



Ms. Jolene Margaret Edwards

April 19, 1941 - May 14, 2024

Jolene Margaret Edwards, 83, of Visalia, California, passed away peacefully on May 14, 2024, in Visalia, California. Jolene was born to Joseph Edwards and Margaret Schmidtke on April 19, 1941, in Detroit, Michigan.

Jolene grew up in a loving home in Redford, Michigan, where she attended Lee M. Thurston High School, graduating on June 11, 1959. During her school years, Jolene was known for her vibrant personality and passion for learning. She enjoyed participating in school events and loved spending time with her close-knit group of friends. Jolene went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Michigan University, where she excelled academically and made lifelong friends.

She married Jerry Stangis in Redford, MI, on July 8, 1961. Together, Jerry and Jolene created a beautiful family with their two children, Kathleen Ann Stangis, born on March 25, 1962, and Gregory Kenneth Stangis, born on May 5, 1968. Jolene was a devoted mother, and upon the untimely passing of Kathleen, she embraced the role of raising her grandchild, Christopher, as her own son with steadfast love and dedication.

After receiving her college degree, Jolene dedicated over five decades to working in various roles within social work organizations, including the Salvation Army and Health and Human Services for Tulare and Fresno

Counties. Her commitment to helping others extended to her consulting work with UC Berkeley and other institutions, where she used her expertise to make a significant impact.

Jolene was also an accomplished artist, finding joy and expression in creating beautiful collages and watercolor paintings. Her art was a reflection of her keen eye for beauty and her creative spirit. In addition to her artistic pursuits, Jolene had a deep love for music, gardening, and physical fitness.

One of the things Jolene was most proud of was her sobriety. On April 29, 2024, she celebrated 50 years clean and sober, a milestone that symbolized her strength and resilience. She was deeply involved in the local Alcoholics Anonymous program, sponsoring many individuals over the years and offering guidance and support to those on their own paths to recovery.

Jolene's activism and commitment to social justice were evident throughout her life. She was a passionate advocate for various causes, always striving to make the world a better place for future generations.

She is survived by two sons, Gregory Stangis (Kerry Kropa) and Christopher Edwards (Julie), and six grandchildren, Hannah Stangis, Gabrielle Stangis, Grace Edwards, Andrew Stangis, Natalie Stangis, and Carter Edwards. Jolene's legacy lives on in the hearts of her family, friends, and all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Jolene had a profound impact on her community, family, and friends. Her kindness, wisdom, and unwavering love will be deeply missed by all who loved her.

Visitation will be held 9-11am Monday, June 3rd, 2024 at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia with a Service Of

Remembrance to immediately follow at 11am. Internment will be held privately.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 3. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

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

Service of Remembrance

JUN 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

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

Reception

JUN 3. 12:30 PM (PT)

Bello Vita
4211 W Goshen Ave
Visalia, CA 93291

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Ms. Jolene Margaret Edwards*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - May 30, 2024 at 09:27 PM



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Ms. Jolene Margaret Edwards*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - May 30, 2024 at 09:20 PM



“ *I met Jolene at the Physical Therapy clinic I work at. She was always so funny and made everyone laugh. I always looked forward to seeing her. I am so grateful to have met someone like her. She will be missed very much.*

Kayla - June 11, 2024 at 05:35 PM

NF

“ Jolene was the first person I met at UU Visalia. She was so helpful and nice to me. I am thankful to have enjoyed her friendship and will never forget her.
Norma Forbes

Norma Forbes - May 26, 2024 at 04:13 PM



“ Jolene had a light which could be seen from space. It will always shine in my heart.



Bonnie Waldron - May 25, 2024 at 10:30 PM

CH

“ I remember Jolene she was a beautiful person. I'm sure everyone will miss her dearly.

clyde heady - May 21, 2024 at 09:33 AM

PR

“ Jolene will be missed. She had a kind heart and a great sense of humor.
She so faithfully came to the Pachamama meetings in Fresno which is how I got to know her. She cared deeply about others and our home on planet Earth. Pat Reeves

Patricia Reeves - May 20, 2024 at 12:28 AM

MH

“ Jolene was a treasure to our community and a dear friend. She was always kind, easy to talk to and so much fun to laugh with. My mother, Patti Howard, loved her too and always said what a wonderful person Jolene was. I'm sure my mother will be there to greet her on the other side. My deepest condolences to her family. She will be missed.

Melissa Howard - May 19, 2024 at 07:13 PM



“ Our relationship with Jolene was unique. Jolene and Dorothy, bonded on almost every issue, spiritual, and political. She was a anchor of support to our family when ever issues arose. She and Dorothy could discuss issues with a broad support between the two of them. It helped that Jolene and I could relate on Michigan and Eastern Michigan, where I also attended. Jolene accomplished a lot with some unbelievable obstacles in her life. She will be missed.. A true liberal spirit..

Bill Osak - May 19, 2024 at 03:13 PM

SP

“ Jolene was a dear friend and sponsor in my life, she helped me in my sobriety, Jolene was my life coach. I loved her laugh, she brought me so much love. She was always straight forward she suggested things that I didn't want to hear but I did do it and it always came out the way she said it would. Jolene. You will be truly missed.

Sandra porchia - May 19, 2024 at 12:12 PM

SH

“ A truly lovely woman, friend and all that makes her memory so poignant for me and so many others. Thank you

Susan Hopkins - May 19, 2024 at 10:46 AM