



Patricia A. Branz, 66, died suddenly of natural causes on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 in St. Augustine, FL. She was born on January 16, 1958 to Marian and Kenneth Branz, the fourth child in a family of six. Twenty-two years ago she met and married the love of her life, Bill Mather. He was her soulmate and they enjoyed a happy, vibrant life together in Oceanside, CA until his death.

Patty loved sharing good food, attending social gatherings, playing with her dog Chicago and winning at pickleball. She was fierce and fearless, living a big life rich in family, friends, travel and contributions to the greater community. Her presence livened up a room and her sense of humor and infectious laughter were her trademark. She had a gift for forming deep and lasting friendships everywhere she went. Patty exhibited strength, determination and resilience as she navigated life, in good times and bad. Her career choices revolved around helping the deaf community, especially cancer prevention and education.

She was a well-regarded ASL teacher from coast-to-coast.

She attended and graduated from Gallaudet University, which was a transformative experience resulting in countless lifelong friendships.

Patty is survived by her beloved dog, Chicago; her five siblings Kay Branz (Glen Hylton), Susan Piccone (Jerry), Barbara Dorsch (Gary), Nancy Hayes (Phil) and Eric Branz (Amy); her two stepchildren William Jr. "Steve" Mather (Tinica) and Connie Shirk (Jared); three grandchildren William III "Will", V and Dylan Mather, and 37 nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband William "Bill" Stephen Mather, Sr., father Kenneth and mother Marian.

A service is being planned for close family and friends later in the year.

Donations can be made in Patty's memory to Deaf Community Services Early Intervention Program in San Diego that hires and trains Deaf Mentors to work with hearing families of deaf and hard-of-hearing children ages 0-5.