



Susan J Howell

March 24, 1946 - April 5, 2026

Susan J Howell — Sue to everyone who knew and loved her — passed away peacefully at her home in Tequesta, Florida Sunday April 5th at the age of 80.

To countless local families, Sue was simply "Swim Sue" — a nickname earned through more than 40 years of patiently and joyfully teaching infants and children to swim. Her gentle confidence in the water gave generations of young swimmers their first strokes, and her warmth left a lasting impression on every family she touched. She lived a life full of purpose, connection, and love, and the ripples of her generosity will be felt for generations to come.

Beyond the pool, Sue had a deep love for adventure from boating on the open water to skiing in the mountains. She and her husband Mel shared a passion for travel, exploring destinations together over the years as a couple, with family including their children and grandchildren as well as close friends. Closer to home, she was happiest on the water — boating up and down the Florida coast from Tequesta all the way to Key West and the Bahamas.

Sue is survived by her devoted husband, Don Melvin Howell; her daughter, Anne Trueblood; her son, Donald Howell; her grandchildren, Conner Howell and Megan Trueblood, and step grandchildren Maddison Trueblood, Ralayna Jaczynski and Kay D'Angelo; her sister, Katherine Tagg; and her brothers, Bill and Joe Murphy. She will be dearly missed by all whose lives she touched.

Sue will be laid to rest at Riverside Memorial Park. A celebration of her life will be held Friday April 17th at 10AM at Taylor and Modeen Funeral Home in Jupiter, Florida.

Donations in her honor to Els for Autism <https://www.elsforautism.org/> would be welcome. While working with children in the pool she had several personal opportunities to see how swimming helped special needs of many varieties.

Previous Events

Celebration

APR 17. 10:00 AM (ET)

Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home
250 Center Street
Jupiter, FL 33458
(561) 744-2030
<https://www.taylorandmodeenflorida.com>

Tribute Wall

SW

“ I am so sorry to hear of Sue’s passing. She was a great lady. I enjoyed visiting with her at Swim school events. She definitely had a passion for teaching children to swim.

Sally Wieland - June 24 at 09:01 PM

MA

“ We have many fond memories of Sue and her family, Mel, Ann, Donald. Of course, it began with Sarah's swim lessons and continued with playdays for Donald and Sarah. Lee followed along after Sarah with Sue's swim lessons, and tagged along on those playdays which expanded into wider mutual friendship circles and playgroup at Church. Ahhh...those precious memories of a dear friend and the love she shared with everyone. Dear Sue, may she rest in peace and may your family always hold her love in your hearts. Gratefully and Respectfully, Mandy.

Mandy - April 19 at 02:05 PM

KA

“ My mom Jinny (Virginia) Morrison (Sue's Aunt sister to Jean) was only 10 years old when Sue was born. Even though we lived far away and couldn't travel then, we saw Aunt Jean often and heard about Sue's life and the impact she had on people's lives through swimming. Aunt Jean would call regularly to give reports of her travels and activities. I got the idea to have my own son Don (hearing disorder and autism) was taught how to swim after I heard about Sue's way with kids in swimming; it did give him more confidence. We lived abroad many years and are very sorry we did not see her as an adult. I am sorry we could not be there today due to medical issues. May her memories bring peace and comfort to the whole family. Cousins Kate and Don

Kate&Don - April 17 at 08:16 AM

LK

“ I knew Sue through the Swim School Association. Our friendship formed quickly since we had so much in common. I always enjoyed the time we were able to spend together sharing stories and comparing notes on teaching methods. Sue was very helpful when we planned a trip to Florida. I am happy to call her a friend, and I will miss her dearly. Thanks for the memories, Sue. My condolences to Mel, and the family.

Lori Kilmer - April 14 at 10:19 PM



“ Sue was such a lovely person, and I have such fond memories of her through the years. She taught my twins to swim when they were about 14 months old. They are now 47. It seems like yesterday. Sending my deepest condolences to her family.

Sharyn Howard - April 14 at 06:55 PM



“ We will miss Sue and her love of life. She was always very supportive of our family. We love you, Sue.
From Gary, Alissa, Kaylin and Forrest Howell

Alissa Howell - April 13 at 03:35 PM

JP

“ Sue was an amazing person in the swim school industry. I met Sue years ago at a swim school conference. She saved so many lives teaching swimming lessons. She will be missed

Jeff Purchin - April 12 at 06:04 PM

SK

“ I have such sweet memories of Sue...teaching my children, and grandson, how to swim, fun times in the Bahamas, and just as members of our community...way back when. May she Rest in Peace. Condolences to her family, especially to you, Mel. With love,
Susan Koster

Susan Koster - April 12 at 05:57 PM

AN

“ Thank you for teaching me how to swim, Sue.

Andrew - April 11 at 08:26 PM

SP

“ Sending my deep condolence's to Katherine and Sue's family on the loss of such a unique lady. Sue taught my 3 boys to swim with her gifted technique. It was as if you'd won the lottery back in the day to get on her schedule for lessons. I can see her now up above swimming with the dolphins and finally at peace. May the memories lift her love ones today and beyond. Doug and Stacy

stacy porter - April 11 at 10:40 AM

BW

“ When I moved to California in 1968, Sue was my first friend. Over the years we’d talk off and on and never miss a beat... that kind of friend is to be loved forever... and I will.

Blythe Welton - April 09 at 09:49 PM

KG

“ Sue shared her love of swimming w/so many children. She joyfully taught my own son to swim. Sues’ caring, gentle approach to swimming was her Super Power Her legacy lives on and she will be missed. Godspeed Sue

Kathy Greene - April 09 at 10:13 AM

KT

“ My big sister Susan has been a presence all my life. We bonded through adversity in early childhood. She did so many things well....including choosing Easter Sunday to leave us.



Katherine Tagg - April 08 at 01:51 PM