



## Marilyn LaVerne Larson

July 31, 1936 - March 9, 2021

Marilyn Larson Fryer

July 31, 1936 - March 9, 2021

Marilyn Larson Fryer went to be with the Lord on March 9, 2021. She was 84 years old. She died after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. She was an amazing wife, mother, grandmother, friend and educator.

Marilyn was born in Martinez, California on July 31, 1936, to Almir and Ida Larson. The family moved to Kingsburg, California where Almir was raised. Marilyn graduated from Kingsburg High School in 1954. She was a member of Quill and Scroll and a life member of the California Scholarship Federation. Marilyn graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from San Jose State University. She received her Master of Arts degree from the University of San Francisco. Marilyn was a teacher in regular and special education. She taught for 39 years in several school districts and retired from Fresno Unified School District in 2000. She was the recipient of the outstanding Quality Educator Award from Paramount Unified School District and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1987. She was a member of Phi Delta Kappa and served as president in 1994-1995. Marilyn was an active member of St. Anthony of Padua until she became ill.

After her retirement, Marilyn enjoyed many hobbies. She loved reading,

crossword puzzles, cooking, square dancing, weekly lunches with her Kingsburg High classmates, and daily visits to her 60+ internet chat room. She loved to travel and meet up with her chat room friends all over the United States. It was in that chat room that she met her beloved husband, Robert Fryer. They married on June 25, 2008. One of Marilyn's favorite hobbies was writing. She took writing classes and wrote many poems and short stories. She had a very creative mind.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Fryer and her infant sons, Timothy and Paul Stauffer. She is survived by her children, Richard Benzler of Fresno and his daughter, Michaela, Kristen Rose of Madera and her husband Dan, and Thomas David Benzler of Fresno and his wife, Celeste, and their children, Kyle, Kaleb, Sophia, and Thomas David II.

Her family would like to thank the wonderful caregivers at the Terraces at San Joaquin Gardens assisted living for their loving and compassionate care. They were an integral part of our family over the last 6 years.

A Funeral Mass will be held Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 10:00am at the Holy Family Catholic Church in Kingsburg. The interment will be at the Kingsburg Cemetery following the mass.

Family and friends may view the Funeral Mass by logging onto

<https://vimeo.com/523929453/3904a43426>

Graveside Webcast

<https://vimeo.com/528457540/3dc7bc3197>

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the TSJG Foundation 5555 N. Fresno St, Fresno, CA 93710

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto [www.salseranddillard.com](http://www.salseranddillard.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Kingsburg Cemetery

12782 E. Clarkson Avenue  
Kingsburg, CA 93631

# Previous Events

## Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 24. 10:00 AM (PT)

Holy Family Catholic Church  
1275 Smith Street  
Kingsburg, CA 93631

# Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Marilyn LaVerne Larson*



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**Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel** - March 16, 2021 at 06:37 PM



“ *Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel created a Holy Family Catholic Church Kingsburg, California in memory of Marilyn LaVerne Larson*



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**Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel** - March 15, 2021 at 06:48 PM

“ Marilyn Larson~ My Mentor, My Friend

*I was very blessed to become friends with Marilyn in the summer of 1990. Marilyn was a Special Education teacher at the time when she hired me to be one of her teacher assistants. We shared many funny, challenging and rewarding times working together side by side for 7 years. It was during this time with Marilyn, I was lucky to find a friendship both in her and her daughter Kris that would span the rest of our lifetimes.*

*Marilyn was a strong confident woman with a zest for life from the moment we first met. While working full time as a teacher, Marilyn attended classes at California State University Fresno because she had a Love of Learning: Mastering new skills, topics, and bodies of knowledge, and then sharing what she learned with those around her. She made the job fun by teaching her students the latest and greatest dances she learned; the chicken dance, the electric slide and others, enriching the classroom with music. Marilyn was able to look beyond a child's disability or label, and get to know them as a person.*

*My years working with Marilyn and the advice that she shared as one of my older female friends felt more valuable in a way, because it came from real-life experiences. My favorite saying from Marilyn was “Just because we are adults, doesn't mean that we have to discard playtime.”*

*Marilyn was not only a teacher to her students, but a teacher to all. If I was lucky enough to be paying attention to her soft-spoken wit, comments, sayings, and ideas, and catch that little smile/smirk that followed, was a sure sign there was a lesson in her spoken words she was meaning to convey.*

*Marilyn radiated confidence, the kind of confidence that makes you take healthy risks that enrich your life. Marilyn enjoyed her family, her many treasured friendships and her interactions she so endeared with her students.*

*The time I shared with Marilyn has truly made me a better person personally and professionally. I've become a strong outgoing advocate for people with disabilities, and grew to be both mentally and physically stronger as a woman which has transcended into my*

*relationships with my own husband, kids and friendships.  
I was blessed to be able to visit with Marilyn the summer of 2019  
alongside her daughter Kris, and was able to thank her for all she  
contributed to my life. I'm so thankful for that wonderful opportunity  
and will cherish that moment forever.*

*Marilyn dear friend, you will be missed greatly. I know that your  
presence will always be with me. Thank you for being such an  
incredible role model.*

*My love and sympathy to all of Marilyn's Family,  
Jennifer Garcia*



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**Jennifer Garcia** - March 19, 2021 at 03:32 PM

MD

“ *I love the photograph, you're sharing of Marilyn. I first met her when  
we both taught at Jefferson and we became great friends. She was  
kind and warm to everyone. I know her students and parents  
appreciated her efforts to help the kids learn. Although, I hadn't  
seen Marilyn since she became ill, I felt her presence and I miss  
her. We both enjoyed writing and attended Steve Yarborough's  
reading at Fresno State. It was always fun to talk about writing and  
authors with her. Marilyn was a gifted writer. Her stories were about  
the Valley. I know her grandchildren, that she loved so dearly, will  
cherish them. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

*Mary Dominguez*

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**Mary Dominguez** - March 18, 2021 at 01:24 PM

TL

“ This is so saddening to me! My love goes out to our whole family! My Aunt Marilyn was always very sweet to me, I remember her giving me root beer in a glass and root beer popsicle to dip into it when I was little! RIP my beautiful aunt ❤️❤️

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**Tim Larson** - March 17, 2021 at 01:13 PM

MH

“ From being next door neighbors on Simpson Street as little children and being classmates and friends throughout our long lives I can truly say Marilyn was a trusted and treasured friend. I was thrilled when she asked me to be her sponsor as she was taking lessons to join the Catholic Church. We had a lifetime of great memories that I will always cherish and now I know she begins a new life as perfect saint in the company of saints in Paradise. She suffered much in her last years earning her a golden crown. May she be received in Glory and May perpetual light shine on her forever. Marv Harrison

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**Marvin Harrison** - March 12, 2021 at 03:42 PM