

**T**o Susan, it was a wonderful world filled with joy and hard work, laughter and kids, always kids. Susan began her lifelong affiliation with the Anaheim Union High School District as a student at Ball Junior High and Loara High School, where she played in the band. After working her way through Cal State Fullerton as an employee at Superior Fireplace, English degree in hand, she went to work as a technical writer for Allergan Pharmaceuticals. But the job lasted only a year, because Susan wasn't happy and realized she needed to be working with kids.

With the money she had saved, Susan went back to school and got her teaching credential. Her first job included teaching Spanish and coaching soccer. She knew little about Spanish and even less about soccer, but Susan made it work! Then, 22 years ago, Susan came back to Anaheim, where her heart was, and where her career would thrive. Starting out in the AUHSD, she was a counselor and activities director. She always believed deeply in the role student activities play in our educational institutions. She helped develop curriculum for a summer camp program that is still being used today, and was inducted last year into the Hall of Fame of the California Association of Directors of Activities (CADA).

Susan served as assistant principal at several schools before becoming principal at Brookhurst Jr. High School in 1997. Under her leadership, Brookhurst won two prestigious Golden Bell awards from the California School Boards Association. The character education program she helped foster and promote did wonders for the campus climate. She had a wonderful rapport with parents, and wasn't afraid to speak a little Spanish where warranted. She wasn't afraid to show her toughness, either. When the community experienced a close vote in favor of instituting a dress code, Susan took the flack from naysayers and moved onward. When she got wind that a gang fight might break out, she rushed to the scene and stood right in the middle of it. She'd laugh and tell Mike not to worry, that the kids wouldn't dare mess with this little Italian lady. She had fire in her eyes, a street-smart attitude, and a wonderful husky voice that she liked to use to sing, even though she couldn't carry a note. She got a lot of "yes sirs" and "thank you, sirs" from people who only heard her voice, and she'd laugh. Her colleagues at the District Office were looking forward to having Susan's strength of character, vision, and commitment to kids to call upon as she assumed her new role of Director of Curriculum.

Susan loved traveling and cooking Italian. She was very family oriented and could often be found at Loara, watching her niece and nephew excel, and hosting the family dinners on the holidays. She loved her dogs, Haley, a mutt that she had saved from the pound, and Ringo, 129 pounds of shepherd-wolf cross that came with Mike. And, she loved to garden. Today, Susan and Mike's house is in the process of a major remodel to the backyard; Susan has already laid out the plans and the yard will look exactly as she intended it. It will be Susan's dream backyard.



# In Remembrance



Mary Susan McCance

FEBRUARY 6, 1953

AUGUST 22, 2004



In Memory of  
**MARY SUSAN McCANCE**

*Memorial Services*

*St. Cecilia Catholic Church  
 1301 Sycamore Avenue  
 Tustin, California 92780*

*Thursday, August 26, 2004  
 4:30pm*



**Father John Andrews**  
 Officiating

**Gary Murphy**  
 Singing *The Lord's Prayer*

**MEMORIALS**

**Chuck McCance**

**Dr. Jan Billings**

**Nicole Kezos**

**Mike Smith**

**RECESSIONAL**

*What A Wonderful World*

*And so I thought of you again just now and I like how that feels.*

*The beginning of the day.*

*A chance to dream of touching you and being by your side.*

*Of standing in the glow of you to learn where LOVE must hide.*

*It's almost unreal to me - to think of you like this*

*To conjure up a nearness, defined with just one kiss.*

*The very warmth of seeing you inside my mind just now*

*Fills me, calms me, settles my soul as only you know how.*

*I am not so sure you know you know, but I suspect you do.*

*Perhaps because, in moments shared, I do the same for you.*

*I feel you reaching out to me 'cross miles and miles and miles*

*Not clinging. Not demanding, just there to help build smiles.*

*This is different than before - not needy, anxious, rushed*

*Somehow trusting in the moment, my fears are so soon hushed.*

*So off I go to live this day with you inside me here*

*To face what comes and live what is and all without a fear.*

*Sweet soul mate know I sense you here, just for me to feel*

*And God of gods please help to make this WE TOGETHER real.*

MIKE SMITH

1-31-2000

