodile, emu and barramundi.

Our 6th continent was Antarctica where we observed spectacular glacier calving and drifted in zodiacs among icebergs. The

Edward Fraga - February 05, 2025 at 09:08 PM

“ Eulogy for Carol DeLay-Fraga by Jan Twomey Part II

From 2007 through 2024 there were many national and international topics that interested us. We covered the presidencies of Bush, Obama, Trump and Biden; the 2008 financial crisis; Supreme Court confirmations; Supreme Court decisions; the worldwide pandemic; school/ church/ synagogue shootings; assassination attempts; Olympic games; presidential debates; Nobel Prizes; string theory; books, documentaries, films, on and on.

In those almost 18 years of weekly talks we shared many milestones, our birthdays are just over two weeks apart, so we turned 65, 70 and 80 together during our Walk & Talks--before our talks began, we had already shared turning 50 & 60. During our talks we celebrated, comforted and supported through life's joys and sorrows.

We talked about our unique and shared interests. I heard about Carol's Hotline meetings; her gardening and cooking projects--since we had previously dined in her home, I could visualize her meticulously prepared dinner parties and beautifully set tables. I heard about her reunions with her siblings, and I learned about her childhood, her parents, and her college days.

I heard about her trips with Ed to hear Cowboy Poetry or spend time with family in Palm Desert. Often Carol talked about Ed with great affection and respect--of Ed's ability to fix almost anything and generally to take care of everything. She would remark that she didn't know what she would do without him. He was her superhero, and that was never more evident than in the last several months.

Perhaps the very best part of our calls were the humorous moments. Carol and I shared the tendency to speak in abstract metaphors and make obtuse references sometimes without clear antecedents. But we knew each other well enough to recognize the joke or the point that was being made. And we would spontaneously and simultaneously laugh out loud. Those were just fantastic moments!

During Carol's last months, we spent some precious in-person time together. Last June John and I had an early celebration of Ed and

Carol's anniversary with them over dinner at the Inn of the Seventh Ray, and Carol was able to be off of oxygen for the evening. Our last visit was at the end of October when we all enjoyed big bowls of Carol's favorite treat--freshly made tapioca from Gelson's Grocery. Also on that visit, we spent a lot of time looking at photos from our shared trips. Carol and I smiled seeing several photos reminding us that as much as we were alike, there was one way in which we were different. She always wore her hat brim down, and I always wore my hat brim up. On our trip to Australia, we arrived in Sydney wearing the exact same hat. We looked totally different, though, because of our distinct style preference regarding how we wore our hats. Last September our Wednesday morning talks changed. Carol increasingly needed more rest, and getting up early had become difficult for her. Ed, in his ongoing efforts to make accommodations for Carol's comfort, proposed the perfect solution. We began Wednesday night Zoom calls with the four of us. We shared Thanksgiving, Christmas, Carol's birthday and New Year's conversations via Zoom. The evening of January 1, 2025, turned out to be our final Zoom conversation, and it was such a touching one. As we said goodbye, I reminded Carol that every year between her December 26th birthday until my January 12th birthday, I thought of her as my wise, older friend. She smiled sweetly. Then with tears in my eyes I added, "But far more importantly, I will forever think of you as my very special friend who wears her hat brim down." Then Carol gave me a gift I will always hold dear. She softly laughed, and we even shared a gentle giggle. The warmth of that lovely farewell will be such a help on future Wednesday mornings when I undoubtedly will be thinking of something I need to tell Carol. So many unfinished conversations.

Edward Fraga - February 05, 2025 at 09:07 PM

EF

“ *John Anderson My Sweetheart.*

*John Anderson my joy, John,
When we were first acquainted,
Your locks were like the raven,
Your handsome brow was straight;
But now your brow is bold, John,
Your locks are like the snow,
But blessings on your frosty head,
John Anderson my joy!*

*John Anderson my joy, John,
We climbed the hill together,
And many a jolly day, John,
We have had with one another;
Now we must totter down, John,
And hand in hand we will go,
And sleep together at the foot,
John Anderson my joy!*

Edward Fraga - February 04, 2025 at 10:56 PM

EF

“ *John Anderson my jo, John* ”

By Robert Burns

*John Anderson my jo, John,
When we were first acquent,
Your locks were like the raven,
Your bonie brow was brent;
But now your brow is beld, John,
Your locks are like the snaw,
but blessings on your frosty pow,
John Anderson, my jo!*

*John Anderson my jo, John,
We clamb the hill thegither,
And monie a cantie day, John,
We've had wi' ane anither;
Now we maun totter down, John,
And hand in hand we'll go,
And sleep thegither at the foot,
John Anderson, my jo!*

Edward Fraga - February 04, 2025 at 10:51 PM

“ Jody Hall Esser's Eulogy for Carol DeLay Fraga 1/24/25 PART II

Carol's outwardly serious quiet nature belied a warm, kind, fun, interesting, woman with wry sense of humor and infectious laugh.

In retirement, a group of women from varied backgrounds across the City would lunch, reliving working days and solving the world's problems. Now and then we'd visit an art gallery once flying to San Francisco for the day to see the exhibit, stopping traffic when we got separated on different trolleys.

Joined by our husbands, we dined and took small trips to destinations in the greater Southern California area, hosted each other at our homes and more recently met monthly on zoom calls supposedly set to discuss a book we'd decided to all read, but often just bringing each other up to date and solving the world's problems.

After my husband Jack and I retired to the desert, we got together when Carol and Ed visited their casita in the Palm Desert. We treasured those evenings when we, amongst other things, solved the world's problems.

Speaking of being a problem solver...

In the mid-late 2000's Carol and seven other lady friends and I spent a week in Paris. Six of us in one hotel, Carol, and Rita Davis in another more modern, spacious hotel close-by.

So, we walked over to check-out Carol and Rita's digs before we ventured out for our first dinner in Parea! Their room was on the third floor, and the elevator was ridiculously small, but we crowded in and only realized later that the funny plaque we didn't understand near the elevator on the ground floor intended to alert us that the maximum capacity was two people and two suitcases.

Of course, the elevator stopped not quite to the third-floor landing and yelling through the door we alerted Carol and Rita to our

predicament. Calling the lobby, they were told it could take up to four hours for a repair man would arrive. Meanwhile, I, being very claustrophobic, took off my warm coat, and my sister advised the rest crammed cheek to cheek, that I was likely to completely disrobe to try to stay cool and stave of having some kind of a fit if I had to wait 4 hours.

To which Carol, hearing this through the door, pried her beautifully manicured fingers into the seam of the elevator doors and using all her might, forced them open! She extended her hand so we could each heave up a couple of feet to reach the 3rd floor landing and up and out we popped, passing a stunned front desk employee in route!

I spent a long afternoon with Carol recently, while Ed was running errands and picking up her favorite tapioca pudding!

I was touched by how engaged and upbeat she was as we chatted about a myriad of things, including her current, confined condition and weakness. She remarked, "You do the best you can. Accept what is and go on from there..... It is what it is, but you always think there'll be more time". And isn't that a lesson for us all!

Carol was a consummate professional, believer and significant contributor to public service evidenced by her years volunteering with the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness.

She was a treasured neighbor, friend, an accomplished cook, avid reader.

Her beautiful home was a haven of tranquility. She loved music, flowers, great jewelry, art, travel, family, friends, and most of allEd.

In the last couple of weeks when she was in hospital we spoke on the phone. I teased her saying that I'd made us a tennis date for the following week, so it was up to her to get out of there, to collect her racket and meet me at the court. Oh, how I wish she could meet me

on the court. I'll never pass a tennis court again without.....

To paraphrase Kalil Gibran, "And ever has it been that friendship knows not its own depth until the hour of separation".

Dearest Carol, thank you for many lessons, for your friendship, rest in peace.

Edward Fraga - January 30, 2025 at 12:57 PM

“ Jody Hall Esser’s Eulogy for Carol DeLay Fraga 1/24/25 PART I

Good evening.

We are gathered here to remember and celebrate the life of Carol DeLay Fraga, a beloved wife, family member, friend, and colleague.

For those of you who don’t know me, my name is Jody Hall Esser, and I had the privilege to work with Carol at the City of Culver City from 1981 until my retirement as CAO in 1999.

And then, what luck! Our professional relationship blossomed into a precious friendship.

I am honored to have been asked to share my recollections and beg your indulgence.

Carol first joined the City of Culver City staff as an Associate Planner with an extensive background at the university, county, and city level as well as in the private sector. Her experience and expertise included urban planning, environmental and economic assessment, and community involvement.

And who else do you know who started their professional career as a private secretary to anthropologist Margaret Mead journeying with her to the International Ekistics Symposium in Greece. Ekistics being the study of human settlements.

In 1981, Culver City was re-emerging as an important city on the Westside of Los Angeles County. Promoting from Associate Planner to Deputy City Planner in 1989 and City Planner in 1996, Carol, and Planning Division staff were instrumental in laying the groundwork for retail, residential, commercial office, movie studio and significant private property development—some gaining national and international acclaim for post WWII industrial building reuse and architectural design.

We adopted a plan for downtown redesign out of a landmark community charette process and the construction of a new City Hall, two new fire stations, a new transportation facility and senior center, renovation of three public parks, and installation of other public infrastructure improvements.

As Carol shepherded these and many other projects through Planning Commission, Redevelopment Agency and City Council approvals, she made certain to reach out to elected and appointed officials, and to me, to address concerns and prep us for public review and comment.

She engaged the public and involved all city departments, encouraging her staff to do likewise to seek win-win solutions to achieve the best interests for the community. She had the ability to listen deeply and to understand what wasn't being said.

She viewed input objectively, and her thoughtfulness was always at the forefront.

Joe Pannone, Former Culver City Attorney, reminded me of a particular example when a multi-disciplinary group of staff spent an entire afternoon and evening finalizing an important, time-sensitive document on a controversial project. When those staff members arrived for work the next day, Carol had placed a rose at each of their desks to thank them for their efforts.

She was known for keeping long hours when the quiet of a darkened City Hall provided time to tackle her inbox, free from interruptions. She and another Deputy and later City Attorney, Carol Schwab Warshaw, had a similar work style. The two Carols would call each other as it got late until they both finally agreed to meet at their cars, to prove the other was really, finally, going home.

I knew I could always count on her comprehensive, detailed approach to every project, report, and recommendation. And when unsure---when an unexpected popped-up, whether in a private or public meeting, I only needed to look in her direction to see an

unspoken signal, a look on her face, the answer preceding her or guiding my response.

And, in all the years I knew her, Carol graciously--always graciously, civilly, held her ground when confronted on a subject of which she was informed and sure.

CAO's/City Managers hate surprises. Controversies come with the job, surprises shouldn't. There were very, very few surprises in my almost 20 years working with Carol, and for a city manager to say that is saying something!

Edward Fraga - January 30, 2025 at 12:53 PM

“ From Carol Warshaw, Former City Attorney for Culver City:

Here are my thoughts (hope it's still in time for you to include a little snippet). I also have tried to get it out quickly, and now am finding it harder than I thought, as it is an emotional process. So, please edit away (I remember your edits)!

This is given from my perspective as a Deputy City Attorney assigned as a legal advisor to the Planning Division and the Planning Commission. The strength of the relationship between the City Attorney's Office and Community Development Department was dependent on who was the then current City Attorney and Community Development Director. Regardless of that relationship, a different connection often existed at the lower staff levels. When I began working with the Planning Division, prior to Carol's promotion to the position of City Planner, the City Planner allowed for some interaction with the City Attorney's Office, but did not invite it. As City Planner, Carol changed that approach.

Carol welcomed me into meetings and set an example for her Planning staff to allow for input from many departments. She had a complete mastery of the Code, was thorough, and also had an interest in getting a positive outcome for the City, which required her to understand the policy directions of the Planning Commission, as well as the City Council. She made certain that she reached out to Commissioners, individually, so she could anticipate their questions in advance. As part of her preparation, prior to Commission meetings, Carol and I met to go over the agenda, to discuss legal issues we each thought might arise.

I fondly recall going with Carol, on many occasions, across the street to the Sagebrush Cantina for a late lunch or early dinner before a Commission or Council meeting, where she would go through the last-minute questions that inevitably came in from Commissioners or the public the day of the meeting.

Carol and I developed a strong bond, in part, because I believe we both had similar working styles. We both stayed late after City Hall closed, because it was quiet, without interruptions. As it was dark in most of the building and we were on different floors, we started a practice of calling each other, as it got late, to say— “ok, it’s time to go,” encouraging each other to leave by agreeing to meet at our cars. I would tell her to call Ed to tell him she was on her way, as she had a long drive in the dark, or sometimes I would ask her to call me when she got home.

Carol was a good teacher and shared her knowledge of planning and land use, willingly. This helped me gain more confidence in giving legal advice on those topics, which was a vital skill in Culver City, as it was developing quickly into an important Westside City. Finally, Carol supported me, as both a friend and colleague, when I was thinking about whether to accept the City Attorney position. Carol stands out as such a dedicated, competent, and compassionate public servant, as well as a member of what we then called our wonderful City family.

With fond memories, I send my deepest condolences to Ed and her family.

Edward Fraga - January 30, 2025 at 12:43 PM

“ Carol Delay-Fraga
(December 26, 1943 – January 13, 2025)

John Hedderson's Reflections at Celebration of Life for Carol Delay-Fraga
January 24, 2025

Carol loved flowers, and Carol herself was like a flowering rose. She was constantly growing and changing and the deeper you looked at the array of petals the more beauty you saw.

Ed and I went to Santa Clara University together, but I lived all over before returning to California some 36 years ago. Carol and Ed welcomed me to Los Angeles and, despite my San Diego based skepticism, connected me with wonderful places and activities in the area.

Ed and I somewhat fit the stereotype of guys who don't stay in touch very well. However, Carol and Jan, my wife, were great communicators and helped Ed and I keep track of what each of us was doing. Carol was a vital part of that linkage, and now we're going to have to manage without that voice.

Jan and I independently noted that Carol was very thoughtful in a couple of ways. She paid attention to what people were doing and what they needed. She also was thoughtful in the sense of being informed and insightful. If you ask Carol a question you might not get a rapid-fire answer, but you would get a thoughtful answer that often shed new light on the topic.

Carol had a wide and gentle sense of humor. If you had a joke or a story, no matter how sophisticated or corny, she would get it, and reward you with a laugh or groan, and maybe put her own twist on it.

The four of us traveled to remote corners of the earth together. Antarctica, the Serengeti, Saint Petersburg, Machu Picchu are a few of the dozens of memorable places we saw.

When you lose a friend, it makes you think about what parts of your life really matter the most, and you realize that lost friendship was one of those parts.

Edward Fraga - January 30, 2025 at 12:14 PM

LG

“ Carol was always a very social person — lots of friends. She was warm, open, concerned, and helpful towards others, and they reciprocated. She excelled in school, to the extent that I was jealous and worked hard to get better grades. Dad took me aside and said that this competition was not a good idea; he just wanted each of us to do our best.

As a young woman she made her own clothes— spectacular ones. She went to Augustana College — on the western border of Illinois, not all that far from Grinnell, Iowa, where I went to Grinnell College. I think she went to New York after college, but I’m not certain. She lived in New York for a number of years and was Margaret Meade’s assistant. When she decided to get her masters’ degree in City Planning, Meg and Meg’s husband drove her from New York City to Los Angeles in a car laden with her things. She had an apartment in Santa Monica. Meg describes it as having floor to ceiling plants. Later, when she had her own home, she had an outstandingly beautiful garden.

When we were all adults, we got together as a family at least once a year, usually at Christmas time. There are all sorts of pictures showing our activities over many years — in LaGrange, in Leisure World and perhaps elsewhere. I remember huge festive dinners, attended by at least 20 or more people each time. We had a very large dog, Duke. Ernie always said that when he came courting, coming to our home to attend the dinners, Duke would put his paws on Ernie’s shoulders and say, “What are you doing here?” (Having survived that, Ernie remained married to me for 56 years.)

Lori

Lori Gershon - January 28, 2025 at 10:20 AM

MR

“ Dear Ed –

I am so sorry to hear of Linda's passing. She was a very special, intelligent and classy person who never lost her temper and was even-handed in her role as head of planning. She had an unparalleled work ethic. From time to time, we would have lunch with Linda Shahian and Linda Tatum (we called them "the Lindas") and had such a good time. I am deeply saddened with Carol's passing.

She always referred to you in such loving ways and as her partner in life.

My deepest condolences are with you as you struggle with her loss and the raging fires.

With warmest regards, Marsha

Marsha Rood - January 28, 2025 at 10:14 AM

LS

“ Dear Ed,

I was so sorry to hear of Carol's passing. Our years together in Culver City were wonderful, despite the stress she was under. She never (outwardly) lost her patience and calm demeanor. She was a pleasure to work with.

Once she retired, I always enjoyed our lunches together (along with Marsha Rood and Linda Tatum) and our phone conversations.

I know you will miss her terribly and you are doubly hit with the fire evacuation. My warmest thoughts are with you at this very difficult time.

Best,

Linda Shahinian

Linda Shahinian - January 28, 2025 at 10:13 AM

SF

“ Ed,

All of us in TCEP send our deepest sympathies to you and your loved ones.

Carol was a delight to work with. Always a calm and reasonable voice in meetings and discussions. We so appreciate Carol's volunteer efforts and her wish to direct donations in her name to TCEP. It shows just how dedicated she was to helping the organization.

Let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

Stay well,

Scott

On behalf of the TCEP Board and all TCEP volunteers, past and present

Scott Ferguson - January 28, 2025 at 10:08 AM

AK

“ We are deeply saddened by Carol's passing. We both worked with her for many years and treasured her incites and humanity in decision-making. Jim Davis and I (Art) would lunch with her most Fridays, so we could discuss and resolve our mutual problems.

We will miss her poise and her wit and her prosecco (at Jody's gatherings).

We hope that your home was not affected by the fires.

We will be unable to join you in Visalia because of Joan's problems with traveling long distances, but we will be thinking of you and her family.

With sympathy, Joan and Art

Art Kassen - January 28, 2025 at 10:05 AM

KD

“ The first time Ron and I met Carol was at a Halloween Party at Ed's townhouse in Santa Monica. We'd known Ed for a long time, as he had been our neighbor when we were all in Grad School. The first thing I noticed about Carol, aside from her beauty, was how she looked at Ed. That evening, I was pretty sure he'd found his soulmate; she clearly adored him. For the last 40 years we have celebrated New Year's with Ed and Carol. She and I would trade off hosting. When it was at their place, Carol's preparations and menu were perfection. We all know she was a perfectionist! But if any of you ever tasted her mashed potato/carrot dish, you know what I mean. Carol and I shared a love of reading, and we often suggested or traded books with one another, Some of my favorite all time reads were suggested by Carol. I have loved Carol like a sister and am bereft at her passing. But I have so many wonderful memories of her kindness, commitment to environmental issues, her political sense, and most of all her understated elegance. I feel very lucky to have had her in my life. Rest in peace, dear sister. Kathy Daruty.

Kathy Daruty - January 27, 2025 at 02:17 PM

LG

“ Lorna G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carol L DeLay Fraga.

Lorna G. - January 26, 2025 at 01:39 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Webcast



Salsler & Dillard Funeral Chapel - January 25, 2025 at 03:55 PM

EF

This is the Celebration of Life for Carol DeLay Fraga on Jan 24, 2025

Edward Fraga - January 27, 2025 at 09:01 PM

LG

“ *Laverne G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carol L DeLay Fraga.*

Laverne G. - January 24, 2025 at 06:30 PM

EB

“ *To me, Carol was a friendly and down to earth next door neighbor for about five years. My wife and I, my children, and visiting relatives, including our own parents, all got to know Carol over those years and all regarded her fondly. She will be missed, earth will dim ever so slightly but the heavens will brighten as all things find a balance.*

- Eion Bailey

eion bailey - January 24, 2025 at 04:45 PM

MP

“ Meg Parrish & Will Palmer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carol L DeLay Fraga.

Meg Parrish & Will Palmer - January 24, 2025 at 01:35 PM

MP

“ Meg Parrish & Will Palmer purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Carol L DeLay Fraga.



Meg Parrish & Will Palmer - January 24, 2025 at 01:35 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Carol L DeLay Fraga.



January 24, 2025 at 10:49 AM

DG

“ I remember Carol as a kind and welcoming aunt who always made me feel welcome during family gatherings in LaGrange. After reading her obituary, I am in awe of the remarkable, accomplished woman behind the warm aunt I knew. Although my wife, Judy, and I are unable to travel to California this weekend, we will be there in spirit and look forward to watching the proceedings. Sending our love and deepest sympathies to Ed and the entire family. May Carol's memory always be a blessing.
– David Gershon (Toronto, Canada)

David Gershon - January 23, 2025 at 11:34 AM

LG

“ Lorna G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carol L DeLay Fraga.

Lorna G. - January 23, 2025 at 06:30 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Carol L DeLay Fraga.



January 23, 2025 at 12:40 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carol L DeLay Fraga.

January 23, 2025 at 12:40 AM

JF

“ Having worked alongside with, and then as my department head for almost 20 years in the Culver City Planning Department, I found Carol to be very professional, detailed, approachable, principled and very fair. She always had time to answer questions and discuss issues. This process always led to a more determined outcome and better product.

Carol was always editing published magazines, newspapers and even books (I mentioned to her – sometimes in jest and other times very seriously, that perhaps she should have worked for a publishing company as an editor). We used to laugh about this and it was hilarious viewing her edits on such works. However, when she became department head, she promised that she would not edit our works heavily as her predecessor edited our reports (including Carol’s) and she would then edit his edits and he would edit her edits and so on. This became a standard operating process. She kept her word. This was such a profound pleasure and a breath of fresh air.

Carol was so principled that she did not back down when confronted with some very delicate subjects which we had previously discussed as staff. This was so brave and I admired her greatly for this, as it helped to ease the way forward for the staff.

Carol had a quiet personality but could join in banter and laugh as heartily as anyone. I remember her wonderful laughter.

I am so privileged to have known Carol and work beside her.

My heart goes out to you in this very difficult time. However, she enriched your life while she was here. That is a true blessing. May memories bolster you.

Most sincerely,
Jackie Freedman

Jackie Freedman - January 22, 2025 at 11:58 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *Carol L DeLay Fraga*.



January 20, 2025 at 11:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of *Carol L DeLay Fraga*.

January 20, 2025 at 04:12 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of *Carol L DeLay Fraga*.



January 20, 2025 at 04:12 PM



“ *William W.* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of *Carol L DeLay Fraga*.

William W. - January 20, 2025 at 03:09 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carol L DeLay Fraga.

January 20, 2025 at 12:29 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Carol L DeLay Fraga.



January 20, 2025 at 12:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carol L DeLay Fraga.

January 19, 2025 at 12:00 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Carol L DeLay Fraga.



January 19, 2025 at 12:00 PM

JF

“ Carol and I worked for the City of Culver City from the time I started in 1991 until her retirement. Although I didn't work in the planning division as Carol did, I worked with and got to know all the planners. Carol was well liked by all; she was such a sweet and gracious lady. She was a role model and mentor to many of the younger planners, both male and female. We were all fortunate to have spent part of our life working together with her.

John F - January 18, 2025 at 11:06 PM