

## Janet Dunipace

**PHOENIX** - On February 15, 1940, in Brooklyn, NY, Lester J. Dailey and Madlyn Voorhees Dailey welcomed their second daughter, Janet Mae Dailey. After junior high school, Jan's family moved to New Jersey where she graduated from Middletown Township High School in 1957 at age 17.

Jan immediately started work as a civilian employee at Ft. Monmouth, NJ while attending Monmouth College in the evenings. In 1962, she and her friend Margie Wilson (now O'Brien) conspired to each invite two unmarried lieutenants to lunch at Sal's Tavern in Red Bank, NJ. Jan first dated the other lieutenant Margie had invited. But she married the second one, Ian Douglas Dunipace, on June 9, 1963 at Red Bank Methodist Church where Doug sang in the choir and Jan taught the 4-year-olds Sunday School class. Jan always claimed she saved the best for last.

Doug finished his active-duty obligation in August 1963 and the newly-weds moved to his home town of Tucson, AZ where Doug started law school at the University of Arizona and Jan quickly got a job with the U.S. Geological Survey, conveniently located on the U of A campus, to support them. In 1966 when Doug received his law degree, Jan got her PhT (Putting hubby Through).

Jan and Doug moved to Phoenix in August 1966 where Jan transferred to the USGS Phoenix office and Doug became an associate in the law firm of Jennings, Strouss, Salmon & Trask. Jan and Doug joined First Methodist Church of Phoenix in October 1966 and have been active members ever since while serving in a variety of leadership roles.

Jan's family grew with the birth of Kenneth Mark Dunipace, on June 6, 1968, and Leslie Amanda Dunipace, on December 5, 1972. When her children started school, Jan was able to resign from USGS to become a full-time Mom and community volunteer extraordinaire. For her work in their schools, Paradise Valley School District recognized her as Volunteer of the Year. Jan was a dedicated Cub Scout Den Mother, Brownie and Girl Scout leader and State Chair for Girl Scout cookie sales.

Jan served on several community boards including the Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestra, Valley Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Gompers Auxiliary, PV East Little League and Northeast Basketball Association. She was a caregiver for infants at the Crisis Nursery and frequently brought home their shared sniffles. She was also one of the cooks in the Kitchen Cabinet, a dozen wives



of lawyers and judges, who created fund-raising dinners and cook books to support the Maricopa County Bar Association.

In 1986, Jan returned to work in the federal government at the Small Business Administration Phoenix Office where she advanced from a secretary to Administrative Officer responsible for HR, Budget and Public Information. She retired in 2004 to successfully battle breast cancer.

In retirement, Jan enjoyed playing "good bridge," solving crossword puzzles, reading escape novels, and spending time with her family, especially grandsons Ian and Isaac. She and Doug travelled more, including much of the US, Canada and Mexico as well as 27 other countries. Many trips were made with family and friends to increase the enjoyment.

On Jan's birthday in 2020, just before COVID, Jan and Doug moved to the Beatitudes Campus into a new patio home. While there, Jan became a volunteer again as Corresponding Secretary for the Beatitudes Auxiliary, a member of the Dining Committee and the Patio Homes Activities Committee and, most recently, as a member of the Campaign Cabinet for the THRIVE capital campaign.

Jan's passion was her family, her husband, her children and, maybe most significantly, her grandsons. She cherished every opportunity to share life experiences with them. She also cherished friendships, including with her two Mexican "daughters" and the refugees she welcomed from Viet Nam, Burundi, Sudan and Eritrea. And she always had pets, especially dogs, as many as 3 at a time. When learning of Jan's death, friends remembered her as kind, gracious, warm, friendly, classy, elegant, caring, uplifting, and lovely. She was all of that, and more. These traits contributed to her positive personality. Not many things could get Jan down but Stage 4 ovarian cancer finally did. Six weeks after diagnosis, Jan succumbed on June 28, 2025 at Hospice of the Valley Ryan House.

Jan was predeceased by her parents, her son Kenneth Mark Dunipace, her brother Lester R. Dailey, and her brother-in-law David G. Collins. She is survived by her husband Doug, her daughter Leslie Dunipace and her husband Steven Flower, her daughter-in-law Lisa Hornung and her fiancé Christopher Baird, her grandsons Ian Quinn Dunipace and Isaac Deacon Flower, her sister Doris Finney, her sisters-in-law Judy Dailey and Elizabeth Collins, her Yorkie Duke, and several nieces and nephews, who will all miss her deeply.

A time of remembrance and celebration with a Hawaiian theme will be held on October 11 at 2:00 p.m. in the Life Center at the Beatitudes Campus, 1610 W Glendale Avenue. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Jan's memory may be made to the First United Methodist Foundation of Phoenix, 5510 N Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012 or the Beatitudes Campus Foundation, 1610 W Glendale Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85021 or to the charity of your choice.