



## Roberta Louise Baber

September 9, 1943 - June 23, 2025

Roberta Louise (Robinson) Baber was born to Perry Kenneth Robinson and Emo Gibson (Cronkrite) Robinson on September 9, 1943, in Ventura, California. Roberta joined her older brother, Perry Kenneth Robinson II (later Scott Johnson), in the Robinson household. During her childhood, Roberta thrived in school, sports, and family activities in both Ojai and Ventura. During her teen years, she stepped up to help her family after her mother had a health crisis. This led to a lifelong belief that housework was highly overrated and that the whole point of making money was to have enough money to hire people to help out.

Upon graduation from Ventura High School in 1961, Roberta proceeded to pursue her Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics in Los Angeles. She graduated in 1965 with her B.S. in Mathematics from California State University, Los Angeles, and immediately launched a career in computer science. She was among just a few women in the computer industry and eagerly dove in to make a difference as a computer programmer and later a systems analyst.

Roberta met James "Jim" Thompson Baber through work at Lockheed as they were both employed as computer programmers. They dated and were married in December 1968. In 1973, Jim and Roberta welcomed their first child, Erin Marie. During her maternity leave, Roberta started working on her master's in business administration (MBA). In 1975, Roberta gave birth to her second child, Gregory Allen. Always effective, Roberta completed her MBA while on

maternity leave with Greg. Roberta loved to share that the benefits of reading to children can include reading textbooks just as well.

Roberta and Jim had many hobbies that they shared, like skiing, but one of their passions was rally racing. Rally racing combined Jim's love of driving and Roberta's love of mathematics and telling Jim what to do. They won many rally races, even winning a race the day Greg was born, which she would attribute to Greg's insistence and ended up keeping the trophy in his room as a remembrance.

Roberta's passion for business and computers remained consistent through a variety of positions. It was after a family move to the mountains outside of Fresno, California, that gave Roberta the opportunity to start teaching computers. The combination of her early love of learning and her varied experiences as a computer professional led into a teaching career that spanned more than 30 years and touched countless people. Roberta found endless joy in teaching computers to college students. She shared that joy with colleagues who grew into a family of choice.

Her teaching career brought several joys not the least of which was the opportunity to co-author a textbook with her dear friend, Marilyn (Meyer) Behringer. Roberta and Marilyn traveled the United States encouraging the adoption of their textbook at colleges and universities. The book's success only pales in comparison to the joy and friendship between the pair.

During her teaching career, Roberta took great joy in helping student athletes, and could be found at most of the sporting events at FCC both as a spectator as well as volunteering to help with the events themselves. The coaches eventually encouraged their students to Roberta's classes, as they knew that she would encourage and inspire the athletes, while also holding them responsible for their own work. These athletes appreciated her help and were frequently glad to have someone who believed in them.

In 2009 after years of health struggles, Roberta's husband passed away. After Jim's passing Roberta dove deep into improving her health. She worked hard on healthier eating and exercise. Eventually Roberta had developed an

exercise routine that often included as much as an hour and a half of exercise every day. Upon her retirement from teaching in 2011, Roberta had even more time to exercise and live life fully.

In 2018 Roberta took the opportunity to move along with her son, Greg, to Hollister, California. Hollister gave her the opportunity to enjoy the type of weather that everyone associates with California... and the coastal weather she enjoyed in her youth. She was an active volunteer with the thrift store for the Hollister Hospital where she made several friends. Coinciding with the very start of COVID, Roberta had a small stroke that left her with some minor mobility challenges. However, based on the experience she decided to relocate to Pennsylvania near her daughter, Erin. In June 2020, Roberta moved into the continuing care retirement community of Paramount in Fayetteville, Pennsylvania. While the weather paled in comparison to the coastal weather in Hollister, Roberta's time at Paramount Senior Living provided her the opportunity to make even more friends.

Despite efforts to live healthy, Roberta faced increasing health challenges. Under the care of many caring health professionals, Roberta valiantly fought against congestive heart failure and kidney failure. Unfortunately, she succumbed to heart failure on June 23, 2025. Roberta is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Erin and Hank; her son, Greg; nephews and nieces; and numerous friends including many who feel like family.

In honor of Roberta's joy for life, humor, and a good story, the family asks that you upload any of your favorite memories or stories for us all to appreciate. A memorial service will be held at a date to be announced later in Fresno, California.

Should you want to donate in Roberta's name, please choose an organization that supports STEM education for women and girls or educational support for collegiate athletes.

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ 2 files added to the album Roberta Baber Cruise 2019



Bonnie Smith - June 26, 2025 at 03:03 PM

BS

*Had such a great time with the ladies on the cruise. I still remember Roberta and I trying to join Marilyn on the top deck. Unfortunately, the ship was moving fast and the wind was really blowing. Roberta and I were clinging for dear life to the side rails. Roberta finally gave up and said she would meet us later. It didn't take much convincing to get Marilyn to come back down to a less windy area of the ship. lol*

Bonnie Smith - June 26, 2025 at 03:06 PM

ME

*One year Roberta and Jim moved to Shaver Lake, CA. When our family first visited their home we were amazed at what a beautiful retreat they had found in the mountains. We spent a long weekend with them and had some memorable adventures: Roberta and I relaxed, talked and renewed our friendship that began when we both met in college. We drove the mountain roads up to Shaver Lake and Huntington Lake and marveled at the pristine forests and sunshine. Our young children played and enjoyed each others' company. Our husbands cut down a tall pine tree on their property (because it was leaning) and moved it nearer to their home so that it could be used for their winter fires. We renewed our friendship and enjoyed those beautiful days in the mountains with our families – perfect memories.*

*Mary Lou Edwards*

Mary Lou Edwards - June 30, 2025 at 04:16 PM

MM

*'On a quiet Wednesday Morning, I was busy saving my notes, updating my files, and looking for Incredible Answers to Impossible Questions '... I then gave pause, saying to myself: '..I really would like to see and run into my old COBOL and Data Processing teacher; Roberta, over at Fresno City College. I wonder how she's been I thought, as I consider career options to also serve The District, as my own Mother, L. Jane Wyatt-Mejia once did at the College District's Foundation and Grants Office. In retrospect, as a child, I sat in Mom's Office, as she was a Research Analyst, and My Brother and I, ...we could only sit quietly; with a small cup of hot tea, and a couple of cinnamon graham crackers Mom sometimes gave to us until she had finished the day's work. We'd leave late in the evenings, as the night custodians would make their rounds, making sure the offices were clean and set afresh for the next day's work. '*

*As I recall, that was in 1976, for little did I know, that I would somehow end up, ' just Ten Summers later, taking classes from a Data Processing Teacher, that often spoke of her own experiences; ...working as A Computer Programmer for Lockheed .. Lockheed Martin. '..*

*Lockheed Martin is a global aerospace, defense, and security company that provides advanced technology systems, products, and services to the U.S. government and international customers. The company is organized into four core businesses: Aeronautics, Missiles and Fire Control, Rotary and Mission Systems, and Space Systems. Lockheed Martin is a leader in areas like air superiority, missile defense, space exploration, and has an increasing focus on digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and advanced cyber capabilities.*

*Key Business Areas*

*Aeronautics:*

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*Develops advanced fighter jets, such as the F-22 Raptor and F-35 Lightning II, as well as airlift and sustainment solutions.*

*Missiles and Fire Control:*

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*Focuses on integrated air and missile defense, precision strike systems, and air superiority technologies, including the PAC-3 missile.*

*Rotary and Mission Systems:*

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*Includes Sikorsky helicopters and advanced maritime systems, including undersea systems and radar technologies.*

*Space:*

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*Engaged in the development of national security, civil, commercial, and*

*weather spacecraft, as well as advancements in hypersonics and missile defense systems from space.*

### *Company Focus & Technologies*

#### *Defense and Security:*

*A core focus is on strengthen*

*'Her name .. "her name was Mrs. Roberta Baber.... "There was a special excitement at Fresno City College during the mid-Eighties, for the Era of Personal Computers was at the forefront of everything, so it seemed. The idea of one having their own Personal Computer was simply astounding at the time, and for the first time, it was like 'Anybody could become a .. 'A Computer Person...!' Roberta and my other Teacher, Marylin Meyers were the two principal Data Processing Teachers while I attended Fresno City College, and as my skills grew, ' it was due to [Four Women]; Mom, My Grandma who bought Me my first PC.., Plus Dear Marylin and Dear Roberta, -that in Many Ways, 'changed Me from a mere gasoline station in a rather lower income area of my city; a Pump Jockey, eating Cold hoagies, Microwave Burritos, and Sleeping on our old couch in 'The Barrio., - just Two Summers Before, "Into An Actual "Into A Real Data Processing Instructor" - Yippee!! - in the field of Career and Technical Education, in the Health and Human Services Industry.. 'I owe it all to Roberta and Marylin. 'I'm sorry to have learned of Roberta's passing recently. Thank You Dear Roberta for saving my life as a young student, so I might go out and make difference in the Lives of Others, as Roberta taught All of Us to do.. 'The impact you Had to This Day, Lives on in the Hearts and Minds of Many Thousands, who's lives were touched by your Dedication, Brilliance, and Unswerving Excellence as Our Teacher.. - Godspeed. -*

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**MARK D MEJIA** - September 10, 2025 at 05:30 AM

MM

*'On a quiet Wednesday Morning, I was busy saving my notes, updating my files, and looking for Incredible Answers to Impossible Questions '... I then gave pause, saying to myself: '..I really would like to see and run into my old COBOL and Data Processing teacher; Roberta, over at Fresno City College. I wonder how she's been I thought, as I consider career options to also serve The District, as my own Mother, L. Jane Wyatt-Mejia once did at the College District's Foundation and Grants Office. In retrospect, as a child, I sat in Mom's Office, as she was a Research Analyst, and My Brother and I, ...we could only sit quietly; with a small cup of hot tea, and a couple of cinnamon graham crackers Mom sometimes gave to us until she had finished the day's work. We'd leave late in the evenings, as the night custodians would make their rounds, making sure the offices were clean and set afresh for the next day's work. '*

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*In 'just Two Short Summers Later,' - ..I Had Learned Enough to Become An Actual "....A Real and For True.., "[Data Processing Instructor]." - Yippee!! - in the field of Career and Technical Education, with the Health and Human Services Industry..*

*Dear Friends, 'I Owe Much Of What I Am Today, -To Fresno City College, Roberta, and Marylin. 'I'm sorry to have learned of Roberta's passing recently. Thank You Dear Roberta for saving my life as a young student, so I might go out and make difference in the Lives of Others, as Roberta taught All of Us to do.. 'The impact you Had to This Day, Lives on in the Hearts and Minds of Many Thousands, who's lives*

*were touched by your Dedication, Brilliance, and Unswerving  
Excellence as Our Teacher and Educator.. - Godspeed. -*

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**MARK MEJIA** - September 10, 2025 at 01:51 PM