

Cassa Waagmeester



Many things can be said about Cassa Sue Waagmeester. Known to friends and acquaintances as a friendly, energetic, empathic and decisive woman, her compassionate nature would always shine through, revealing her charm, warmth and conscientious demeanor. She was warmhearted, but tough and organized in all the things she sought to accomplish.

Cassa was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma to John and Margaret Ogan on March 6, 1940 and was raised in Yermo, CA. When she was young, Cassa's friends and family found that "straightforward" and "honest" were perfect words to describe her. Even as a child, Cassa demonstrated strong qualities of self-confidence, perceptive ability and a disposition that was enjoyable to those around her.

Cassa grew up with two younger sisters, Jo and Sherry. Cassa was constantly involved in all sorts of activities with her family. She was even-tempered, taking care not to get involved in too many family conflicts. This quality served her well, in perpetually bringing harmony, understanding and a sense of peace to the family. Cassa carried these traits into her adult life and served as one of many reasons why family and friends found her pleasurable and delightful to be around. Cassa was a person who genuinely understood and cared for others, making powerful connections with those she knew.

During her high school years, Cassa had a natural flair for cheering on and applauding just about everyone. She was constantly offering her support and encouragement to fellow members of the groups and activities in which she participated. She was a graduate of Barstow High School. Cassa was

often found to be the lead person facilitating a group activity, frequently filling the role of being "the life of the party."

Always considered a "good" friend, Cassa sought to understand the things that others enjoyed. For this reason Cassa always seemed to possess a never-ending collection of acquaintances. Cassa's friends found her easy to know and get along with because of her talent for being socially at ease, adept at conversation, and always amiable in her dealings with others. Cassa would always seek to learn what her friends enjoyed, and she would go out of her way to make sure that their needs were met. Cassa was always seen as the type of person who was the more gracious giver. In fact, she sometimes felt ill at ease when she was the one on the receiving end. Throughout her life she had many friends and later in life, she became very close friends with Jerry and Janet.

On April 16, 1969 Cassa married Ronald Waagmeester in Las Vegas, NV on their lunch break. Ronald was a pilot and "Suzie", as Ron called her, was a secretary at EG&G. After they were married they both returned to work to finish the day; however, it was never "business as usual" again. Compassionate and devoted, Cassa worked hard to make her new family happy. She was always generous with her time and this meant that Ron came first in Cassa's book; just as John, Cassa's son, came first in Ron's. She was always caring and made certain that she considered Ron's feelings. By trusting her emotions, Cassa did her best to make sure that both the marriage and home life ran smoothly. This is just one more example of how Cassa was truly a person of empathy.

Cassa's quality of being a caring and tolerant person who was very accepting of others translated to being a good mother to her son John. And later in life, John blessed Cassa with three beautiful grand-children; Robert, Renee and Rachel. The grand-children always loved Cassa; and in return "Gram" was completely and totally devoted to them; often generous to a fault and loving nothing more than cooking special meals for them; each having their own particular favorite.

Cassa experienced success in her work life over and over again. Her primary occupation was owner and operator of a Non-Emergency Medical Transportation company for more than 30 years and was employed for EG&G prior to becoming her own boss. Cassa always made the effort to understand what was needed at work, and was well known by her employee's as a "tough" but always fair boss. Cassa continually sought to learn what her employees did well and how they were most effective, a talent that enabled her to help them develop their own potential.

Because she was organized and methodical, Cassa took great pleasure in her various hobbies. Her favorite pursuits were shopping, shopping and more shopping. And in her spare time, she loved to dote on her three grand-children, especially cooking for them such treats as roasts on Sundays; homemade soups; and twice baked potatoes, a specialty of hers! Cassa enjoyed sharing her passions, especially cooking with Ron, and together they created some truly stunning dishes!

Cassa enjoyed traveling, and because she was so well organized, she would take on the responsibility of planning and scheduling all of the family vacations. Her gift for keeping things lively meant that vacations with Cassa were always enjoyable. Favorite vacations included trips to the West Indies and just time spent with family and friends at home, as she truly loved her home and the time she could spend there, away from work was truly cherished.

Cassa was a lover of animals and cherished her pets. One of Cassa's favorite was Shadow, a New Foundland. They were best friends for 5 wonderful years. Her family was rounded out by her terrier, Poochy.

When it was time to retire, there was but one word from Cassa, NEVER! An extremely hard worker with real drive; she started the day early and ended the day late; the thought of retiring was completely alien to her. Though she "slowed" down enough to have her grandchildren join the business to help run things, she still had her hand in everything. It's not that she did not think they could handle things, for she had no doubt they could, it's just that she

could not be idle.

Cassa passed away on September 5, 2011 in Las Vegas, NV. Cassa died after fighting a long battle with Parkinson's. She is survived by her loving husband Ron; her son John; and grandchildren: Robert, Renee and Rachel. Services were held at Palm Mortuary on Eastern where Cassa was laid to rest.

Throughout her life, Cassa was a gregarious and enthusiastic woman. She was generous in sharing her personal attributes, giving and helping those she knew and loved. She would often fill the role of coach, bringing out the best in everyone. She was generous, talented, tender hearted and tough as nails when she had to be. Cassa leaves behind her a legacy of life-long friendships and cherished memories. Everyone whose lives she touched will dearly remember and miss Cassa Sue Waagmeester.

Arrangements under the direction of Palm Eastern Mortuary, Las Vegas, NV.