



Rachel JoAnn Hanson

September 8, 1969 - March 24, 2023

Tribute by sister, Susan Gregory

Rachel JoAnn Hanson was born on September 8, 1969 and died on March 24, 2023. It was a short six weeks earlier that Rachel was diagnosed with terminal cancer that had invaded her

body. I remember how excited we all were when our parents told us we were going to have a new baby in the house. I was 10 years old at the time and it was an exciting time at the Hanson house. Because of our age difference, I was out of the house during much of Rachel's school years. But I couldn't have been prouder when she received a scholarship to run track and field for Utah State University (my alma mater). She will be remembered as an athlete (high hurdles), an extremely talented artist (in all mediums), and a compassionate, resilient, and giving person. Most of her family has a beautiful piece of her art work. One of Mark's good friends even commissioned Rachel to paint a picture of a trophy fish he had caught while fishing in Oregon. Those of us who have one of her paintings will treasure it and remember her creative talents. I was privileged to have a closer relationship with Rachel during her later years in life as I helped her with her weekly grocery shopping and helped her manage her finances. She had a big heart and compassion for others and always wanted to help the less fortunate. I was pretty sure most of the food she was buying each week was given to others in the complex at Valley Woods where she lived. I also think the five or six charges made daily at the vending machine was to buy others a snack. She always wanted to help the homeless person on the corner by giving him or her any spare money she might have. She has two beautiful children, Robin and Bryce, and she loved them with all of her heart. She loved getting new photos of her grandchildren Raymond and Violet. She loved slipping her kids a \$20 bill (although neither needed it) but it was something she had learned from our parents and always wanted to do. She struggled for the last 30+ years of her life with mental health issues. A special thank you goes out to the case workers and staff who helped her at Valley Woods where she lived for many years. It was also because of our parent that she got the services she needed because it is so hard for a person with mental illness to navigate our health system. So please be kind to the next homeless person you encounter because many of them don't have the love and family support that Rachel was so fortunate to have. I loved taking her shopping each week and will miss the special bond we developed later in life. I love you Rachel and will miss our weekly visits! Rest in peace and enjoy your next adventures free from pain. Until we meet again.