



Terrie Jo Vanover

April 16, 1966 - July 24, 2015

T.J. Vanover of Willcox died at her home on July 24, 2015 at the age of 49. She was born in Bakersfield, California on April 16, 1966 to Troy Pinkley and Mary Dell Cash Pinkley. T.J. was a Wildland Firefighter for the Springerville Ranger District, was a Fire Look Out observer station at the Big Lake Lookout. On September 28, 1991 in Show Low she married George Vanover who survives her. Also surviving is her father Troy Pinkley of Delano, California and her children; Chris (Cali Kreinbrink) Johnson of Willcox, Cassie Johnson of Peoria, Arizona, Kara Vanover of Willcox and Heidi Vanderheibe of Trinidad, Colorado along with 7 grandchildren. Her sister Kristen Malone and her brother Troy Pinkley both of Snowflake, Arizona also survived her. Private family services will be held. Cremation entrusted to Westlawn Chapel, Mortuary and Crematory of Willcox, Arizona. You may express condolences at www.westlawnchapelmortuary.com

Cemetery Details

Westlawn Crematory

105 S. Arizona Ave.
Willcox, AZ 85643

Tribute Wall



“ *Terrie Jo Vanover*

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM



“ *you are an amazing woman, you are the best ever mommy! you gave your love so freely to anyone who would accept it. You open your arms wide to anyone who would need them, as you did with your home. We know you are watching over us with your mom right now, and I can see that fabulous smile of yours saying to your mom, look at my family, there is a bright star in the sky now, right next to your grandmother , your mother and you! I am blessed that you were a part of my life, see ya soon!*

Aunt Georgie - July 27, 2015 at 09:09 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to you at this time of loss. May God give you comfort and peace.*

Pete and Patsy McCanne



Patsy McCanne - July 25, 2015 at 09:45 AM

“ Terrie Jo (Pinkley) (Johnson) Vanover

Terrie was born on April 16, 1966 to Troy and Mary Dell Pinkley in Riverside CA. Terrie left for the next great adventure in heaven on July 24th 2015.

They moved to Lakeside then to Show Low, AZ when she was a baby.

She met and married Leland Johnson in Show Low and had 2 beautiful children. Christopher and Cassie Johnson.

I met Terrie in January of 1991 and immediately fell totally in love with her. She was a waitress at Denny's . I went there almost every night for dinner just to see her. I finally "tipped" her with a dozen red roses and a diamond ring in August. We were married in Show Low on September 28th, 1991. She gave me 2 wonderful children that day. I was a firefighter for both the Show Low Fire Dept and the Forest Service lakeside RD. The pastor Tom Brown, Best Man Kevin Eshom, Russ Downing and most of the guests were firefighters. She was afraid that someone would get a fire call during the ceremony. It didn't happen.

In 1993 she gave me another beautiful daughter Kara Faye Vanover. By then she had a job as the fire lookout at Big Lake (1991 - 1995). One day while she was in the tower and I was off duty with Chris and 2 month old Kara, there was a fire just down the road from our house. I had taken the kids with me to check it out and became the Incident Commander. Chris was in the car sleeping and I had Kara in a chest pack with me. She heard me on the radio and wanted to know where the kids were. She was so mad at me .

In 1996 we moved to the North Kaibab RD. We had the Bridger Knoll Fire (53,000 acres) that summer with many other fires at the same time. I had been the IC for the first shift. Then I transferred to IC of a smaller fire down in the Grand Canyon. We ran out of helicopter time and had to spend the night. My bosses wife called Terrie that night and told her that I was "trapped" on a fire. Looking south from Fredonia the Bridger fire looked like a nuclear explosion. It took her most of the night to find out I was safe.

I was transferred to the Pike NF in Colorado the next year. in 1999

she got back into firefighting and traveled the west for numerous fires. In the summer of 2002 we had many fires burning in Colorado and we were both getting assigned to fires. She took our kids to stay with her mother Mary Dell in Show Low. Then she was assigned to the same fire as me. It was the only time we were ever on the same fire at the same time. Two days later the Rodeo–Chediski Fire started south of Show Low. Our kids were evacuated to Snowflake. We were transferred to several different fires for over a month.

We were finally able to take a break and go back to Show Low to get the kids. As we were leaving Mary Dell had a heart attack. We stayed with her for another week. We were still getting fir assignments but Terrie took one that let her come home at night for the kids.

We had lots of our kids friends in and out of our house. It became the hangout for most of them. Terrie would bake cookies. She was the best cook I have ever known. Some of their friends became like extra children for us. Terrie had always wanted more kids. So we unofficially adopted Heidi Kirkmeyer (Vanderhiede) as another one of the clan. Others like Brianna Jordan and Austin Maley were like more of the family.

I retired for the Forest Service in 2009 and we moved to Willcox, AZ to take care of my aging parents. Terrie was always taking care of someone right up until her last days. Even in death she is helping someone today, she was an organ donor and donated last night. Terrie was preceded in death by her mother Mary Dell (2004). She is survived by her dad Troy (Lorena) Pinkley of Delano, CA. Her brother Troy Pinkley and sister Kristin Malone of Snowflake AZ. Her husband and lifelong soul mate George, Children Chris Johnson (Cali), Cassie Johnson, Heide Vanderheide and Kara Faye Vanover. Seven grandchildren including 4 week old Leo Wade Johnson. Numerous aunts and uncles



George Vanover - July 25, 2015 at 09:31 AM

GE

“ 2 files added to the album *Terrie*



George - July 25, 2015 at 06:38 AM