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ZELLE, Barbara Adelson

August 14, 1943 - May 1, 2017

Monday, May 1, 2017, Barbara Adelson Zelle passed away close to midnight at Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, California. She was 73.

A beloved grandmother, mother, mother-in-law, wife, sister, aunt and cherished friend, she will be missed immensely. Barbara fought bravely and with great dignity for years against cancer and stayed remarkably positive and joyful. Adored by everyone who knew her, Barbara was a vibrant, active, bright, beautiful and loving woman.

Born August 14, 1943 in Indianapolis, Indiana, Barbara was predeceased by her parents Eileen Campbell Ford (Kessler) and Henry Ford. Raised in Solon, Ohio, she graduated from Solon High School and attended Ohio State University. She moved to Los Angeles in 1968 and worked as a counselor at Parents Anonymous, was the President of Envirocare and finished her career at Leight Sales.

Barbara loved spending time at the beach in Carpinteria, California. One of her greatest joys was being an ever-present grandmother. She attended sporting events, school functions, fundraisers and recitals, rarely missing an occasion to be with her four grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. Barbara especially loved watching them play baseball and softball. She was often found cheering players, carpooling kids to games and working the snack bar. She got to know countless teammates and parents, making many friendships as a result of her generous personality.

Barbara is survived by her husband of 18 years, Richard Zelle, her son, Benjamin James Ford and his wife Ashley, daughter Melissa Lynn Robledo and her husband Damian; her stepchildren Ben (Janine Israel) Zelle and Erin (Mike Abrams) Zelle; her grandchildren Davis and Campbell Ford, Ava and Ryden Robledo, her step-grandchildren Sullivan and Jack Abrams; her brothers Karl (Iris) Kessler and Fred (Judy) Kessler, and sister Susan Swink; her nieces and nephews Jennifer, Ashley, Katie, Dan, Sam and Derek.

Barbara was a gift to us all. She is missed tremendously by her family, friends and acquaintances. A celebration of Barbara's amazing life will be held Saturday, May 13, 2017 at noon in the garden of her son's home. Family, friends and loved ones of Barbara and the extended family are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact celebratebarbazelle@gmail.com

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Barbara Zelle's name to the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute.