



Irene "Sonny" Gooden

December 27, 2019

Irene Teresa Sonny Gooden, "Auntie Sonny", 68, of Fort Collins, died December 27, 2019.

Sonny was born June 13, 1951 in Brooklyn, NY to parents John and Margaret Gooden. She grew up as a wild child in the big city, but always loved and put her family first. She attended Hofstra University in Long Island, studying forensic and evidence photography.

Sonny took great pride in her home state of New York and collected Statues of Liberty – plastic ones, metal ones, on coins, photographs, even a snow globe. If she heard someone speak with a New York accent, she would stop on the spot and strike up a conversation with a stranger. They shared information about where to get a decent NY style pizza or hoagie, how to understand our Colorado accents, and express frustration with sluggish Colorado drivers. She sometimes excused her colorful language and take-no-crap brashness saying "I'm from New York"and we all nodded our heads in understanding.

Sonny was a natural caregiver. She cared for an individual with Autism in her home. She was 26 years sober and she ran many N.A. groups including the meeting at the Larimer County jail. In her time as a counselor, she devoted herself to "her girls". Even in retirement, she was occasionally contacted by "her girls" to update her on their lives or ask advice. She also volunteered at

Red Cross.

Sonny worked at Anheuser Busch for many years and was a Teamster. One of her many talents was photography and she earned many awards for her photos from different places. She enjoyed spending time with her family, spoiling kids and cheering on the Denver Broncos. She loved her friends, Taylor Hicks, the color purple and PRINCE! Sonny was a devout Roman Catholic and Trump supporter who loved her cigarettes.

Sonny's sense of humor was second to none – she was always able to give anyone a good belly laugh. Her favorite word was the F-word. She liked to drive fast and listen to loud music. Her famous saying was, "You can do whatever you want at Aunt Sonny's house!" She loved to cook and her world-famous cheesecake was to die for!

Sonny was a force to contend with and her loved ones are all glad that she was fiercely on our side. She loved the snow. Every year she hosted a children-only Christmas party for all of her nieces and nephews. She did it all – planned activities, prepared food, and gave gifts. Sonny was the only adult in attendance and her objective was to make each child feel loved and important.

Sonny is survived by her nephew Scot and his wife Heather Randolph; grand-nieces and nephews Destiny Cobb, Scot Randolph, Bailey Caputo, Kaleo Cobb, Kalani Cobb, Aiden Stessen, and Addison Randolph. Her close friends include Larry Brown, Rick Jones, Phil Pfeffer, Margaret Day, Laurie Heckman, Yvonne Parshall, Keili Henderson, and Britni Montoya to name a few. She also left behind her cat Rain Girl. She was preceded in death by her beloved brothers, Wayne, John, Daniel and William, as well as her parents. Her cats ToTo and Phantom Kitty died many years ago and she missed them dearly, as well as her bulldog Zena.

A service/celebration of life will be held January 19th from noon to 2:00 p.m. at her house, 2021 Remington St. Unit C1, Fort Collins. Sonny's Estate Sale will be January 24 and 25 at her home in Ft. Collins. It will be advertised on Caring Estate Liquidators Facebook page as well as CaringEstateLiquidators.com as early as the week of January 14, 2020. A silent auction and fundraiser is also in the works. Please call her nephew Scot at 970-393-3833 for location, date, time and where to donate/contribute to fundraiser.

Tribute Wall



“ Irene "Sonny" Gooden

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ And Sonny I miss you so very much and I'm fulfilling everything that you asked of me no matter how hard and don't worry about Phil I got this see you in heaven



yvonne parshall - January 27, 2020 at 06:44 PM



“ I love you Auntie Sonny. Your pain is done now. Thanks for all the AMAZING memories over the years. I appreciate you always loving me. Thanks for always making sure my stomach was full. My heart still can't believe you are really gone. Rest in peace. I will get you home to New York very soon. I will love you ALWAYS.

- YOUR Scoty Boy

Scot Randolph - January 08, 2020 at 05:12 PM



“ My Aunt Sonny was one of the most outspoken, kind, caring, and amazing people I have ever known. I will miss her dearly but I am happy she is in a better place. Love you always and forever Aunt Sonny!

Corbin Jones - January 07, 2020 at 05:15 PM

LH

“ Although my time with Sonny was a brief 13 years, what a full 13 years it was. Some people walk through your life, but she walked into mine and stayed. She quickly became my fiercest defender and a loyal, amazing life friend. Always on my side. Always. Nobody made me laugh like Sonny. Nobody could keep me for hours on the phone talking about nothing and everything like Sonny. I will never forget you my dear friend. Rest high and in peace in God's glory. Well done. I will love and miss you forever.

Laurie Heckman - January 04, 2020 at 11:22 PM

CW

Sonny and I started out as nurse and patient, soon we became friends. She had a huge heart made of gold! She was one of the ,strongest people I have ever meet, she fought through numerous health issues until she and only she decided it was enough. I will miss you my friend, you so deserve to be without pain and be at peace❤️

Cheryl Wagner - January 06, 2020 at 10:59 PM

TH

So blessed to have had Sonny in my life. I was called in as a physical therapist some time after she had a stroke, because it was thought that I “could handle her”. That’s wrong. No one can handle a force of nature. I’ve never seen someone so proudly fight through so many health issues and still come out swinging. She is missed.

Travis Hand - January 08, 2020 at 01:11 AM

KB

“ I’m thankful I got to know Sonny. She always made me laugh with her craziness. Rest In Peace.

Karen Brooks - January 04, 2020 at 10:43 PM

KB

“ I'm thankful that I got to know Sonny. She made me laugh with her craziness. Rest In Peace!

Karen Brooks - January 04, 2020 at 10:13 PM

MD

“ Margaret Day lit a candle in memory of Irene "Sonny" Gooden



Margaret Day - January 03, 2020 at 05:43 PM

RF

“ I've known Sonny for over 32 years. She was one of the most caring, generous, funny, and Loving people I have ever known. Myself and my Family will miss her tremendously! Rest in Peace my Sister!

Ricardo Jones Family - January 02, 2020 at 02:44 PM

RP

Omg so so sorry I knew Irene from HS. I visited her in Colorado about 2 years or so ago She had a heart of gold so sorry for your loss 🙏🙏🙏

Rose Paro - January 07, 2020 at 04:39 PM

LH

I was sorry to hear of Sonny's passing. We were Taylor Hicks fans since day one. We had so much fun on Taylor Hicks fan message boards. About 9 years ago she found out we were coming to Colorado so she invited me and my then husband for lunch. I will tell you that Sonny put on a spread for us. We had a great visit and did a lot of reminiscing. Sonny was a real character and she loved New York. I will miss you dear Sonny. May the perpetual light shine upon you.
LeeHempel

Lee Hempel - January 07, 2020 at 08:10 PM

GG

I had the opportunity to work with Sonny at Budweiser briefly. She was a unique woman with her own funny verbiage ,that was her outstanding personality! May the Lord accept her beautiful soul into His heavenly kingdom.

Gloria & Bennie Garcia

Gloria H Garcia - January 08, 2020 at 02:17 PM