



Kay Gillis Farmer

January 2, 1938 - November 3, 2022

Kay Farmer, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend to many passed away peacefully on November 3, 2022, at the age of 84 in her home surrounded by those that loved her most dearly. At Kay's request, no funeral services will be held and a celebration of life will occur this coming December.

Kay "Georgia" Gillis was born January 2, 1938, in Fresno to Gareth and Phyllis Gillis who preceded her in death.

Kay met the love of her life Bob Farmer skiing in Yosemite at Badger Pass in 1955. It was love at first cup of hot chocolate. Kay and Bob later married on June 3, 1961, and soon after built their country home at the end of Behymer in Clovis, affectionately known as "the farm." It is on "the farm" where Kay and Bob raised their three children Robbie, Holly and Michael. Kay and Bob remained active skiers with family trips to Sun Valley and sailed together in numerous Santana regattas. Kay and Bob were also pillars of the Huntington Lake community with several cabin and sailing friends.

Kay was a graduate of Fresno High School and went on to graduate from Fresno State. From Fresno State Kay pursued a career in teaching and taught at Dry Creek elementary in Clovis for many years until retirement. Even after retirement Kay continued to teach as a substitute and volunteer in the community at the Holiday Boutique.

All those that had the privilege to know Kay became endeared due to her generous and caring ways. Be it her tenacity to note everyone's birthday in her calendar and send birthday wishes on time or a heartfelt handwritten thank you card. Certainly, the hostess with the mostest, Kay was engaging in social gatherings and a force to reckon with no matter the occasion. The holidays were most notable at "the farm" with table decor from the Holiday Boutique (all purchased for charity of course) and her ability to cook, chat and clean all while ensuring everyone else was taken care of before she sat to join any festivities. Kay often was the last to be seated and the first to tell everyone to stay seated and she would clean up later, which meant staying up until the wee hours of the morning.

She was a soccer mom, motocross mom, cheerleader mom, tutor, life coach and constant source of encouragement and love to her family. Kay was "mom" to more than her three children. Numerous former students from Dry Creek would approach her when out and about in Clovis to say hello and thank her. Kay was also a mentor to her grandchildren who fondly called her Noni. She ran Noni's Camp at her cabin at Huntington Lake for several summers for her grandchildren, who she tirelessly loved and would do anything for. That is the most significant character trait of Kay, selflessness. Her unending ability to give more to others than she received in return giving generous amounts of love to those in her life. Kay will be sorely missed and remembered with fondness by all who knew her. So, at the next thunder or rainstorm (Kay's favorite mountain weather) lift a glass to the sky to toast a beautiful lady and an unforgettable life.

Kay is survived by her loving husband Bob of 61 years; 3 children and 6 grandchildren, including her 2 sons Robert and his wife Elizabeth and their children Kaylin, Robbie and Grace; Michael and his wife Rachel and their daughter Finley; daughter Holly and her spouse Kerry and children Jordan

and Lauren; sister Carol Fitzsimmons and spouse Corky.

In lieu of flowers please donate to Valley Children's at <https://www.valleychildrens.org/foundation/donate-to-valley-childrens> or mail to Valley Children's Healthcare, Foundation Dept PC-17, 9300 Valley Children's PI, Madera, CA 93636 or by shopping at the Holiday Boutique which all proceeds benefit Valley Children's and was a mainstay of Kay's volunteerism.

Tribute Wall

AF

“ Dear Kay's family, I so loved your Mom. She and I were in many organizations together and laughed and shared a glass of wine together. I never saw her enough at Huntington as she was always on the sailboat. Our memories of making "money" together in our Investment Club are non descript except for good lunches. " Kids," your Mom never had an unkind word escape her lips, always praise and kindness. As I said, I loved her and will miss her beautiful face and smile. fondly, Alyce Fourchy

Alyce Fourchy - November 21, 2022 at 10:35 AM

LJ

“ Kay was sure one unique, witty, and loving person! I'm so thankful that our worlds united, if even only for a few years! My life is forever richer for having known her...I will miss her funny, well-worded text messages that always put a smile on my face! Rest In Peace Kay.



~Lisa Jordan-Smith

Lisa Jordan-Smith - November 20, 2022 at 05:25 PM



“ Kay will always be remembered for opening up her heart and home to everyone, including unexpected overnight guests during our crazy years of growing up on “The Farm”. She always wanted to know about one’s family and how everyone was doing. She never complained nor critiqued. She was an open book with love to give. ❤️ May sweet Kay rest in peace and her family know Kay will be looking down orchestrating family, and friend reunions forever on.



Love, Lynn Baldwin & Family

Lynn Fultz-Baldwin - November 20, 2022 at 02:25 PM

JO

“ Kay will be so missed at our "card club" dinners. She was a delight to be around. Her humor, kindness, and caring about others made her a great friend. Memories of love and friendship will stay with me as I think of my friend Kay.

Jo Orlando

Jo Orlando - November 20, 2022 at 01:08 PM

GW

“ Kay was a lovely lady who always had a kind word or a friendly smile ready. Our times together around a table or on a deck at Huntington Lake are to be treasured. She will be truly missed by us, and we will say a toast to her the next time we gather at the Lake.

May you rest with the angels, Kay.....

The Waugh family

Genie Waugh - November 18, 2022 at 03:35 PM

TB

We were saddened to read about Kay's passing. What a beautiful person gone too soon. We always enjoyed our times with Bob and Kay at Huntington. Sailing being a common interest and just hanging out. Our prayers for the Farmer family. May God accept Kay with open arms. Rest in peace Kay.

Tom and Carole Butler

tom and Carole Butler - November 20, 2022 at 11:47 AM

CK

My heart was so sad to just hear that sweet Kay had passed away. She was our neighbor for 35 years on Behymer Avenue. I always enjoyed our little chats we would have as we were coming and going from our homes.

Even though there were years between us in age, it didn't make a difference because she was so young at heart.

My one regret is that I would always have good intentions to invite Kay over for just a visit but never did due to the busyness of life.

I will miss her special, personal messages she would send me on my birthday and wedding anniversary, and I will miss waving to her or chatting with her whenever she would drive by.

I pray for comfort for Kay's family during this very difficult time, and I will always cherish the sweet memories I had of knowing Kay...she was a true gem.

Cher Kent

Cher Kent - November 28, 2022 at 07:38 AM