



Sharon Leilani Whittington

August 14, 1935 - November 6, 2025

For 90 years, Sharon Leilani Whittington embodied everyday goodness as one who asked for nothing and gave everything. Born on August 14, 1935, in Honolulu, Hawaii, she grew up in Manoa Valley, where even as a child she possessed an uplifting spirit that drew people in without her ever trying. Her parents, George and Olivia Palmer, adored her; her sisters, Louise and Tricia, loved her dearly. She was the middle child, but everyone's favorite, and no one ever resented it because her kindness made her the heart of the family. She carried that goodness into adulthood, first as Sharon Palmer, then as Sharon Bachman, and later as Sharon Whittington. She married her high school sweetheart, Stan Bachman and loved him with the pure sincerity that came naturally to her. When Stan died of Hodgkin's disease, Sharon's heart broke, but her spirit didn't. Over time, she found love again with Frank Whittington, and they built a successful and fulfilling life together. Frank would later recognize that Sharon carried the practical load of their life. He was the dreamer, always seeing the big picture, but Sharon was the one who tended the details that allowed Frank to pursue their dreams.

Sharon earned her teaching credential at CSU Northridge and spent the 1960s teaching third grade at Solvang Elementary School. She adored third graders because they were old enough to think and young enough to believe. She approached her classroom the same way she approached everything: with patience, fairness, and an instinctive understanding that people bloom when treated with kindness.

But motherhood was the calling Sharon cherished most. From the time she was a little girl, loving her dolls, she dreamed of having children. Her daughters, Tiffany and Robyn, would one day discover that their mother didn't just have that dream; she built a life around it. In the early years, she managed the family budget with strict discipline, allowing the family to take six-week camping trips every summer because she wanted her children to spend time in nature. She ensured there were horses for the girls, national parks to explore, days filled with adventures, and evenings ending with card games.

Sharon was the moral compass of her family. She loved without conditions, assumed good intentions, and extended fairness without keeping score. She was gentle by nature but firm when something violated her sense of right and wrong. Beneath her softness lived enormous strength.

In 1988 Sharon and Frank settled in Fort Jones, where she spent nearly four decades. She hiked mountain trails, bowled in leagues, took Pilates classes, and collected friends wherever she went. She loved animals of all kinds; dogs were constant companions from her childhood dog, Butcho, to the many that followed. She fed birds, watched for wildlife, and saw beauty in every rock, tree, and cloud.

Everyone who met her, even briefly, loved her. Not because she tried to impress, but because her presence reminded people how good humans can be.

Sharon is preceded in death by her parents, her first husband Stan, her husband Frank, and her sister Louise. She is survived by her daughters, Tiffany (Garron) Whitehouse and Robyn (Jon) Paterson; her stepdaughters Alison (Charlie) Sanchez and Amber (Nancy) Whittington; her grandchildren Christy (Jose) Barajas, Braden Whitehouse, Jarob Wanner, Marliana Wanner, Alaina (Greg) Vandermade, and Carla (Ben) Broidy; her great-grandchildren Mykenzi Filice, Wyatt Vandermade, and Logan Vandermade; and her sister, Tricia Azzone.

Sharon died on November 6, 2025, in Yreka, California. The world lost a rare

soul - someone who made others feel valued, appreciated, and loved simply by being herself. Her legacy lives on in everyone with whom she played a game of cards, encouraged, comforted, and welcomed, and in the mountains, trails, and family she adored with unwavering devotion.

Donations in Sharon's honor can be made to Madrone Hospice, 255 Collier Circle, Yreka, CA 96097 or at <https://www.madronehospice.org/support>.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Girdner Funeral Chapel - April 27 at 03:18 PM

CG

“ *If love could light the heavens at night, you would be the brightest star of all. Shine on dearest Aunt Sharon!*

Colly Brook Gerity-Miles - February 06 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *Although I was never one of her students, her husband, Frank was one of my high school teachers. Sharon, may you Rest In Peace by the side of Frank in heaven.*

Tom Cook - December 05, 2025 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ *Sharon has been just the brightest light. To spend time with her over the years was always a joy. I will miss the beauty that Sharon always brought to every occasion. Heaven has gained a real gem.*

Karla Gentry - December 04, 2025 at 12:00 AM

WH

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. May she rest easily with the Lord.*

Wendy Hurlimann - November 26, 2025 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Hello, My name is Susan S., I am a Hospice nurse. I go at least once a week and see our patients in the Memory care unit at Siskiyou Springs Senior Living. That is where I met Sharon. Though she wasn't a Hospice patient, I could not help but spend a few minutes with Sharon on my visits. She was such a delightful women, and we had great visits. The last time I saw her before her fall, she was looking for her Husband Frank. I assured her that her was off to the store and that he would be back soon. Then we sat and talked about her children and her home in Scott Valley. I Loved the time I spent with her. I have continued to go to see my pts in memory care, but it is just not the same without Sharon. My condolences to her entire family. I consider myself Blessed to have met her. Susan S.

susan sorenson - November 24, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ We pray the love of God enfolds you during your journey through grief.

Ann, Ei and Chikka - November 21, 2025 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ Remembering you and "Sharon Leilani Whittington" in our minds and in our hearts.

Lynda, Hovanec, Sue Dorsey & Sally Nolan - November 20, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Dear Tiffany and Robyn, I am so sorry to hear about your mom's passing. She was such a joyful, fun-loving person. I have fond memories of summer afternoons spent at the river and Shackelford Creek. Though I haven't seen her for quite a while, those memories are still dear to me. Hugs, Judy McQuoid

Judith McQuoid - November 19, 2025 at 12:00 AM

TI

“ *My Dearest Mother. To know her you loved her. How blessed I am to have spent my entire life living near my Mom and Dad. Having both my parents involved in my life and my children's lives is such an honor. Garron and I have so many memories to cherish and hold close to our hearts.*

My mom grew up in Hawaii and was a witness to the day Pearl Harbor was bombed. She lived through WWII in the Islands with many stories she loved to share. These memories she carried with her forever. She attended and graduated from Punahou High School. She felt lucky to have gone to school there and attended HS reunions in the Islands every 5 years reminiscing with friends. Class of 1953. After high school she came to the mainland to attend Oregon State, and was proud to be a Beaver. Then she met my Dad and along with him came two children she had always dreamed of having, Alison and Amber Whittington. She always said, "I fell in love with Frank but his twin daughters captured my heart".

My parents had a wonderful chapter in life of world travels with beloved friends, seeing many beautiful places on earth. Later she still traveled with us and loved every minute of it.

My Mom was a dedicated caregiver to her Father, Mother and to her Mother-in-law. Her unselfish love and compassionate nature was such a blessing to her family and everyone who knew her.

Unfortunately the cruel disease of Dementia came into her life. I find comfort that she is free from the ugly disease and has a clear mind again. My life has a big void in it, but I am happy for her reunion in heaven with family and loved ones.

Tiffany - November 19, 2025 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Sharon was my first friend when we began teaching together in 1961.

She was the most non-judgemental and accepting of everyone that I have ever met.

She saw everyone, regardless of social status or nationality or race or religion, exactly the same.

You have heard people say that someone made them a better person, Sharon definitely made me feel that way about myself.

We used to say that in all the many years of our relationship, we never had had a single disagreement. That was so easy with her in her loving and generous way.

She loved my boys almost as much as I do and would share in the successes and mourn their disappointments.

They both were very sad to hear of her passing.

Although we weren't always able to see each other as the years went by, we knew the minute we picked up the phone and heard each other's voice, it was as though we had been together just yesterday.

I will always hear her voice and feel her presence because she was such a big part of my life.

She was the most unselfish and unselfserving person I have ever known..

I loved her so much and I know she could only be in the best possible afterlife that is possible.

I never knew anyone who had anything to say about her except that she was the kindest and most loving person they knew..

I was so blessed to have had her in my life.

Barbara Cordero

Barbara Cordero - November 19, 2025 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ So very sorry for your loss.

Kathy Hagedorn - November 19, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel*

A Memorial Tree was planted for Sharon Leilani Whittington - November 19, 2025 at 12:00 AM