



Glenda Creel Orel

September 3, 1949 - August 19, 2023

Glenda Jo Creel Orel of Birmingham, Alabama peacefully passed away on August 19th, 2023, in the comfort of her family home in Graysville, Alabama. Born September 3, 1949, Glenda Jo defied all the odds in many aspects of her life, most recently with her 4-year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Glenda Jo was a graduate of West Jefferson High School where she was crowned Homecoming Queen.

She is survived by her son Justin Willoughby Orel (Birmingham), Grandchildren Jaden Connor (Graysville), Khloe, and Colton (Hayden). Her Mother Annie Jo Murray Creel (Graysville), Sister Lisa Ann Creel Stevens (Graysville), Niece Kayla Jo Hunt (Brandon) (Gardendale), Great nephew and niece Colin and Kinley (Gardendale). Her cousins Shelia Jenkins and Sherry Ellis. Also, a host of friends she considered family.

Glenda Jo was preceded in death by her adoring husband of 27 years, Steve Orel. Also, her father Glen Paul "Coot" Creel. And her cousins Randi Kay Creel Brasfield and Blake Creel.

She dedicated her life to fighting for social justice and anti-racism. Glenda Jo received many awards for her work such as the 2003 Caryn Hollingsworth Outstanding Undergraduate student award for her work in anthropology and social work. Glenda Jo was also proud of her work on organizing the NLG conference in Birmingham.

She attended Peoples College of Law in which her husband was one of the founding members. However, after the earthquake of 1994 in Los Angeles,

California where they were currently residing, Glenda Jo, Steve, and their son Justin made their cross-country trip back home to Birmingham, Alabama. After returning home, her husband founded the WOO, World of Opportunity. A non-profit free adult education school. Once her husband Steve passed away of cancer in 2007, Glenda continued his work at the WOO as executive Director until she retired in July 2011.

Glenda Jo loved her family and pets deeply. Some of her dogs she was fond of were Bama, Moses, Percy, Smatta, and Chance. Cats: Matthew, George, and Jackson. Also, her beloved chinchilla Simon.

Glenda Jo leaves behind a legacy of passion, love, commitment, and strength. She left a lasting impact on all who were surrounded by her.

A memorial service will be announced at a later time.

Tribute Wall



“ *Glenda Creel Orel*

October 05, 2023 at 01:15 PM