



Valerie Norman Sanders

January 26, 1955 - December 11, 2021

Valerie Norman Sanders, 66, of Nashville, TN passed away Saturday morning, December 11, 2021, at St. Thomas Hospital West.

Valerie was born on January 26, 1955, in Nashville. She was predeceased by her parents, Jack Norman, Jr. and Duina Zacchini Norman and her sister, Pia Norman Stratton. She is survived by her husband, John B. Sanders; her identical twin sister, Melody Norman Vela (Jorge); her stepchildren, John Scott Sanders (Michelle) and Rebecca Sanders Champney (Dennis); her five nephews, David Hardin, John Hardin (Stephanie), Octavio Vela, Jorge Vela, II, and Mario Jack Vela; her niece, Delia Hardin Darst (David); her stepmother, Barbara Norman; her four-legged furry friend, Winston Churchill (Mayor of Abbotsford); and her two horses, Big Red and Gentleman Pete.

Valerie, also known as “one of the twins” or “Val”, lived a fulfilling and happy life. She loved being around family and friends. Although she had no children of her own, she considered herself a second mom to her niece and five nephews and a surrogate grandmother to her six great-nieces and nephews. Fondly known as “Aunt Val”, a title that carried a whole lot of love among her brood, she guarded and helped raise them as if they were her own.

Valerie graduated from John Overton High School in 1971 and received her RN from Belmont College in 1977. She worked at West Side Hospital until joining Case Management Consultants, where she worked as a case manager until her retirement in 2017.

Valerie proudly joined the Tennessee Air National Guard, after being recruited

by her father, Lieutenant Colonel Jack Norman, Jr., into his aeromedical squadron. Captain Valerie Norman served with her unit in Operation Desert Storm. While serving in the guard Valerie met the love of her life, Johnny Bruce Sanders. They married on September 23, 1995. They traveled the world, entertained often and enjoyed life together with family and friends for over 26 years.

Valerie was an avid horsewoman. She often said some of her happiest times were spent in the saddle or just hanging out among her horses at the barn. Always ready for a good time, Valerie leaves behind a legacy of wonderful memories filled with a slew of antics, laughter and joy. She was a bundle of fun and a most beloved sister, wife, aunt and friend. A kindred soul who is dancing in heaven with her sister Pia, Val will live in our hearts and fondest memories forever.

Visitation will be held at Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home, 2707 Gallatin Road, Nashville, TN 37216, on Friday, December 17, 2021, from 12pm until the time of service at 2pm. A short graveside ceremony will be held at the Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery on Monday, December 20, 2021, at 11am. In lieu of flowers please make donations to the animal rescue service of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Middle-TN State Veterans Cemetery

7931 McCrory Ln.
Nashville, TN 37221

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 17. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home - Nashville Chapel
2707 Gallatin Pike
Nashville, TN 37216
(615) 262-3312
info@phillipsrobinson.com
<https://www.phillipsrobinson.com/>

Celebration of Life

DEC 17. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home - Nashville Chapel
2707 Gallatin Pike
Nashville, TN 37216
(615) 262-3312
info@phillipsrobinson.com
<https://www.phillipsrobinson.com/>

Graveside

DEC 20. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery
McCory Lane Nashville, TN US
Nashville, TN

Tribute Wall



“ Valerie Norman Sanders

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ I fondly remember Valerie . We were great buddies during our high school and college years . I remember riding horses like “cowgirls” on the family property and also spending time at the Printer’s Alley apartment. She was always smiling and so much fun . I send my condolences to all of the family.

Ella Blair Johnson

Ella Blair Johnson - December 18, 2021 at 06:19 PM



“ So sorry to hear, as a comrade in the 118th Aero Med of working together and the many adventures in our group. Dieter Instinski



Dieter Instinski - December 17, 2021 at 11:08 AM



“ Johnny, I am so sorry to hear of Valerie’s passing. I know she was the light of your life. Her big personality will always be remembered. Our prayers are with you. Brian and Mary McClanahan

Mary McClanahan - December 17, 2021 at 10:37 AM

MF

“ Sorry to hear of Valerie's passing. We had lots of fond memories during our time together in the 118th TANG. I am glad to see that her life after the military was full of love and happiness. Godspeed Val!

Mary K. "Fletch" Fletcher

Mary Fletcher - December 16, 2021 at 07:15 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Valerie Norman Sanders.



December 16, 2021 at 01:53 PM

BW

“ One of our favorite friends to see come in the dealership. Always a smile and happy hello.

Ben wade - December 16, 2021 at 01:13 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Valerie Norman Sanders.



December 15, 2021 at 10:04 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Valerie Norman Sanders.*



December 15, 2021 at 08:05 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Valerie Norman Sanders.*



December 15, 2021 at 05:09 PM



“ *Valerie was such a fun loving person to be around. I loved being with her. She will really be missed. My heart and prayers are with JJohn and her family at this sad time. May Val rest in peace.*



Debby Booth - December 15, 2021 at 09:58 AM



I share the same sentiment about Valerie and am so sad to hear about her passing

Dieter Instinski - December 17, 2021 at 11:02 AM