

Bonnee Rainwater

November 19, 1940 - August 21, 2013



Bonnee's Life Story

Through the life of Bonnee Rainwater, we are reminded that there is little value found in the things we have or in the wealth we accumulate, but that it is in the moments and love we share with our loved ones that we are richly blessed. There was no greater gift in her life than her family, and it was when gathered with her loved ones near that Bonnee found true happiness. She was

an independent and resourceful woman who faced whatever challenges that came her way with a graceful courage that is to be admired. Blessed to spend the better part of the past 8 years with the love of her life, Bonnee lived life to the fullest each day. She will be dearly missed while her memory is forever cherished.

The first half of the 1940s was very much defined by WWII overseas. Although the United States had remained neutral for a time while tensions brewed, this was no longer an option after the vicious attack on our naval base in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Countless young servicemen and women were then sent overseas to fight for the preservation of the freedoms we still enjoy today. Those who remained stateside gathered around radios to await news from the front lines while becoming familiar with rationing on common goods like sugar, rubber, and paper.

It was during this time of great tension that a young couple from Kalamazoo, Michigan, welcomed twin girls into their hearts and home on November 19, 1940. Bonnee and her twin sister, Billee, were the youngest two of four children born to their parents, Robert and Beatrice "Inez" (Groves) Rainwater, and they were raised in the family home in Vicksburg alongside their older siblings, Bob and Linda.

In many ways Bonnee experienced an upbringing that was typical for the youth





of her generation. Her parents operated a local grocery store in Vicksburg to support their family. Being a twin came in handy for Bonnee while she was growing up since she always had someone to play with. Once a year the Rainwater family vacationed in Arkansas, which is where both of Bonnee's parents were originally from. She was a student at local schools, graduating from Vicksburg High School in 1959. From there Bonnee went on to college at Western Michigan University and Northwood.

Throughout her life there was nothing that was more important to Bonnee than the people she loved. She was filled with unspeakable joy when she was blessed with the births of her two daughters, Jami and Christine. Although she loved being a mother, Bonnee just may have argued that becoming a grandmother was the role she had waited her entire life for. Her four grandchildren, Ashley, Kyle, Samantha, and Kevin were the light of her life in addition to her two "special" grandchildren, Anita and Adison. New and exciting changes were in store for Bonnee when a relationship began to blossom between herself and someone she had known for over 30 years. His name was James, and they began dating some time after the death of his wife. After about a year, Bonnee and James were married on October 21, 2006. This was a day she never forgot as she felt that the life they shared together brought her full circle. Bonnee was so very grateful to have finally found the happiness and love that she had been searching for throughout her life.



Independent and strong, Bonnee was a busy woman who knew what she liked. She loved being at her home in Florida and things like shopping and strawberry shortcake, but Christmas was a major highlight in her book every year because it was a time to gather with her family. Bonnee spent 19 years working as a sales coordinator for General Motors.

With a life that spanned times of great change in the world around her, Bonnee Rainwater was a gift in the lives of her friends and loved ones. She was loving and giving, and with her





cheerful and positive demeanor she drew others near with ease. Although Bonnee accomplished so much of which to be proud, there was nothing that made her heart swell with pride like the children and grandchildren she treasured more than life itself. Life will never be the same without her here, but the timeless legacy she leaves behind will be carried on by those who follow her. Bonnee will never be forgotten.

Bonnee Rainwater, of Vicksburg, died on Wednesday, August 21, 2013. Bonnee's family includes her husband, James; two daughters: Jami (Bartt) Nettleman, of Sturgis; Christine

(Randy) Veld, of Scotts; stepchildren: Vickie (Cliff) Fredericks, of SC; Bruce Fredericks, of Vicksburg; four grandchildren: Ashley, Kyle, Samantha, Kevin; two "special" grandchildren: Anita and Adison; siblings: Robert (Sandy) Rainwater, of Vicksburg; Linda (Dr. James) Yates, of TN; Billee (Ronald) Merguie, of AR; and several nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends on Friday from 3-8 p.m. at Life Story Funeral Home, 409 S. Main, Vicksburg (269-649-1697). A funeral service will be held at the same location on Saturday at 2 p.m. Burial will be at the Vicksburg Cemetery. Please visit Bonnee's webpage at www.lifestorynet.com where you can sign the guestbook, share a memory, and share a photo.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to the Bronson Hospital NCCU and/or Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation. A special thanks to the Bronson Neuro Critical Care Unit for their compassion and outstanding care over the past two weeks.



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