



Jo Ellen Vanatta

February 17, 1950 - January 22, 2013

Jo Ellen Vannatta passed away peacefully after a short battle with cancer on January 22, 2013 in her home in Napa, CA. Jo Vannatta was born February 17, 1950, in Vallejo, California, the third child of Jack and Jeanne Vannatta. As a child, she spent her early years learning to live life to its fullest with her three sisters, Janice, Marge and Jill and her brother Jack. The family moved to Napa in 1955 and into a house on 691 Somerset Place. She attended Napa High where she was very active in playing the clarinet in the Napa High Marching band. In 1970, she married Alan K. Heu from Kailua, Hawaii and moved to Honolulu, Hawaii. With Alan, she had two wonderful daughters, Kelli-Jeanne Ululani and Kym Ka'ili'alakualono Heu. Unfortunately, the marriage didn't last, however she moved on and later married Ernest Bonga of Honolulu, Hawaii. She secured a job at Hawaiian Telephone Company where she worked as a mail clerk, an operator and finally retired 26 years later as a collections agent. After retirement from the phone company, she decided to return to her roots in Napa, California. In 2009, she purchased her first house at 2942 Kilburn Avenue where she enjoyed home improvement projects like the beautiful backyard where she spent much of her time with her two beloved cats TK and Lucy. Jo will be terribly missed by her best friend and daughter Kelli-Jeanne U. Heu and her husband Hugh Kirkpatrick, her sisters Janice Mitchell of Napa, California, Margaret Howard of Burnt Hills, New York and Jill Brown of Sparks, Nevada, her brother Jack Vannatta of Napa, California and her 3 nieces and 4 nephews. She will also be sorely missed by her two cats,

TK and Lucy. She was predeceased by her parents Jeanne and Jack Vannatta as well as her youngest daughter Kym Ka'ili'alakualono Heu. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Hawaiian Humane Society (where she got her beloved two kitties, TK and Lucy). More information as to how to contribute can be found at: <http://www.hawaiianhumane.org/Donate-Now.html> The family will be having a private ceremony; however they will be celebrating her life on Friday, February 22, 2013 with a night of reminiscing and karaoke (one of her favorite things to do) at the Trancas Steakhouse in Napa, California on or around 8pm and also at Art's Hideaway in Honolulu, Hawaii on March 1, 2013 at approximately 6pm. Jo's ashes will be laid to rest next her daughter, Kym as it was her wishes, in Makiki Cemetery at 1630 Pensacola Street in Honolulu, Hawaii. You may sign the guestbook at www.treadwaywigger.com.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Treadway & Wigger Funeral Chapel & Crematory - February 05, 2020 at 09:28 AM



“ *Jo Ellen Vanatta*

November 19, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ *Jo, you were a good friend. Band was the best (I agree with Doug) and we stayed connected even after high school. Jo and I made the trek to Hawaii around the same time. We met our husbands in 1968 while they shared an apartment when attending Napa "Junior" College. When she comes home to Honolulu, she and I will be neighbors again as I live across the street from Makiki Cemetery. God bless and keep you, Jo. Kelli, she was a great mom and I know she is proud of you. Jeanne (Colbert) DeCosta*

February 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Love and miss you dearly Jo! I am so glad that you were able to come back to Napa so we could spend the last few years together. Kelli we will always be here for you and love you very much! With much love, Aunt Jill and Uncle Randy*

February 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM