

PCCR 3-30-11

## **Delores Jean Reitzler, 73**

**D**elores, or Dee, as her friends and family called her, passed at the age of 73, on March 3, 2011. Born in Brooklyn on Oct. 18, 1937, to Cecil Earl and Katherine Druzilla (Zilla) Force, she grew up as the third of six children. Dee lived with her family in Brooklyn until she married her high school sweetheart Maynard John Reitzler at the age of 18.

Dee is survived by Maynard; their three children, Larry Eugene, Judith Ann and Michael John Reitzler; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren; as well as three sisters, Ruth Gundelfinger, Katherine (Kay) Brooks and Mary Schabacker.

In January 1965, Dee moved with her family to Southern California where she assumed her career in law enforcement and radio dispatching. A strong will and tenacious character were what many remember her by. She applied those traits to the love for her children, family, animals and career. Her gracious and caring heart often led her to adopt stray animals that were in need. Dee developed from the child princess to the fair queen over time. With an attentive ear, a pure heart and a wise word (of the owl), she helped her loved ones and friends overcome setbacks and obstacles. While Dee and Maynard did not remain together for a lifetime, they shared unparalleled love and guidance for their children.

Dee remarried to Billy J. Brown and retired to Arkansas where she expanded her love for animals. Marriage for Dee and Billy ended in 2007. Dee moved to Texas to be near her eldest son, Larry. Dee had a love for family, faith and friends that remains unconditional.

Dee was preceded in death by her mother, Zilla Force; father, Earl Force; brother, John Franklin Force; and sister, Marie Elaine Slagle.

Dearest Dee, Take flight to the heavens above as the night owl flies among the stars.

If you have a particular fond memory of Delores that you would like to share with her family please forward to: MichaelReitzler@gmail.com.