

Sharon Lawson Mijares (1937-2009)

Barstow native, Sharon Lawson Mijares, 71, passed away in New Mexico on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2009 while surrounded by her immediate family.

Sharon was born to Verna and Wilbur Lawson and grew up in California's Mojave Desert where she attended and graduated from Barstow Public Schools. The desert held meaning for Sharon, and she once wrote, "I mostly remember the love I developed for the vast open space of the Mojave, the feeling that the desert was my home, my particular place on earth."

Sharon was raised in the LDS faith and she attended Brigham Young University, eventually earning a Bachelor's degree from San Diego State University. She nurtured a passion for the Spanish language by majoring in Spanish and by participating in various study abroad programs. While studying in Mexico City, she met and fell in love with her husband, Juan Luis Mijares. In a wonderful full circle, Sharon became a Spanish teacher at Barstow High and shared her love of language with youth. Sharon and Juan raised five children in California before retiring to Jemez Valley, N.M. to be near family.

Sharon and Juan recently celebrated their 50th anniversary with their extended family: daughter, Laura and son-in law, Tim Haarmann of Canon, N.M.; sons, Juan and David with their respective wives, Cheryl and Jodi of Divide, Colo.; and daughter, Marisa and her husband, Robert Jones of Carmel. Completing the brood was a group of grandchildren, the youngest whom carries the Spanish nickname "Once" to signify his birth order within the grandkids. Her second son, Alfonso "Billy", predeceased Sharon.

Throughout her life, Sharon was always quick to see the beauty of the world around her and her cheerful and positive attitude was one of her greatest traits. Her family and friends will miss her dearly but her love, positive attitude, and legacy will remain a strong anchor forever.

A visitation will be held in on Friday, August 21, 2009, Sharon's birthday, at the LDS church beginning at 10 a.m. A service will follow at 11 a.m., again at the LDS church, with a graveside dedication to follow at the Mt. View Memorial Park.

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