



# Norma Bell

MAY 18, 1934 - AUG 24, 2011



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FUNERAL HOME, MEMORIAL PARK & CREMATORY

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## **Norma Bell**

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**N**orma Jean Ruby Bell passed away peacefully on August 24, 2011 in Palo Alto, CA after a long and courageous fight with Alzheimer's disease. Born on May 18, 1934, Norma was as one of nine children raised by Merle Hugh Lyon and Mary Ella Lyon of Brawley, CA. Norma married her husband Ken Bell in 1962, and they settled in San Mateo, CA where they raised two sons. Ken feels blessed that Norma was patient, understanding, and supportive of his career in the navy, which required him to be away at sea for long stretches. She was an excellent navy wife, and always happy to counsel other navy wives to help them cope while their husbands were away on duty, as well as to socialize with them to keep spirits high. Norma served her community for over thirty years while working for Safeway grocery stores ' first in Belmont and then in San Mateo. Her kind, vivacious personality and dedicated service were appreciated by customers and co-workers alike. The void she left behind was only able to be filled with bar code scanners and super computers. Norma believed in a God that had given her many blessings and comforted her in difficult times. Norma often reminded her family that to have a friend you must first be a friend, and she was. No one was a stranger, and no gave more of her time and attention to those she cared about. Norma enjoyed travel and, after retiring, she and Ken traveled extensively around the US in their motor coach. She took special joy in meeting up with friends in the Apollo Amigos motor coach group. Immediately upon return from any trip she loved to share her experiences in vivid detail, and was quite an engaging storyteller. She treasured her home and the times she shared in it with others. She knew how to make any event fun, and every holiday festive. Plus she was an amazing cook and gave tremendous dinner parties. Norma loved to dance, and was always the first on the dance floor and the last to leave. While pregnant with her first son she entered and won first place in a dance contest, and one of her favorite things was to line dance to "Elvira," but she would give up any partner for a



## Obituary

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“Waltz Across Texas” in Ken’s arms. Norma will be enormously missed by her loving extended family ' husband of 49 years Ken Bell, sons Ken Bell Jr. (wife: Tess) of Palo Alto, CA and Garth Bell (wife: Michele) of San Tan Valley, AZ, and step-daughters Sharon Isackson (husband: Carl) of San Mateo, CA and Kimberly Bell of Salinas, CA ' as well as grandchildren Bryan, Ashley, Amanda, Alysse, Mia, Kyle, and Michaela, plus two great-grandsons. Also mourning her passing are her sisters Margaret and Dorothea, and her brothers Buddy and Charlie. Preceding her in death were her brothers Adrid, Earl, James, and Don. Norma will be laid to rest at a small private gathering of family. A public memorial service will be held on October 8th at 11am at Skylawn Memorial Park, located at Hwy 92 and Skyline Blvd in San Mateo, CA, where friends and family may pay their respects, with a reception on site to follow. In lieu of flowers the family asks that you donate to the Alzheimer’s Association at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org), or to the charity of your choice.



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

Norma you were the light that brought us all together. Christmas, Thanksgiving, Birthdays you would open up your home and make everyone feel welcome. Your grace and warmth will be miss but never forgotten. Your spirit will forever live in those that know and love you. I'm thankful that my children had the opportunity to grow up knowing such a vibrant loving Grammy. We love you Norma Jean.##imported-begin##Tina Bell##imported-end##

October 14 at 9:06 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

When I first met my cousin Norma Jean I was staying with my Grandmother, Norma Jean's Mother's sister, Mae Mable, during my Easter Vacation. She had just recently given birth to Kenny (he was 2 or 3 months old) and was staying with my Grandmother. I was probably around 9 years old.It was during that visit with my Grandparents and meeting Norma Jean that I experienced for the first time in my life "True Love". Ken came to visit her and their son Kenny and their unconditional love "Lite Up The Sky". My Barbie dolls became Norma Jean and Ken because of the love I felt they had for each other. Their love never ended it just going on, and on. How blessed Aunt Norma and Ken were/are to have shared this beautiful connection that not everyone in life gets to experience. I witnessed this love as a little girl and will always remember the special memory of "Love" that I saw between Norma Jean and Ken!God Bless You Norma Jean & Ken – True Love Never DiesDeborah Haller (Mary Louise's Daughter)##imported-begin##Deborah Haller##imported-end##

October 7 at 7:30 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

I always admired Norma's strength and the value placed on family.##imported-begin##Tracy Zollinger##imported-end##

October 6 at 4:35 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Your beautiful smile, love and kindness will be missed dearly. I have wonderful memories with you and the family that I have always cherished and always will. You've touched many hearts.... We thank you for being you.Your one of a kind missy. Love you always, forever and ever.##imported-begin##Jeri L. Valdez (Shackelford)##imported-end##

October 4 at 9:47 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

I met Ken and Norma Jean when I served with Ken on the USS Wiltsie, stationed at Treasure Island. She and Ken took me under their wing like so many others. There was always a home there, no matter what. Norma Jean, like Ken were wonderful mentors and always underscored that family was always the key element. I feel so blessed to have had her in my life and I treasure the times we had. I know that she treated me like one of her son's because once she was going to put me over her knee and spank me! I had shown up at their door step unannounced in my Navy whites. When I worked with Ken I was a First Class Machinist Mate. I made chief and then went LDO and made ensign. I wanted to surprise Ken and Norma Jean about the promotion and thus showed up in whites. Unbeknownst to me was that Ken was deployed and her was a Naval officer at the door, early in the morning, unannounced. Norma Jean answered the door and she appeared to be shaken and said, "Oh My God, What has happened?!! I said I got promoted and she about hit me! She thought something had happened to Ken and was bracing for the worst! After a good lashing she did like she always did, gave me a huge hug, told me how much I meant to her and that if I ever did that again to her I would be dead meat!" I never arrived unannounced in uniform again! She was such a wonderful lady and one of my adopted Moms! Love you Norma Jean- FCL###imported-begin###Frank C. Leach###imported-end###

September 28 at 2:17 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Beautiful both inside and out, Aunt Norma will be greatly missed!! I always loved their visits to Alabama. May she rest in peace and may you all find peace with her passing. Thoughts and prayers to you all!!!###imported-begin###Janice Williams Long###imported-end###

September 1 at 4:25 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Norma the day I came out of the Bank and walked into you, that was the day we came together with a love that has lasted for a life time. We had two great Sons, Kenneth JR AND Garth you were a great stepmother. With love for Sharon and Kimberly, We have great grand (seven ) The two great grand sons are the best.###imported-begin###Kenneth G.Bell###imported-end###

September 1 at 10:54 AM



# Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

Norma will be missed by all the Amigos! We send our deepest sympathy to all of you! Norma always had a smile on her face and was a joy to be around. Another song that makes us think of Norma is Kenny Rogers, "She'll Always Be A Lady". Sending our love and prayers at this difficult time! God Bless!##imported-begin##Bruce & Jan Watson##imported-end##

September 1 at 6:27 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

I am signing this for my Mom Vanita (Lyon) Collins. I am Vanita's daughter. We both send our condolences on the passing of Norma Bell. God Bless you and your family. Love, Dixie (Collins) Flynn And Vanita (Lyone) Collins##imported-begin##Dixie Flynn##imported-end##

August 31 at 5:01 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

If roses grow in heaven Lord , please pick a bunch for me. Place them in Aunt Norma's arms and tell her there from me. Tell her that I love her Lord and when she turns to smile, place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while. Love and prayers to all of you God's Peace Beverly##imported-begin##Beverly Lyon##imported-end##

August 31 at 2:48 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Three Sister's ã?Â© Francis I. Gillespie We are three sisters Three sisters are we I love each of you, And I know you love me We ã?Â©-ã?Â©re not always together, Life sometimes keeps us apart. But we're never separated We ã?Â©-ã?Â©re in each other's heart. Now I know we've had our troubles, But we always get thru. The real message is you love me, And I also love you. We have had lots of good times That we'll never forget Sometimes we worry And sometimes we fret But if God ever gave me something special you see, It might have been the blessing of, Three sisters are we. The Lord above has gave me lots of happiness and glee But the most special thing he did was Make us sisters, all three. We Loved You OUR DEAR SISTER, YOU WILL FOREVER REMAIN OUR HEARTS, THIS IS NOT THE END, WE WILL MEET YOU AGAIN.... SADLY MISSED BY: DORETHA WILLIAMS and Margaret Beech (Sisters) Buddy and Charlie Lyon (Btothers). May GOD BE With My Sisters Husband and her family during this TIME of SORROW.##imported-begin##margaret##imported-end##

August 31 at 12:56 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

My faith knows that Norma is dancing in the clouds of heaven. Bless you all. love enola and robert###imported-begin##Enola and Robert Berker###imported-end##

August 31 at 9:14 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Where do I begin...What a beautiful and knowledgable Aunt who at one point in my life when I so desperately needed advice she gave it to without judging..I thank her so much for that..To my Uncle Ken thank you so much for loving and taking care of Aunt Norma the way you did...Kenny and Garth as I said before we all were so lucky to have had her in our lives...My heart is aching but I know there are others smiling right now...Love and hugs to you all...###imported-begin##Janice Lyon###imported-end##

August 31 at 9:13 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

I'll always remember you as my earliest babysitter, Noma Jean! All the memories from all my cousins,"The Lyons", on c st, and Uncle Merle and Aunt Ella Lyon., God Bless You Norma Jean . Take care Ken. Jerry Dean & Jean James###imported-begin##Jerry Dean James###imported-end##

August 31 at 5:26 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Ken know i don't have to tell you what a great gal you got when you found Norma and she did pretty good herself. Really loved her, she will truly be missed. All our love Eddie & Family###imported-begin##Eddie Ray James###imported-end##

August 30 at 6:30 AM



# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Norma by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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