



Sharon Merchant Faison

August 24, 1941 - September 22, 2015

Sharon Merchant Faison died due to complications in her struggle against pancreatic cancer on Tuesday, September 22, 2015.

West, her husband remained her Prince Charming to the end. Deep gratitude goes to Dr.

Lynn Copeland, Dr. William Fisher and the chemo and gastro staff at MD Anderson for all their care in helping Sharon in her struggle. A fund raiser was given by Sharon's friends and raised \$30,000 for the research of pancreatic cancer.

Born August 24, 1941, she was a native Houstonian. Sharon graduated from Jeff Davis High School and Kilgore College. She was a graduate of the first Alley Theater's Academy.

She became the first woman Deputy Sheriff in Nacogdoches County and she is in the Hall of Fame at John Lightfoot Law Enforcement Center. She retired from the State of Texas in 1992.

She was a licensed private investigator in Texas, Virginia, Washington D.C. , and Puerto Rico.

She was also a commissioned law enforcement officer in The Virgin Islands and Texas.

While managing a private security company in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Sharon met and fell in love with a handsome, young Ivy League lawyer named West Faison. Her life forever changed from good to wonderful. They were married in Houston and lived in Connecticut and Virginia.

They retired to Texas and opened Faison Cruise and Travel. Sharon and West traveled the world with their many friends and family. For 15 years she covered the travels of the Lake Conroe residents, writing a travel column "Faison Everywhere" for the Montgomery County News. The Faisons lived in Walden on Lake Conroe for 16 years before moving to the Retirement community of Village of Gleannloch Farms in Spring.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Guy and Viola Merchant, siblings Clay Merchant Lois Robinson and Donald Merchant. Sharon is survived by her husband West and her large Wonderful family including; Leticia Merchant-Goldader and Gene, Barbara and Fred Browand, Becky and Ty Hunter, Scott and Judy Robinson, Dawn Grounds, Neal and Susie Merchant, Alex Merchant, Fred and Linda Merchant, Rob Robinson, Tim and Kathy Robinson, Susan Robinson, Ann Hoover, Hope and Bill Jones, Leslie and Dan Yerkel, Terry Gordon,

Douglas Browand and with many grand & great grand nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held at Walden Community Church, 12400 Walden Road,
Montgomery, Texas 77356 on Saturday, October 3rd at 11:00 a.m. Interment will be in Wakefield, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Pancreatic Cancer Research at MD Anderson at
website; www.mdanderson.org/how-you-can-help. You are invited to leave
written
condolences at www.shmfh.com

Written by Sharon Faison

Previous Events

Memorial Celebration

OCT 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Walden Community Church
12400 Walden Road
Montgomery, TX 77356

Tribute Wall

RL

“ I remember the very day I met Sharon in Hartford, CT. I worked with West at the FDIC and Sharon headed up a group of FDIC employees transferred from Texas to CT, Texans International. She was so dynamic and vibrant and made everyone and feel great. She and West opened their home to all of us and was always planning something for us to do. I treasure my time I spent in CT mainly because of Sharon and her enormous personality and caring nature. As we all went our separate ways when the office there was closed I lost contact with her and Wes and only recently learned of her passing. My prayers go out to West and her extended family.
Penny Lewis

Ruby Lee (Penny) Lewis - August 11, 2023 at 05:28 PM



“ *Sharon Merchant Faison*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM

SS

“ *Stella McAnally Strange lit a candle in memory of Sharon Merchant Faison*



Stella McAnally Strange - November 02, 2020 at 07:50 AM

ML

“ *Aunt Sharon was a renaissance woman and champion for the welfare of her family and friends. She leaves a huge void in the lives of many. I admired her greatly. Marcia Lewis*

Marcia Lewis - October 06, 2015 at 02:19 PM



“ *Sunny Memories was purchased for the family of Sharon Merchant Faison.*



September 29, 2015 at 08:57 AM



“ *Sharon was my travel agent, my guide, my cheerleader and most importantly – my friend. I've known her and West since before I opened Richie's Specialty Pharmacy in 1999 and they were one of the first people I met when I moved to Montgomery to work in 1996.*

Her counsel, sincerity, love, and friendship have meant so much to me over the years and I will cherish those for the rest of my life.

Love you and your family – always will.

Your friend,

Richie Ray

Richie Ray - September 26, 2015 at 07:42 PM

GB

“ Sharon had more personality, laughs, energy, stories to tell and love to share than anyone I have ever known. I met her and West at a roadside restaurant to discuss them sending a group of friends on one of my companies cruise ships. From that day on I felt like I was family! I will remember her smile, her great laugh, and a wonderful toast she liked to give when we would all meet for drinks. Even when she was battling her condition, she would still talk with me on the phone and ask how "I" was doing? And she really wanted to know. That is the kind of wonder, thoughtful and brave person Sharon was.

Love you Sharon. You will be soooo missed...

Greg Baxter

Greg Baxter - September 25, 2015 at 06:31 PM

KS

“ Sharon, will be missed by so many friends. She was my best friend for more than 50 years. She was so kind and generous to all her friends and family. Always happy and loved her Wes and family so much. RIP sweet friend.

Katherine Studhalter

katherine studhalter - September 23, 2015 at 05:08 PM

DB

“ While a young dispatcher for the SFA Police Dept, I meet Sharon who was so sweet and kind to me!

Dena Eickenhorst Byrd

Dena Eickenhorst Byrd - September 23, 2015 at 03:15 PM

PM

“ Sharon's sparkling personality and big loving heart will be missed. Her upbeat approach to everything and her ability to make each person in a group feel special was wonderful to watch. She was a treasured friend and will be remembered with love forever. Pat and Nan McShan

pat and nan mcshan - September 23, 2015 at 11:04 AM

KO

“ My memories are many over the span of years of friendship. Her constant smile during an adversities was amazing. She was a great lady and will be truly missed by everyone who knew her. Our Love & Prayers to West and the entire family.
Karen & Mike Olson



Karen Olson - September 23, 2015 at 07:09 AM

JD

My condolences to West and family. I never got to meet Sharon, but I feel like I knew her through reading her newspaper column about her " Unknown Journey ". I was inspired by her positive spiritual and emotional attitude during her illness. She never seem to have given up. She was a courageous fighter to the very end. I think a book should be written using her " Unknown Journey " columns. This could be an inspiration to others going through life threatening illnesses. James Duncan

James Duncan - September 24, 2015 at 12:43 AM

BB

Sharon was married to my brother West for 33 years, and she made him a most happily married man. What more can better be said.

Barbara Browand

Barbara Browand - September 25, 2015 at 06:05 PM

BO

Mamacita, you will be missed by so many in so many ways!!!! So glad you received much deserved recognition for your career in law enforcement!!! I know you are leading the pack and gathering everyone around for good times and laughs in your new heavenly home. Love, B J & Chuck

B J Ordner - September 25, 2015 at 07:50 PM

DP

We will greatly miss Sharon who always was so upbeat and full of joy regardless of the circumstances. Because of her, we have had the opportunity to meet and frequently travel with a wonderful group of her friends and family. We are sure that Heaven will be a livelier place with Sharon. Love, Nancy & Dick Poole

Dick Poole - September 26, 2015 at 08:16 AM

FW

West; Tony and I were saddened to hear of the passing of our most treasured friend Sharon. I remember when Sharon and I met in Connecticut working for AAA Travel. We worked in different offices, and when she found that I had lived in Houston, she said you must join the Texas International Club. My husband had only passed thru Texas once, was allowed to join as well. We partied more than ever at Sharon and

West home. We were honored to host Sharon and West on Holidays with our family as they were apart of us.

Sharon wanted us to retire to Lake Conroe and we went down to check it out and had the most wonderful time. We did a ship inspection while we were there and from being wined and dined we went on down to Galveston, where we stopped at a place called the Poop Bar. It was nothing that any of us were used to and it was something we never forgot and had more laughs over. Sharon you will be missed by everyone you ever met and you are the most friendly and loving person we ever met. We know you are in Heaven looking down on all of us and we will meet again! Rest in peace!

*Love,
Sue and Tony Reilly*

PS Sharon I am doing my group to Ireland next August and taking you with us. We are taking you to Tonys home town on this trip. I know you will be ready!

Friends of Sharon and West - September 26, 2015 at 01:39 PM

LG

*Sharon was the first friend I made when I moved to Houston, in 1960. We worked across the hall from each other and became fast friends. To share a memory would require a book, there were so many. Suffice it to say we shared a great part of our lives - over 55 years, Her fairy-tale relationship and subsequent marriage to West was evidenced by their total devotion to each other. West was her rudder, her anchor and buoy. They sailed the high seas in tandem, literally and figuratively. How fitting they formed Faison Cruise & Travel. Sharon was always the leader of the pack and set the bar so high for all of us to follow. I hope the entrance requirements have not become harder and she saves us a seat. We will need a stadium to hold all her friends!
I will miss you deeply, dearest friend...Linda Gentry .*

Linda Gentry - September 27, 2015 at 08:11 AM

MB

*Querido West
Siento en el corazon la partida de nuestra querida Sharon.
Una gran Dama ,llena de alegria y cortesia.
Fuiste muy afortunado de tenerla estos anos.
Ella no se fue de tu lado, esta en tus recuerdos.
Todos la que la conocimos la amamos.
Que Dios la tenga en su Gloria!
Un abrazo
Mary Bernal*

Mary Bernal - September 30, 2015 at 08:55 AM

DG

To SF and WF

Many years ago my father told me that if I had a handful of true friends, I should consider myself a lucky man. I am finding his prophecy to be correct.

Actually, Sharon sought me out and cultivated our friendship during a very low time in my life. I resisted any new friendship at that time, still smarting from fair-weather friends who had left me at the first sign of storm clouds on the horizon.

Sharon's friendship came as such an unexpected surprise to me with it's genuineness, honesty, loyalty and courage. How could I possibly be blessed with such a friend and this so late in my life?

She prodded me to pick up the pieces, start again and don't let them see you sweat, she would say to me. Many times I did not want to participate in Sharon's plans for me, but as you know you cannot resist her will.

I will miss this gigantic personality in my life. Her boundless energy, booming voice, quick wit and optimism are difficult to replicate in any one friend.

She faced her mortality and never once complained. With the courage of Sampson and the patience of Job she persevered, never ceasing to make plans, even for her final event, leaving no detail to chance. A sendoff party as she would refer to it when she spoke to me of her funeral plans.

Sharon faced death several times during her illness, but she ignored death each time. When it came time to take her, I thank you God for making it quick and with dignity.

I just know that Sharon has already charmed St. Peter and is on the appointment list for God's approval of heaven's first cruise.

Sail on Sharon! Full speed ahead and salute'!

Don

Donald Glenz - October 01, 2015 at 11:07 PM