



Sandra Orozco

November 13, 1955 - January 14, 2019

One of the few advantages of dying from breast cancer, recurrent and metastasized, is that you have time to write your own obituary. (The other advantages are no longer bothering with sunscreen and no longer worrying about your cholesterol.)

I was born in Ardmore, OK, on November 13, 1950. I grew up on a farm, south of Ringling, and attended Ringling High School. My first husband was Berry Clinton Whisenhunt, oh yes, there has been more than one. We married in 1968, before I graduated from high school in 1969. Berry and I had one child, Shonda Whisenhunt, who was born July 2, 1974, in Ardmore, OK. The marriage slowly started to decay and ended in 1979, after 11 years of marriage.

I remarried two years later. I won't say much about that 13 year marriage, because it wasn't the best years of my life. Most of that time was spent in Ohio where I attended Jefferson Technical College.

To marry for a third time did not appeal to me, that is, until I found the love of my life, Arthur Orozco. After being single for over 14 years, Arthur and I married August 9, 2009. The night I met Arthur was the luckiest night of my life.

In my professional life, I was in banking and finance. I received many honors and accolades during my career, but my finest accomplishment was my beautiful daughter, Shonda.

I was preceded in death by my loving parents: Waldon Henry Hawkins and Gertrude Lola (Austin) Hawkins; and my dear older brother: Leo Ray Hawkins. I am survived by my beloved husband: Arthur Orozco; my adult daughter: Shonda K. Whisenhunt and husband Casey; and my sweet granddaughter: Taylor A. Thorne. Also my dear sister: Linda K. Hawkins; and many relatives and friends.

I first got sick in October 2012, with cancer. When the cancer recurred April 20, 2016, and

was terminal, I decided to be joyful about having had a full life, rather than sad about having to die. Amazingly, this outlook worked for me. (Well, you know, most of the time.) Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done... things I should have done, but indeed there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime. But I died on January 14, 2019. If you want to live forever, don't stop breathing like I did.

I didn't want a formal funeral or burial, as it is just a waste of hard earned money. A celebration of life would be just right and I encourage casual dress.

I am cremated and my ashes are being kept around as long as they match the décor. Once the décor changes, my ashes will have a permanent home at Rest Haven Memorial Park. Just remember me in your own way. At any rate, I am at peace.

I have to mention my life-long friends: Carolyn Lathum, Retha Snider and Daina Wilson. We had some great times and many laughs together over the past 40-some-odd years together. I will miss you greatly.

Thanks to my kind-hearted nurses and doctors at Sammons Cancer Center. And thanks to my compassionate neighbors who left no stone unturned in helping me get through the many hard days and my final months.

Arthur, Shonda, Taylor, Casey, thank you for all the laughter and love, and for standing by me to the end. May you always remember that obstacles in the path are not obstacles, they ARE the path. I love you all so much, and I'm so proud of you. I wish you such good things.

I was given the gift of life, and now I have to give it back. This is hard. But I will have a reunion with family and friends I have not seen in a long time. I will socialize, dance and read to my heart's content. Food will be delicious: donuts, Hershey chocolate, fried chicken (not necessarily in that order) and I will never gain an ounce.

And on that upbeat note, my beloved friends and family, how precious you all have been to me. Knowing and loving each one of you was the success story of my life. Until we meet again, joyfully, on the other side, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Beautiful day, happy to have been here.

XOXO, Sandy/Wife/Mom/Nana/Friend

A celebration of Sandra's life will be held 1:00pm Thursday, January 24, 2019, at

Reflections at Rest Haven Funeral Home – Rockwall Location. Inurnment will follow at Rest Haven Memorial Park.

Cemetery

Rest Haven Memorial Park

2500 State Highway 66
East
Rockwall, TX, 75087

Events

JAN 24 **Celebration of Life** 01:00PM

Reflections at Rest Haven Funeral Home - Rockwall
Location
2500 State Highway 66 East, Rockwall, TX, US, 75087

Comments



“ What a fighter. She always greeted us with a smile and those bright eyes. We pray for peace and comfort for her family during these trying times.

Dean Gilkinson - January 23, 2019 at 11:09 PM



“ What a wonderful lady of strength. We will miss her sweet smile. Sandy was such a special part of our neighborhood, always volunteering to help with every event. I will miss you, my sweet friend and neighbor. May the Lord bless Arthur, Shonda and family during this difficult time.

Joyce Whisenhunt - January 23, 2019 at 10:34 AM



“ I was so sad to hear we lost you to that horrible disease. We had so much fun experimenting with hair color and double dating in school. I am so happy you were at peace with leaving us. You, my friend, will be sorely missed. Your family is in our prayers. You and I know how hard it's going to be on Shonda. We know the pain of losing our parents. Till we meet again my friend.....I Love You

Janice Bradford Adams - January 22, 2019 at 08:44 AM

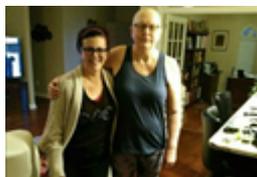


“ To my friend, neighbor, and bunco buddy...you will be greatly missed! What an awesome example of positivity you were to us! May God give your family peace and comfort now and in the difficult days to come.

Bev Cox - January 21, 2019 at 07:09 PM



“ An amazing mom, nana, and friend - there is a great loss from this world of such a great and loving person. Living out of state, Sandra and I used an app to send messages to each other almost every week. We shared the little things like dog updates and silly stories. I will forever miss my friend.



Amy Behar - January 20, 2019 at 09:24 AM