



## Susan Diane LeBard

March 27, 1946 - September 27, 2011

Susan LeBard had very deep family roots in Orange County connected to the early farming efforts in Southern California. One of her great-grandfather's was James Arthur Ross who was born in Santa Ana on January 15, 1881 and was the son of Samuel Ross who crossed the great plains in the mid 1860's and became one of the first Santa Ana pioneer families. The Ross family farmed some 270 acres devoted to lima beans, hay and black-eye beans. Another great-grandfather, John LeBard, moved to California in 1861, settled in Orange County in 1906 and farmed 500 acres in the San Joaquin precinct devoted to the culture of beans. Yet another great-grandfather, Thomas John McCarter moved from Kansas to Orange County in 1903 and was an aggressive and progressive agriculturist who promoted the cultivation of English walnuts and Valencia oranges while farming two ranches near Santa Ana. Susan's grandmother, Minnie May Montgomery, moved from Texas to Orange County when she was 4 years old in 1900. Susan was a blend of the LeBard, McCarter, Montgomery and Ross families.

### The Early Years

Susan was born to the parents of James Arthur LeBard and Ramona McCarter in an automobile on March 27, 1946 while passing through the Santa Ana Canyon on her way to the Riverside Community hospital. She had a brother at that time, Arthur Joseph LeBard, that was born May 14, 1944.

She started out in Irvine, but lived most of her childhood in Tustin, Ca. She took tap dance and ballet dancing at 4-5 years old, but her special interests in childhood were swimming and horses. She was crazy about dogs, cats, birds and other animals, loved chasing seagulls at the beach, but had a special place in her heart for horses. On her first gray horse when she was only four years old, she reported in later years that it was very gentle with children. At 12 years old, Susan was riding her fourth horse, named Eagle, that was white with a few black spots. Her other pets included a talking parakeet and a beloved Labrador Retriever, named Puddy, that could smile. Susan grew up watching westerns on TV which featured heroes such as Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, Gene Autry, the Cisco Kid, Annie Oakley, John Wayne, but her favorite by far was Hopalong Cassidy. Susan could be found many days of her youth dressed up in her "Hoppy" outfit toting her Hopalong Cassidy six shooters.

Susan spent a considerable amount of time in her childhood, along with her brother Joe, with her three cousins, Andy, Larry and Jim. She spent many hours swimming and playing at the beach in Newport. Her mother and mothers' sisters loved going to the beach routinely throughout the summer months, placing the five cousins together to play in the sand and water throughout most of the 1950's. Susan loved the water and riding the waves on rafts with her brother and cousins alongside the Newport Pier. All of the cousins celebrated their birthdays together many times, during their childhood years, spending a few of them at the Long Beach Pike amusement park. In the early 1960's, Susan had a snowbird sailboat that she enjoyed sailing around Newport Harbor with her cousin, Larry.

## The School Years

Susan spent most of her school years in Tustin. She attended Tustin elementary school where her teachers gave her good marks and reported that she was a bit shy, but was always cooperative and attentive. While in junior

high school, she took an art class and was very pleased to learn how to draw horses correctly. She attended and graduated from Tustin high school in 1964. Susan's love and involvement with horses continued throughout her school years and beyond. While in high school, she was competing in horse shows and was given many awards and trophy's. In 1960, she competed in the all Palomino championship horse show in Pomona, where she was given an award. Susan competed in many horse shows, with her horse Gyp, in Pomona, Las Vegas and Rancho California over the 1960's and early 1970's. She was given an award, at one of her horse shows, by George Putnam, who was a well known newscaster at the time. Although her mother and father separated when she was a small girl, she remained close to her father, Art, up until he died. Her mother remarried in 1959, giving Susan a step father for over 50 years. Andy Anderson, passed away shortly before Susan on Sept. 22, 2011.

## The Work Years

Following her attendance at some college classes, Susan began her work career through temporary agencies and held an assortment of jobs at an assortment of locations. Living for a short period of time in Hermosa Beach, Susan had her picture in the paper in 1968 as the Hermosa Beach representative at the 8th annual International Surf Festival, which was sponsored by the cities of Torrance, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach. She held temporary job assignments at city of Hermosa Beach and the city of Los Alamitos.

Moving back to Tustin, she worked for the Girls Club in Costa Mesa from 1974 through 1978. In 1979 and 1980 Susan worked for a time at The Crab Cooker in Newport Beach. It was while attending the wedding of a work associate here, that she met, what would turn out to be, her close and life long friend,

Richard. Susan was sent on a temporary work assignment to the University of California Irvine in 1981. It was here that she would stay, working for the next 20 years in the UCI pharmacy, ultimately holding the positions of senior clerk and records retention assistant. Susan gained many close friends and acquaintances through the years working at UCI, up until her retirement in 2001. It was across these 20 years that Susan moved to and lived alone comfortably in a small Opal Street apartment on Balboa Island.

### Traveling Through the Years

Susan loved to travel and see new and exciting things. At the young age of 2-3, she went on a family vacation to Yosemite for two weeks, where she was impressed by the giant redwood trees and waterfalls. At the age of 10 she went on a family vacation to the Grand Canyon and Carlsbad Caverns. Susan was fascinated by the fact that her grandfather was one of the early explorer's of the caves at Carlsbad. Following high school, she went on a trip to Europe with her grandmother. Her brother Joe moved to Sun Valley, Idaho in the late 1960's which became the location of many trips over the years for Susan. She began to snow ski while in Sun Valley in 1968 and also accompanied her uncle Richard on many snow skiing trips to Mammoth in California. Susan also spent a fair amount of time in the Sun Valley area accompanying her brother and friends on numerous river rafting trips on the Salmon River. She acquired a number of good friends over the years in the Sun Valley area.

Susan was fortunate to be able to take a trip with her mother and brother to Israel with pastor Chuck Smith from Calvary Chapel. Susan attended Calvary Chapel when she was able and had a strong faith in God. She went on an Alaskan cruise with her mother and had the opportunity to travel with her father, Art. Her last trip with her father, Art, was a trip to Fiji where she and her father snorkeled together. Susan often talked about all of the wonderful places that she had traveled to over the years and all of the interesting things that

she had seen and done.

### Final Years

Following her retirement from UCI in 2001, Susan moved from Balboa Island into the house her mother and step father purchased in 1968 in Santa Ana/North Tustin. She lived there alone except when her brother Joe would come out from Idaho to stay with her. Joe lived with her for nearly three years while he was trying to sell his property in Idaho. Joe died rather unexpectedly and suddenly in Idaho on October 12, 2010 from complications related to his diagnosis of Multiple Myeloma.

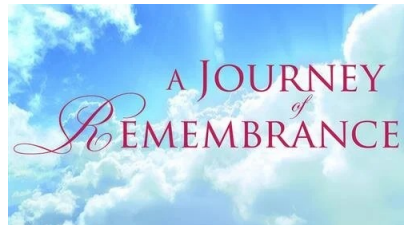
Unfortunately Susan's health began to fail over her final few years of life due to complications from her Parkinson's disease. She lived in a Guardian Angel home the last few months of her life and was attended to by Darwin and a loving hospice organization. Susan had a strong faith in God, attended church services at the Guardian Angel home and was blessed to be ministered to by chaplain Roger Rustad, who was associated with the hospice care organization. Susan entered eternal life on Sept. 22, 2010.

Susan was a loving and caring individual that touched the lives of many friends and family members over the years. She will be missed and remembered by the many that have had the opportunity to know her.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Reflecting on Memories created a Tribute Video in memory of Susan Diane LeBard*

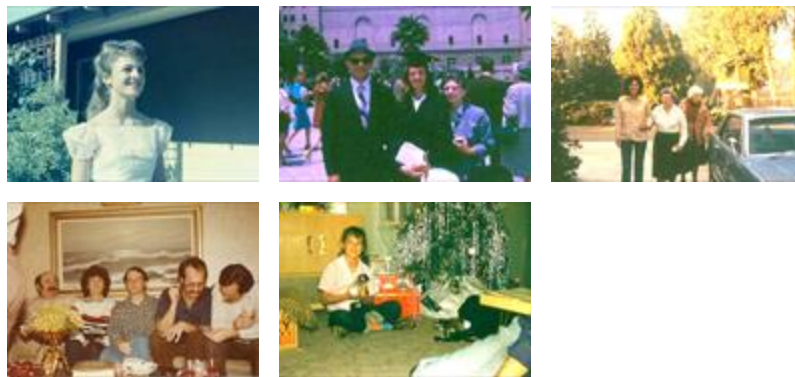


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**Reflecting on Memories** - February 15, 2016 at 11:53 PM



“ *51 files added to the album Memories Album*



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**Reflecting on Memories** - February 15, 2016 at 10:03 AM