



Laurene "Laurie" Alda Manhard

August 23, 1941 - July 9, 2024

It is with an aching heart that I share the passing of my beautiful, beloved wife, Laurene Alda 'Laurie' Manhard, after sixty-one wonderful years of marriage, on July 9, 2024. While Laurie's leaving is a devastating blow, it was her time and through her last moments, she was surrounded by the love and prayers of her whole family.

Laurie's goodness touched countless people over the years, her joyous, sunny spirit, infectious smile and generous, giving heart lighting up not only my life, but the lives of her family, friends and even casual acquaintances for over eight decades.

Born in Detroit on August 23, 1941, the daughter of Laurence L. Kortkamp and Madeline (Soper) Kortkamp, Laurie and I were high-school sweethearts, graduating first from suburban Detroit's Bloomfield Hills High School in 1959 and then earning our college degrees from the University of Arizona in 1963. Married at Tucson's Presbyterian Church in a beautiful sunset service a week after graduation on June 5, 1963, we embarked on life's great adventure, which saw us blessed with two wonderful children – Chris, born in 1967, and Wendy, born in 1973.

Those blessings were only magnified by both our children finding their own soulmates, Chris marrying the extraordinary Kelly Kathleen McKelvey in 1992,

and Wendy marrying the accomplished engineer Mark Gibson in 2001.

Laurie was born to be the ideal mother and grandmother, and her children and grandchildren are living proof of her amazing gift. Chris and Kelly's three children, Matthew, born in 1995, Samantha, born in 1997, and Ryan, born in 2000, have already embarked on their adult lives, while Wendy and Mark's daughter and son, Emma, born in 2003 and Ben, born in 2006 are still in school, Emma a senior at Chapman University and Ben about to attend Boise State University in the fall.

'Grammy' was as close to her grandchildren as it was possible to be, and we were fortunate to be as much a part of their lives as we were, watching them grow into the wonderful, loving young people they've become.

While Laurie's life was always centered around family, her interests were many and varied. She was an avid bowler from the first year of our marriage to the end of this year's league bowling in May at age eighty-two. An excellent seamstress, Laurie would make not only her own outfits when we were first married, but made sure that as our children and then grandchildren grew, they always had fun, fashionable clothes sewn by her loving hands.

For Laurie, reading her favorite authors or watching classic movies were a favorite way to relax, and if she was outdoors, nothing made her happier than being in the pool with the family. In more recent years, it would be just the two of us, simply enjoying a warm afternoon relaxing in water watching as hawks lazily circled over us on their glistening wings.

At age 40, in addition to her other hobbies, Laurie renewed her passion for aviation, a love she'd learned from her father, Chief Engineer of General Motors Cadillac Division, by taking flying lessons. In seemingly no time at all, she'd become an accomplished private pilot, flying family and friends all over

Northern California and southern Nevada from San Jose's Reid-Hillview Airport. As in everything else she did, Laurie displayed a natural ability and grace in the sky, and it was a joy to watch her as she took off on another adventure.

If she wasn't at the controls herself, Laurie was happy to let others take over, so once I retired, we were fortunate enough to be able to travel almost everywhere in the world, flying or cruising to places we'd once only dreamed of.

As exotic as those ports and cities were, many of Laurie's most cherished memories over the years were trips to Hawaii and Disneyland with our children and grandchildren, Grammy proudly watching her grand-babies growing into the special young people they now are.

Fortunately, God granted us one last wonderful trip together in June, our 61st Anniversary holiday at our favorite Playa Los Arcos Resort in Puerto Vallarta, where we lolled in the warm pool waters, drank our non-alcoholic Piña Coladas, watched a week of glorious Mexican sunsets, and knew just how blessed we had been in our lives.

From that day we fell in love so many years ago, 'our song' has always been Bobby Darin's classic 'Dream Lover', and Laurie will always be mine, so just as we said every night as we kissed before going to sleep, I say to her in Heaven now, 'I love you a bushel and a peck', knowing that she's answering 'And a hug around the neck.' Pleasant dreams and sleep well, my darling.

In addition to myself, Stephen Thomas 'Tom' Manhard, born May, 22, 1941, Laurie is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Chris and Kelly McKelvey Manhard of Corvallis, Oregon, their three children, Matthew C, Samantha C.

and Ryan T. Manhard, daughter and son-in-law Wendy Manhard Gibson and Mark Gibson of Portland, Oregon, and their two children Emma M. and Ben H. Gibson. Together as a family, while we may mourn, we know that Laurie, a beautiful, loving wife, mother and grandmother, knows of our undying love and that she will forever be in our hearts.

Tribute Wall

TM

“ *It seems like only yesterday and not a full year since I tried to put into words what an amazing woman you were, Laurie – how loving, kind and generous, but it has been that long, and those 365 days have made me even more grateful for the love and support you gave me, your children and grandchildren every minute of every day we had together.*

Your unconditional love made me a far better person than I ever thought I could be, darling, and your children and grandchildren are a living legacy of the exceptional example you set – they are as kind, loving and generous as you or I could possibly hope for.

As each day passes, I’m reminded of you in countless ways, and it’s those wonderful, loving memories that I’ll continue to cherish for the rest of my life until, God willing, we are once again reunited – together forever.

All my love always,

Your Tom

tom manhard - July 09, 2025 at 03:05 AM

WG

“ I had a dream about you again last night mom. The last three nights I’ve dreamt of you and each time we’ve had the best, squeezeiest of hugs after you greeted me with a “Hi sweetie”! I think this is your way of visiting me. This is the only way we can hug now, but I cherish it. It’s been seven months since you had to go home and the passage of time hasn’t made it any easier. I’m comforted by the knowledge that I’ll get to go home one day as well, and that you’ll be there to greet me with your best hugs that you’ve been saving up for me. I love you!

Wendy Gibson - January 27, 2025 at 04:22 PM

CM

“ With great sorrow, I say goodbye to my wonderful Mother. Mom was many things to many people; loving, generous, caring and most of all completely selfless. Almost everything she ever did was for the benefit of someone else. I was lucky enough to be the recipient of that love and selflessness more times than I can possibly count. My Dad, sister Wendy, then later my beautiful wife and kids also had a front row seat to her never ending love and support. My friends were always welcome whether it was convenient or not. She would drive half my team to baseball games, cook burgers for friends that came home for lunch period and never once asked us not to come. There are just too many acts of kindness to mention. Growing up, it's easy to take this for granted, and as a kid I just assumed everyone was like this. Only later with time and experience did I realize how rare a person she was. She fought through enormous health issues the last decade of her life and her tremendous strength continuously amazed me and my family. I hope to persevere through any hardships that come my way with half as much grace and a smile on my face just like she always displayed. She will be missed by many but I'm so proud that I was the boy she always called her Baby. I love you Mom.

Love,
Chris



Chris Manhard - July 13, 2024 at 12:16 AM

MM

“ 2 files added to the album through the years



Matthew Manhard - July 12, 2024 at 09:14 PM

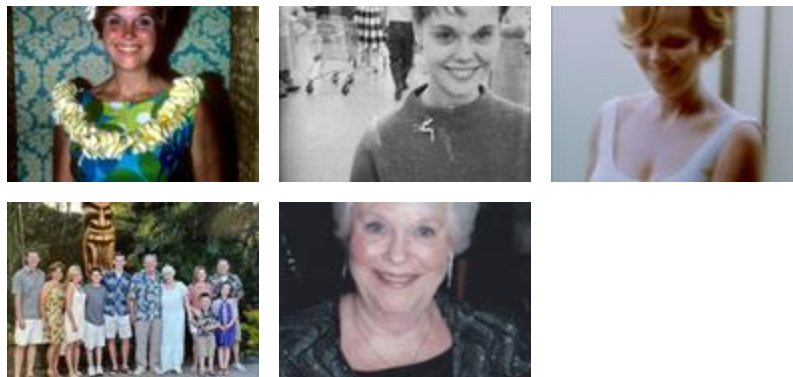
RL

“ Growing up in San Jose California Laurie was my second Mom 😊❤️. She was always there for myself and all the neighborhood kids, from cooking for us anytime we were hungry, watching sports with us, introducing us to bowling, and most important just being a warm hearted loving person who all us kids loved. Laurie will always hold a special place in my heart as she treated me like a son. Many happy memories will live with me forever. Love you Tom, Chris, Kelly, & kids. ❤️ Ron Lozon

ron lozon - July 11, 2024 at 10:43 PM

MM

“ 5 files added to the album through the years



Matthew Manhard - July 11, 2024 at 08:42 PM

AW

“ *The thing I will remember most about Laurie is how warm and welcoming she was to us all, treating me and my family as her own. Laurie opened her heart and home to all but her hugs were the most welcoming of all, I will miss them and her fiercely. Tom I send love and support to you, remember people are here for you. All our love, Aly, Steve, Emily & Colin* ❤️❤️



Aly Welkley - July 11, 2024 at 07:53 PM

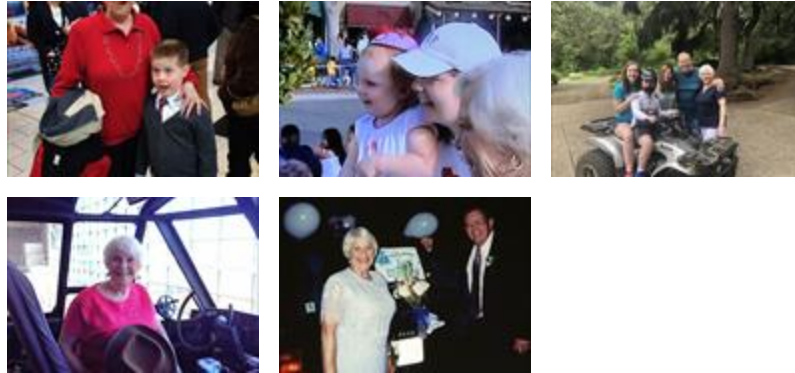
MP

“ *What I remember most about Laurie is how devoted she was to her children and grandchildren. I just loved watching her with them. She also gave me a great gift one year. She altered my wedding gown so I could wear it on our anniversary. I will always be grateful for her wonderful sewing skills, making that day even more special. We are praying for you, Tom as we know you will miss Laurie very much and for your family.*

Mary Prevost - July 11, 2024 at 04:03 PM

WG

“ 16 files added to the album through the years



Wendy Gibson - July 11, 2024 at 03:34 PM

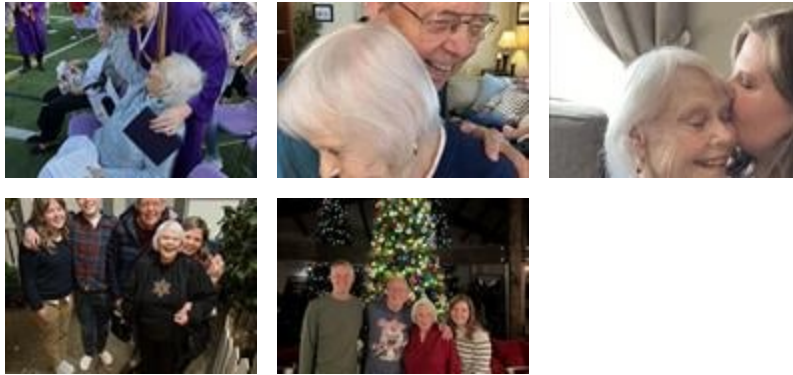
PH

“ Hugs to you Tom. Laurie was my best friend and cohort. We bowled..we went to national tours in many cities, had a great time. My neighbors Tom and Laurie were wonderful, like family! I will miss her tremendously! We tried many adult courses, one was flight ground school, and ended up with flying lessons and our private pilots licences...The fun we had going for those \$100 burgers at tiny airports! (that's the plane rental and the fuel lol not the burger! Our husbands were very supportive! I will miss you alot my friend. ❤️❤️
❤️

Penny Hunter - July 11, 2024 at 03:05 PM

WG

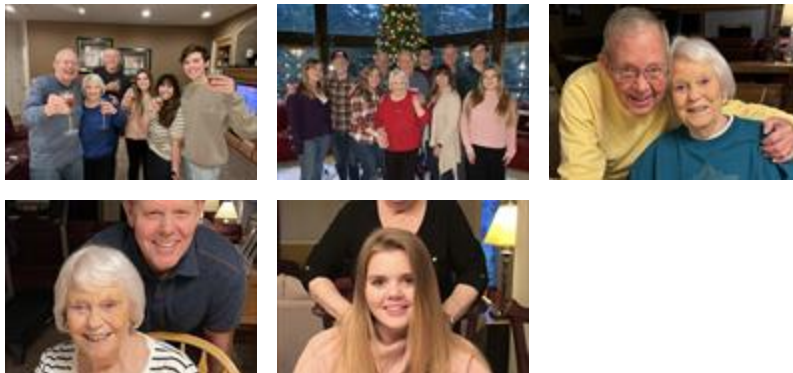
“ I will miss mom every single day. From big family gatherings, to small and simple gestures, she was always there for us with a smile and her whole heart involved. To Mom, family was everything, she was the very best example to learn from and made me into the mother that I am now. I am forever grateful that God chose her to be my mother and blessed us with so many years together. Those years still seem too few, but I will cherish those that we did have. I love you mommy!! Xoxo Your sweetie



Wendy Gibson - July 11, 2024 at 01:49 PM

KM

“ 14 files added to the album through the years



Kelly Manhard - July 11, 2024 at 01:42 PM