



## Laura Elaine Bills Hathaway

September 29, 1966 - June 22, 2020

Laura Elaine Bills Hathaway, age 53, passed away on June 22, 2020 in Salt Lake City, Utah. She was born on September 29, 1966 in Salt Lake City, Utah to Joan May Monteer Bills and David Todd Bills.

Laura grew up in Rose Park. Laura had many interests including a love for reading often re-reading her favorite books including the Little House on the Prairie series as a child and in recent years the Harry Potter series narrated by Jim Dale. She also enjoyed romance and science fiction. To keep track of her reading for years she kept a spreadsheet listing every book she read. From an early age Laura liked to sing and performed in the Treble Clefs chorus with her mother for a number of years. She also enjoyed listening to a wide range of music including the Moody Blues, Air Supplies and much more from many eras. Laura also enjoyed art and although time did not always permit her to pursue this hobby, she was an accomplished painter primarily of scenes from nature. She also knitted and crocheted. For a number of years she was a member of the Taxmasters Toastmasters club serving a term as treasurer. Blind from birth Laura was active from a young age in the blindness community as a member of the National Federation of the Blind of Utah, first helping her mother who served as President for many years and later in her own roles as an officer on the state and local chapter level. In recent years Laura became a fixture at state conventions helping with meal planning, registration and other tasks necessary to help things run smoothly. For many

years Laura operated food service facilities as part of the Business Enterprise Program in the health department and Federal building in Salt Lake City. After her BEP service she worked at the Utah State Capitol for ten years as the information operator. From there she worked at the Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired as the training center secretary. Her position brought her into daily contact with the students who appreciated her positive and helpful support. Although older than the typical college student Laura took on the challenge to get a degree in human resources and though her college experience was interrupted by a bout with cancer, she received a bachelor's degree. In 2018 she was awarded the highest scholarship of \$4,500 from the National Federation of the Blind of Utah. Laura worked hard to find employment interviewing for many jobs through state government once saying that she was becoming an expert at interviewing. Last fall her efforts were rewarded when she obtained a job at the Utah State Office of Education, a job she held until her death.

Laura is survived by her husband Chris Hathaway, Hedwig her umbrella cockatoo, sisters Kaylene (Gene) Thomson, Sharon (Karl) Smith, Jannis (Neal) Spencer, Christine (Curtis) Knudsen, along with several nieces and nephews who will miss her.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Arrangements are under the direction of Wiscombe Memorial.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Laura Elaine Bills Hathaway*

October 22, 2023 at 08:21 PM



“ *Laura Elaine Bills Hathaway*

October 05, 2023 at 07:13 AM



“ *I just found out that Laura passed away a couple of months ago and my heart hurts. She is an amazing lady who made a difference to everyone she met. My husband is blind and so I've been involved with NFB for the last 5 years. At every party, meeting, or convention she was key in helping it be a success. If you had a question you were took "ask Laura she will know" she has left a huge hole in many people's hearts in sure. There is not another person I can think of that has earned her angel wings more than Laura. RIP love Mindy and Michael harris*

**Mindy Harris** - August 21, 2020 at 10:39 PM



“ *Laura was a ray of sunshine when she worked at dsbvi. I enjoyed working with her and her intelligence for making duties easier for all. She helped my job flow smoothly. I will miss her love of life and eagerness to live it to the fullest. She was an incredible lady.*

**Cindey Page** - July 15, 2020 at 07:54 PM

BM

“ My condolences to Laura's family. I only knew Laura for a short time. I sat across from her at work. I enjoyed chatting with her and working with her. She was always so kind and loved helping others. She had an inspiring, positive attitude that was contagious. I am so blessed that I had the chance to know her. I will miss her greatly.

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**Brenda McMurtrey** - July 15, 2020 at 05:51 PM

JE

“ Laura was a beautiful fun loving woman. She was a strength to all who knew her. Her example of living life to the fullest will always be cherished in my memories of DTS

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**Jenny Willoughby Elliott** - July 11, 2020 at 10:51 AM

NM

“ My deepest condolences to you and your family. I had the honor of working alongside Laura and although our time with her was short, she was a pleasure to work with. She always had a smile on her face and showed nothing but kindness and understanding. She will be missed.

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**Norma Mata** - July 10, 2020 at 10:20 AM

NA

“ Laura's smile consistently warmed my day, if other baggage had me distracted or frustrated. I was appreciative of each interaction we shared. Though I only knew her for the time she worked with our team at the Utah State Board of Education, I will miss her enthusiasm for her work and her gracious demeanor. My condolences to all her share in her loss.

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**Nathan Auck** - July 09, 2020 at 06:48 PM

KH

“ I so enjoyed getting to know Laura while working at the Utah State Board of Education. I will miss seeing her smile.  
Kimberly Howard

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**Kimberly Howard** - July 09, 2020 at 05:52 PM

KE

“ Laura was a very kind, special friend of mine during our childhood years. She would selflessly share everything she had with anyone. She carried inside her a caring, lovely-gospel spirit. We shared many hours and laughs jumping on her family trampoline! Rest now in God's garden my friend. 🌸. May your family be comforted. 🙏💜  
Keelee

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**Keelee** - July 07, 2020 at 01:09 PM

DP

*Dear Family,  
Knowing Laura since about her birth, her family was our family. She radiated the gospel in all she was involved. Primary, Young Womens, and into her adulthood you always knew where you stood with Laura. Heaven has another Angel to watch over us. Her reunion with her parents, niece and others who have gone on before was we are sure a Happy Reunion. Rest in Peace until we meet again.... Hugs....Love to your family who are still living here on earth..🤗🤘🙏💜*

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**Don and Mary Phillips** - July 07, 2020 at 08:33 PM