



Susan "Merrill" Sawyer

December 29, 1949 - May 21, 2024

Susan "Merrill" Sawyer

Duson, LA - Memorial services will be held at a later date this fall for Susan "Merrill" Sawyer, 74, who died Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at Ochsner Lafayette General Medical Center Hospital in Lafayette, LA.

Susan Merrill Sawyer was the third child and daughter of Claire Donohoe Sawyer and John Pascal Sawyer, both deceased. She was born in Palo Alto California.

Merrill is survived by her sister, Claire Sawyer Griffis and spouse John, Florida, brother, John Pascal Sawyer III, and spouse Terry Lee, Washington, brother, David Terry Sawyer and spouse Laurie, California and sister, Mary Candee Zaunbrecher and spouse Fred, Louisiana. Also many nieces, nephews, cousins. Merrill made friends everywhere she went and stayed in touch with most who remember her fondly.

Merrill's family moved to Vero Beach, Florida in 1952 where Merrill grew up loving the outdoors, swimming in the Atlantic, horseback riding, raising and loving many assorted pets. She attended St. Helen's parochial school in Vero and graduated High School from Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, Louisiana. She received a BS in Psychology from Merryville College,

St. Louis, Missouri in 1982. Merrill spent the next few years as a novitiate of the Sacred Heart before moving back to California.

There, Merrill purchased land in Feather Falls, California where she designed and built her dream log cabin. She raised horses and worked for many years at Ace Hardware in Feather Falls. Merrill was also an accomplished carpenter.

In 2005, Merrill was severely injured in an accident. This event turned her life upside down but she met her disability with spirit and determination. Merrill used a motorized wheelchair to work, play and travel from then on.

With the increasing forest fire activity in her mountain community and because of her disability, Merrill moved to Duson, Louisiana to be near family in 2019.

Merrill's family would like to send their gratitude to the doctors and nurses of the ICU at Oschner Lafayette General Hospital who cared for Merrill with compassion and respect.

In lieu of cards or flowers please make a donation to Halleck Creek Ranch. They are a member of Equine Assisted Activities, halleckcreekranch.org.

Friends may view the obituary and guestbook online at www.gossenfuneralhome.net.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Gossen Funeral Home, Inc. of Rayne, LA, (337) 334-3141.

Gossen Funeral Home, Inc.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ I met Merrill when I became part of the Solis family. Merrill was working at Lake Oroville Hardware store at the time. She told me many fond memories of her childhood. Merrill was an excellent host, knowledgable, compassionate, funny, hardworking and loyal to her family and friends. She was a great listener and generous. I will always remember her love of animals. Rest in peace, Merrill you lived a valiant life and our family will always remember your kindness, especially to Doris Solis. All our love, Julie Solis



Julie Solis - October 18, 2025 at 11:21 AM

MS

“ Margaret Sheehan lit a candle in memory of Susan "Merrill" Sawyer



Margaret Sheehan - December 19, 2024 at 12:09 PM

LL

“ Linzee Evans LaGrange lit a candle in memory of Susan "Merrill" Sawyer



Linzee Evans LaGrange - June 11, 2024 at 11:09 AM

CH

“ Bob & I will cherish the time we shared our lives and moments with Merrill. She was a remarkable human being who loved animals and was accomplished in many things. Until we see you again Merrill take care of all the animal souls for me.

Cookie Haviland - June 11, 2024 at 07:28 AM

TS

Hi Cookie,
Terry Sawyer here. Thanks for the thoughts and kind words. I just checked the link for the 1st time and was surprised and happy to see everyone's comments. It's been a long time! If you would like to, please reach out sometime! My email: terry.bayfarmer@gmail.com.
Best,
Terry

Terry Sawyer - September 17, 2024 at 12:15 AM

AD

“ Merrill, I will always remember your wicked sense of humor and playfulness with words. Farewell, dear Cousin, until we meet again!
Hugs to the Family

Anita Donohoe - June 04, 2024 at 09:37 PM

MG

“ As a classmate of Merrill, I wish I had gotten to know her better as an adult. She seems like a remarkable person. Maybe we'll get together on the other side. With love, Mary Gilfoil

Mary Gilfoil - June 04, 2024 at 06:44 PM

SF

“ *Susan Frey Fernandez lit a candle in memory of Susan "Merrill" Sawyer*



Susan Frey Fernandez - June 04, 2024 at 05:45 PM

SF

*Love you Merrill. Happy for the times we got together in Lafayette.
Susan*

Susan Frey Fernandez - June 04, 2024 at 05:47 PM

BG

“ *Beth Johnson Goins lit a candle in memory of Susan "Merrill" Sawyer*



Beth Johnson Goins - June 04, 2024 at 02:38 PM

BG

I am so sorry to hear of Merrill passing. We were in the same grade at the Academy of the Scared Heart. My heart-felt condolences to her family.

Beth Johnson Goins

Beth Johnson Goins - June 04, 2024 at 02:43 PM