



Shelley Leigh Bird

May 17, 1955 - June 26, 2018

Shelley Leigh Bird, 63, of Bartlesville, OK, a ConocoPhillips retiree, passed away Tuesday.

Shelley was the daughter of an Air Force Test pilot with no sons, which well shaped her approach to life. A Geologist, Landman, and IT consultant, her career spanned 40 years at companies such as Southland Royalty, Burlington Resources, and Oracle. Though she worked and lived in many states, she was a CU Buffalo and claimed Denver, CO as home. In the late 90s her work brought her to Ponca City, OK where she discovered her beloved Southland Royalty originated with the founders of Marland Oil Company. This discovery led her to further investigate the history of the company, which she documented in a book she authored: Southland Royalty Company: The Long Journey Back to Oklahoma.

Shelley is survived by her husband Dale Kurt Johnson, daughters Melanie Knaus, Berkley Luk, and Bethany Johnson, her grandchildren Nola and Daniel Knaus, her father Melvin Dunn, and her sisters Teresa Williams and Denise Daniel. Shelley was preceded in death by her mother Hilda Anne Falkenberry.

Private celebrations will be held over the course of the next year. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Shelley's honor to Nazih Zuhdi Transplant Institute in Oklahoma City: integrisingiving.org

Tribute Wall



“ *Shelley Leigh Bird*

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ *Shelley Leigh Bird*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *Still remember the great times and travails of Denver life and the pursuit of Hunter S. Thompson adventures. FWIW, I ended up finding his Vincent motorcycle and restored it. Wish you were here to see it!*



JOHN VANCE WHITING - February 16, 2023 at 08:45 PM



“ *Teri R Williams lit a candle in memory of Shelley Leigh Bird*



Teri R Williams - May 18, 2020 at 11:56 AM



Happy 65th Birthday Shell

Teri R Williams - May 18, 2020 at 11:56 AM

TW

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Teri R Williams - May 18, 2020 at 11:51 AM

TW

“ Teri R Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Shelley Leigh Bird



Teri R Williams - May 18, 2020 at 11:48 AM

TW

Happy 65th Birthday Shelley.

Teri R Williams - May 18, 2020 at 11:49 AM

SH

“ Shelley was an amazing lady - I enjoyed working with her. She was full of life and I enjoyed her vibrant spirit in the midst of the most strenuous situations. I will miss her and her friendship. Rest In Peace, Shelley

Shree - August 31, 2019 at 12:14 AM



“ *Pensacola bound Shelley!!! June 2019.*



teri williams - August 02, 2018 at 10:52 PM

TW

“ *Kurt,
My deepest sympathy on Shelley's passing. She was taken from this Earth much too soon. I will forever treasure my memories of our many dinners, work projects and grandkid talks. I learned so much about the oil & gas business from Shelley and for that I am eternally grateful. She loved y'all's crazy life and she loved you so much!! She was so full of spunk, she was wicked smart, she was funny and she was fun to be around! God knows I will miss her dearly. I will keep you & y'all's family in my prayers.
Much love,
Theresa Weatherford*

Theresa Weatherford - July 11, 2018 at 10:05 PM

AB

“ *My dear sweet, funny and beautiful friend is gone. My heart is terribly saddened with the news. Kurt, the picture of Shelley is perfect and I can hear her infectious laugh. I first met Shelley sometime in 1999 at Phillips Petroleum and quickly learned to admire her knowledge and high intellect. Her quick wit was phenomenal and always made me laugh. I have so many wonderful memories of Shelley and valued her friendship greatly.
Shelley was a gifted teacher and shared her knowledge freely. She was loved by many and we will miss her forever.
Ali and Terry Blake July, 11,2018*

Ali Blake - July 11, 2018 at 03:22 PM



“ *Shelley and Kurt always put a wonderful 4th of July together for their children. I am sure they will greatly miss that event. Shelley and Kurt looked forward to it every year.*

teri williams - July 04, 2018 at 11:14 PM

RW

“ *Shelley, Teri and I rented a Jeep when this picture was taken in 1983.*



rick williams - July 03, 2018 at 07:47 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



teri williams - July 02, 2018 at 12:35 PM

RJ

Our sincerest condolences on the passing of Shelley. We are praying for peace and comfort for the whole family.

Rebecca Johnson - July 11, 2018 at 01:12 PM

DJ

“ Very simply my heart is broken.

As I walked Sunday morning in a light rain, I thought how impossible this post would be to write and got discouraged, then Shelley's words came to me "You are only alone if you choose to be"...."so keep it short, get to the point, and get it done Johnson".

Shelley always found the beauty in people and managed to help others feel better about themselves and their situation. That likely explains her taking me on to become my very best buddie and favorite constant companion these last 18 years - she was and will always be so much more than a perfecting helpmate or loving wife. Our last spoken words were not goodbye, but to exchange I love you's, I held her hand and kissed her forehead, a week ago Monday late afternoon.

I know I grew as a father and a man watching Shelley lovingly mature our daughters; Melanie Elizabeth (our seasoned politico and mother of exceptional grandkids Nola Leigh and Daniel Knaus), Berkley Kristina (our Micro Bio scientist), and Bethany Kirsten (our performing artist). Reflecting, I can see clearly how Shelley shaped these three into wonderful young adults through example, instruction, and purpose. Somehow she always knew what they needed and when (unlike me).

Shelley talked with her younger sister Teri almost daily, and I know she is just devastated. Shelley was her big sis, surrogate mother, and best friend. Her husband Rick and kids Christopher and Elizabeth were our first house guests here in Oklahoma and played a big role in the coming years. Early on I met her older sister Denise, but due to distance and circumstance, have not been close. Denise will be able to join us all when we intern Shelley next to her mother in Florida. Each year, Shelley and I made a trip or two to visit her Dad Melvin in Ridgeway. Our last trip in May was for Elizabeth's HS graduation and included a stop in Ridgeway.

My sister Cindy lives here in Bartlesville and Shelley was instrumental in her relocation to Oklahoma. Again, somehow Shelley knew; how best I could help and made that happen. My brothers David/Alan and their wives Tracey/Amie all loved Shelley; confided as sisters-in-law ("Johnson brothers" their terminology), and saw the special energetic happiness and joy she brought to me and thus them. We were able to all be together in San Antonio this May for a special time together.

Lastly, I never met Shelley's mom Hilda, but strongly suspect she must have been like my mom Willetta. My mom loved Shelley and Shelley loved her as the mother she had been missing. Both Hilda and mom were Southern Baptist and Shelley's and my knowledge of the bible and our early professions of Christian faith were in large measure their doing. Several years ago my mom passed away, and afterwards Shelley quietly hung my favorite portrait of mom in the kitchen where I would see in the mornings out the door and again at night coming home. This act was typical of Shelley comforting others and helped get me through my loss then. Somehow, someway, and with some time I know I shall get through this terrible loss now.

Know that I love you all, but I loved her most, K

Note: I always thought I was mostly a New Testament Christian, but in my head I kept repeating Psalm 23 from the old testament, and it sustained me over the course of June, and may be of comfort to you all as well.

Dale Johnson - July 02, 2018 at 08:44 AM

DD

Kurt, my prayers and love are with you now just as Shelley is caring for all of us. We miss her presence.

Denise Daniel - July 09, 2018 at 05:58 PM

CP

Dear niece,- Shelley you are unforgettable in my thoughts and memories forever. Aunt Carlene

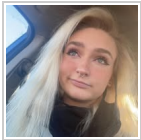
Carlene Peters - July 21, 2018 at 04:47 PM



“ *Sympathy Fruits Abound was purchased for the family of Shelley Leigh Bird.*



June 30, 2018 at 11:08 AM



“ *Shelly was such a sweet and caring soul. She was the family that has always been there for us. I always was excited for her visits when she came down to Colorado; she just always carried such a joyous and contagious exuberance that you couldn't help but being happy in her presence. She was so funny, sweet, and caring. I will miss her so much. Thank you Shelly for always supporting me and Chris, it really did mean the world to us. I love you so much Shelly. Thank you for being such a wonderful person.*

Elizabeth Williams - June 30, 2018 at 12:23 AM

RW

“ *Shelley was a wonderful person who was always willing to help anyone in need. This was her trademark in life. I saw this personally many times in the 35 years that I have known her. She was my wife's best buddy. Shelley was a very generous and kind soul, and was truly wonderful to our kids. We will miss you so very much. We love you.*

Rick

rick williams - June 29, 2018 at 10:41 PM

CW

“ You always found time to come out and support my sister and I in the big events going on in our lives, whether it be my college graduation or my sisters high school graduation, and I’ll never forget that. You were kind and supportive and although I don’t understand why I was included in the group chat with you and Mom, I will miss those messages. I wish I could have said goodbye. You will be missed dearly. I love you Aunt Shelley.

Chris Williams - June 29, 2018 at 10:09 PM

DD

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Denise A Daniel - June 29, 2018 at 01:34 PM

DD

“ Shelley and I got into a Three Dog Night concert and after party when we were teenagers. Shelley found her niche under the piano and another one at the party joined her. I sat on the buffet (after the food was gone) and chatted with some roadies and a radio host. We had a wonderful time even though Mom was so mad at us when we got home she could have switched us! We had to leave almost immediately for a trip to Pensacola to see Grandma and Papa. We made it! Love you, Ms. Shell.

Denise A Daniel - June 29, 2018 at 01:17 PM

TW

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



teri williams - June 29, 2018 at 11:59 AM

TW

Shelley and Kurt gracious to attend my daughters graduation from ouray high school. Dinner at the Bon Ton in ouray

teri williams - June 29, 2018 at 05:27 PM

TW

“ *The most kind and caring sister anyone could ever wish for. Her life and spirit will be in our hearts forever. God bless you Shelley and we will see you in Pensacola and Colorado soon. Teri*



teri williams - June 29, 2018 at 11:37 AM

DD

I second that, Teri. I really wish we could have been closer in our lives. I have always loved her and she'll be with us forever with no pain and a happy heart. Shel, you know I love you and always have.

Denise A Daniel - June 29, 2018 at 01:14 PM

JA

“ My deepest condolences to Mr Bird and family. Shelly was truly loved and cared for, this was absolutely evident in my brief interaction with them in the hospital. May the memories you shared together be a source of comfort and strength in days to come. It was my pleasure to meet you both.

jessie abraham - June 28, 2018 at 04:11 PM

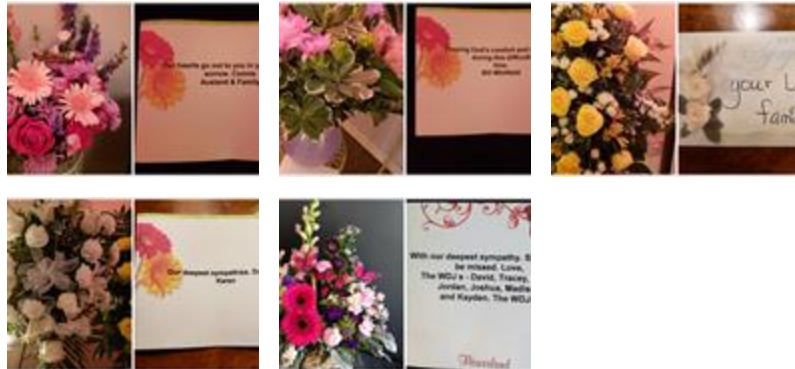
JR

“ Shelley became one of my best friends during our time of employment at ConocoPhillips. I will miss our frequent texts especially about our grandchildren. It is difficult to imagine life without Shelley. Kurt, I offer you my heartfelt condolences and pray that God will help comfort you through the days to come.
Jeanette

Jeanette Reeder - June 28, 2018 at 01:26 PM



“ 9 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory - June 28, 2018 at 09:31 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Shelley Leigh Bird.*



June 27, 2018 at 02:42 PM



“ *George & Jain Benjamin purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Shelley Leigh Bird.*



George & Jain Benjamin - June 27, 2018 at 01:40 PM



“ *Heartfelt Condolences to Kurt and all the other grieving families. May our God fill everyone with peace that passeth all understanding. Shelley is in a better place where there is no pain or sorrows. Rest in peace.*
--George & Jain Benjamin

George Benjamin - June 27, 2018 at 12:34 PM



wow, this was not in my radar to happen. Shelley and I met in college as Geology students. Shelley a devoted hard rock geologist and me a soft rock geologist. We shared a house in Denver with Melanie and Holds. We took so many field trips together in her beloved Toyota named Trudy. I went overseas with my degree and Shell dug into the oil and gas business. She helped get a new a.c. unit for my home, so many many gifts. She was a fierce defender of children's rights and safety. I love you Shelley.

Deb Adelsperger - June 29, 2018 at 11:01 AM

DA

Hilda not Holds

Deb Adelsperger - June 29, 2018 at 11:02 AM

JW

Shelley was a warrior. The rarest of human beings, fearless, looking for adventure and finding it wherever she went; an infectious laugh and smile for the good in others, a purveyor of truth and understanding, the thirstiest in line at the fountain of knowledge. I will miss our decades of conversational flybys, the shared hilarity over the day to day events that sparked memories and recognized the many ironies of life. She lived, leaving things better for those that knew her. RIP my friend.

John Whiting - July 16, 2018 at 04:24 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Shelley Leigh Bird.*



June 26, 2018 at 10:29 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Shelley Leigh Bird.*



June 26, 2018 at 09:09 PM