



## Zana Gae Gilliam

August 20, 1957 - November 9, 2018

With heavy hearts we announce that Zana Gae Thomson Gilliam passed from this life into Heaven on November 9, 2018. Her husband, Keith, and faithful canine companion, Cheyenne, were at her side. They recently came to live near Yreka, California to be with her sisters Twyla (and Alex) Miller and Tamara (and Bob) Steelman during her battle with cancer.

Zana was born August 20, 1957 in Jackson Hole, Wyoming and spent her childhood in the Rocky Mountains camping, hiking, horseback riding, motorcycling and exploring the numerous forests, mountains and back roads where her family lived.

In 1975 Zana moved to Houston, Texas where she worked as an agricultural / oil chemist for 34 years and earned many awards in her field. Zana met Keith, the love of her life, on November 11, 1993 and they were married July 2, 1994. They raised their four children: Raina, Meira, Kenny and Christopher in Pearland, Texas, surrounded by many beloved pets.

She loved spending time with family and friends and traveling with Keith. After retirement, Zana, Keith and Cheyenne traveled across the country in their motorhome to visit family and spent time in southern Colorado before coming to California. She enjoyed watching the wildlife and learning the history of the places they visited.

Along with her husband Keith, Zana is survived by her children Raina Dolph, Meira Bodiford, Kenny Bodiford, Katherine Gilliam, Christopher Gilliam; eight grandchildren Loraina Avila, Isis Riojas, Seth Avila, Brian Ayala, Zaria Altamirano, Cayson Barber, Kennly Bodiford and Sora Gilliam; and her loving sisters Gloria Biediger, Tamara Steelman, Twyla Miller, and Kim Thomson-McCay as well as her stepbrother Roy Thomson. Zana was preceded in death by her mother Jeanine "Rusty" Samudio and father John M. Thomson III.

To Zana, every day was an adventure. She touched many lives and many places and we will forever remember her vibrant passion for life, her strength and courage. A memorial service will be held June 29th, 2019 in Del Norte, Colorado. Please contact the family for more information.

# Tribute Wall



“ *RIP my darling Zana. You lit up my life.*

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**Keith gilliam** - November 15, 2018 at 12:34 AM