



## Josephine "Jody" Lilligren

November 24, 1948 - March 7, 2024

### In Loving Memory of Josephine Lilligren

Josephine Lilligren, affectionately known as Jody, embarked on her final journey on March 7, 2024, leaving behind a tapestry of cherished memories and a legacy of love. Born on November 24, 1948, she lived a life filled with passion, creativity, and an unwavering zest for life.

Jody's educational journey was marked by excellence. She graduated from Palos Verdes High School, pursued her artistic aspirations at the California School of Arts, and graduated with honors from Long Beach State University. Her commitment to education led her to obtain her teaching credential from UC Berkeley.

Jody's adventurous spirit led her to the skies, where she served as a flight attendant for two years before transitioning into the field of education. As a teacher, she briefly taught at two elementary schools and the Oakland Army Base, spreading knowledge and inspiration wherever she went. Her true calling, however, unfolded at McAteer High School in San Francisco, where she dedicated nearly 20 years to being a special education teacher. Jody's impact on her students extended far beyond the classroom, as she provided not only academic guidance but also unwavering support and encouragement.

After a fulfilling career, Jody embraced a well-earned retirement in 2001, having left an indelible mark on the lives of countless students. Jody was first married to Jeff Conley for 13 years. Then her love story with her devoted spouse of 35 years, Steve Holets, began when they eloped to the enchanting landscape of Taos, New Mexico, on June 23, 1989. Their union blossomed into a remarkable partnership, characterized by 14 years of shared laughter and joy in Bellingham.

Jody and Steve embraced life together, never missing a day of shared adventures, even amidst the challenges that life presented. For 8 years straight, they indulged in the simple pleasure of Menchie's yogurt for dessert every evening, amassing over 2,400 delightful visits. Their routine extended beyond culinary delights to the great outdoors, where Jody found solace in walking through the forest, reveling in the beauty that surrounded her. Her love for art manifested in various forms—painting, drawing, pottery, and the creation of limericks. Jody's creative spirit knew no bounds, and she found joy in puns, effortlessly crafting them on the spur of the moment. Additionally, her love for running led her to complete three marathons, a testament to her active and adventurous spirit.

Jody's infectious happiness and childlike innocence endeared her to all who knew her. Her legacy is one of resilience, creativity, and an ability to find the good in almost any situation. She will be remembered not only for her accomplishments but for her vibrant and optimistic outlook on life.

Jody is survived by her loving husband, Steve Holets, and her sister, Lisa Metzler. She is pre-deceased by her brother, Robert Warren Lilligren, and sister, Terry Lilligren.

May Josephine Lilligren rest in eternal peace, her spirit forever alive in the hearts of those who were touched by her boundless love and enthusiasm for

life.

# Tribute Wall

JH

“ Steve,  
*Please accept our sincere  
condolences in the loss of your beloved Jody. We do fondly recall  
meeting her and regret not having an opportunity to get to know her  
better.  
We wish you peace*

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**Jon and Carol Holets** - March 21, 2024 at 12:00 AM