



Billi Kraft-Gelb

April 22, 1944 - November 3, 2024

Billi Gelb (Kraft), born on April 22, 1944, in Tacoma, Washington, passed away peacefully on November 3, 2024, in Wenatchee, Washington, surrounded by family.

She grew up in Seattle, sharing a lively home with seven siblings, honing her water-fight skills, and cultivating a love of music through her violin. Billi attended Central Washington University, where she earned her teaching degree and went on to positively impact countless children as a dedicated special education/resource teacher. Many of her students, now adults, remember her as a profound influence in their lives.

Billi was a devoted mother to her children, Deke and Chandy. They recall joyful summers at Fort Warden, clam-digging and laughter-filled days with her. Family gatherings, trips to see Nana and Papa, and holiday traditions were moments of love they shared and cherished.

Her sense of adventure led her on memorable trips with her sister Cher, which she treasured and spoke about even in her final days. Billi also shared laughter and music with her sister Joanne and valued her long, heartfelt phone conversations with her sister Diane.

Billi radiated joy, generosity, and a mischievous spirit, always asking, "How

can I help?" Later in life, she reunited with and married her dear friend David Gelb, whom she described as a precious gift. Together at Colonial Vista, she brightened the days of other residents with her love of karaoke, pool, and plenty of fun. Hidden behind her couch, she kept a pair of water guns, never outgrowing her love of a good water fight—always ready for a splash of unexpected mischief.

Billi leaves behind her children, Deke and Chandy, her grandchildren, her husband David Gelb, her extended family, and a wide circle of friends. She will be dearly missed by all.

In her own words: "I loved my kids and family with all my heart. I saw the good in people, loved to laugh and make others laugh. I valued my friendships, and I liked Spam. My church was in the hills, and I always laughed with joy while galloping on a horse. Just be good to yourselves. 'I shall pass this way but once. Therefore, any good or kindness I can give my fellow man, let me do it now, for I shall not pass this way again.' Look for a shooting star...think of me racing across the sky on my horse. Know each of you were so special. I love you all so very much."

Tribute Wall

CH

“ *Billi was my Aunt, my sister, and most importantly my best friend. Even though we lived on opposite sides of the globe we were always together in spirit. She spread joy and laughter wherever she went with her wonderful silliness.*

Cher - March 30 at 05:45 AM

DL

“ *I remember walking over to play baseball and you as a great teacher and friend*
Debbie Tidwell
Lowell

Debbie Lowell - November 14, 2025 at 03:01 PM

DB

“ *What a genuine and loving person. Billie loved to laugh and make the world brighter for everyone she came in contact with. I was fortunate to work with her for a number of years, particularly with behaviorally disabled children, and she was so understanding, caring and tough if she needed to be. Very bright and thoughtful and fun, she will be missed! Thank you for being my friend, Billi!*

Dennis Bailey

Dennis Bailey - November 27, 2024 at 12:05 AM

LW

“ *LAUGHING. LOVING, CARING, I MISS HER DEEPLY.*

LINDA LANE WALTERS - November 24, 2024 at 10:42 PM

SK

“ *Billi was such a sparkling person. Her own words really describe who she was, I will miss her wonderful humor and smile.*
Sue (Perkins) Kane

Sue Kane - November 24, 2024 at 07:47 PM

CK

“ *To Billi's family and friends, Billi was a wonderful mother, wife, sister, friend and a very strong woman. She will be missed very much. My condolences, thoughts and prayers to you all.*

Carrie Knouf - November 16, 2024 at 06:19 PM

CK

“ *Billi, it is so hard to put my thoughts and how I feel into words. When I was in a very dark place, you suddenly appeared in my life and pulled me from the darkness. Because of your life experiences, you understood me and always knew what to say and what to do. You took me under your wing and called me "Dotter". To me you became my mother. I met you just two years ago when I moved to Colonial Vista, but it feels like we knew each other forever. You became my anchor and now I feel adrift without you. So feel free to come down anytime and punch me in the shoulder to get me back on course again. I will always love you and miss you. Until we meet again. God bless you and keep you.*
All my love to you, Carrie Knouf

Carrie Knouf - November 16, 2024 at 06:12 PM



“ *Billi*
What can I say. You are the encouraging words. The light in my life. The person that helped me grow from a child into the woman I am today. We will miss you greatly!



Lona LaBounty - November 14, 2024 at 01:49 PM



“ *Billi,*
What can I say, You are the encouraging words. The light in my life. The person that helped me grow from a child into the woman I'm today. We will miss you greatly!

Lona LaBounty - November 14, 2024 at 12:40 PM



“ *Billie,*
What can I say, You are the encouraging words , The light in darkness, and the person that helped me grow from a child into the woman I'm today. You will be greatly missed !



Lona LaBounty - November 13, 2024 at 08:40 PM



“ *From all of us at Heritage Memorial Chapel, we send our condolences to you and your family, and everyone who knew Billi. It is our honor to have Billi entrusted to our care.*



Heritage Memorial Chapel - November 13, 2024 at 02:37 PM

DD

“ Hi Billi, We met as co workers, than as friends, than as room mates. We did so many crazy things together. Such joy we found together. I will miss you terribly Until we meet again . Love you
Dottie



Dorothy Dolin - November 12, 2024 at 01:30 PM

JT

“ Where to begin! Billi and I met when we were in our 50's. She is my big sister that I always wanted but never knew I had. We are birth sisters but it feels like we were never apart. I love you Sis and will miss you until I am taken home.
Save a place for me!
Joanne



Joanne Tucker - November 12, 2024 at 01:03 PM