



# Catherine Selene Benitone

AUG 27, 1973 - JUN 12, 2011



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## Catherine Selene Benitone

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Catherine Selene Benitone, 37, of Washington, D.C. was promoted to heaven on June 12, 2011 at The Washington Home after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Born in Memphis, TN on August 27, 1973 to Mr. T.W. Jones, Jr. and Mrs. Janis Cox Jones, Selene attended Grace St. Luke's Episcopal School, Briarcrest Christian School, and was a graduate of the University of Memphis. She caught the attention of a young man in the eighth grade, who, after an endearing friendship, would later become her husband, Lt. Col. Trevor Banks Benitone (USAF) on June 12, 1999. It is no surprise to her family and friends that Selene was determined to see her 12th anniversary as Trevor was the love of her life. Ever proud and supportive of her husband's career, Selene followed Trevor as he faithfully served his country in Destin, FL, Okinawa, Japan, where their two children were born, Albuquerque, NM, Memphis, TN, and Washington, DC, where Trevor currently serves the Under Secretary of Defense at The Pentagon. Selene was diagnosed with small cell cancer of the lung in September 2006. Wanting to explain to her children what she would be fighting, she could not find any adequate resources. With the same courage and tenacity for which her family and friends deeply loved her, she authored *My Mommy Without Hair: My World Turned Upside Down*. Selene's book explains cancer to children in a non-threatening manner and in a way that only a loving mother can. Her work and her life have touched and inspired countless families engaging the same fight. Selene was a passionate, caring lady who was never without a smile and a host of friends. Selene's favorite passage from the Bible was Psalm 25:4-12: "Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. 5 Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. 6 Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good. 8 Good and upright is the



## Obituary

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LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. 9 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. 10 All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant. 11 For the sake of your name, LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great. 12 Who, then, are those who fear the LORD? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose.” Selene is survived by her husband, Lt. Col. Trevor Banks Benitone (USAF) of Washington, D.C., her children, Coleman Thomas Callaway of Memphis, TN, Worthington Banks Benitone and Ella Catherine Benitone of Washington, D.C., her parents, Mr. T.W. Jones, Jr. of Memphis, TN and Mrs. Janis Cox Jones of Oxford, MS, her brother, Worth Jones of Memphis, TN, and an abundance of extended family and friendships. Visitation will be held Saturday, June 18, 2011 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at Memorial Park Funeral Home, 5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38119. The Funeral Service will be performed Sunday, June 19, 2011 at 2:00pm in the Sanctuary of Second Presbyterian Church, 4055 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111 with committal immediately following the service at Memorial Park Funeral Home. Donations in Selene’s honor may be sent to (1) The Catherine Selene Benitone Memorial Scholarship Fund, St. Peter School, 422 3rd Street S.E., Washington, DC 20003, (2) The Wings Cancer Foundation, 100 N Humphreys Blvd, Memphis, TN 38120, or (3) a charity of the donor’s choosing.



## Tribute Wall

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GF

**Gayle Fleming** posted:

I am so sorry that I am just finding out about the passing of Selene. I met Selene in January 2008 when I was looking for a home for my daughter and son-in-law to rent for the inauguration of President Obama. She was upbeat and positive as she shared wi

February 14 at 8:15 AM

Jl

**Jimbo** posted:

While I did not know Selene personally I did know of her through her father-in-law, Dr. Jerry Don Benitone and his lovely wife, Cynthia. From what I've heard over these many years I wish I had been more a part of her life as she brought joy to all she met

June 17 at 2:59 PM

JP

**Jon Powers** posted:

God bless you all as you deal with such a tremendous loss.

June 16 at 5:00 PM

JW

**John E. Wells** posted:

It is with sadness that we accept Selene's passing, but it is with great admiration and respect that we recognize the way she fought to live. John E. (Johnny) Wells and Topsy Wells

June 16 at 1:14 PM

JM

**John And Sherri Mabe** posted:

Trevor, Coleman, Banks, Ella, friends, and family – memories of all of you flooding our mind. The special times we shared including Selene's presence at the 1st Special Operations Squadron and as a wonderful and fun friend to both Sherri and I will always

June 16 at 11:14 AM



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GB

**Gloria Brooks** posted:

I had the pleasure of meeting Selene at my dear friend Debra Neal's home. I have prayed for Selene and your family for a long time. Debra, is my best friend and I love her dearly. I saw the love first hand that Debra has for Selene and her family. May

June 16 at 9:10 AM

LD

**Lisa Speck Dickerson** posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with you all!

June 16 at 8:41 AM

CM

**Carolyn And Jim Moffatt** posted:

Selene was a wonderful example to all of us in her courage and strength during her years of battle with cancer. She did not let her illness define her she was not someone fighting cancer she was just Selene with her beautiful smile.

June 15 at 7:18 PM

TF

**The Mershon Family** posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Benitone family. We will remember Selene fondly. Love Ken, Kelly, Morgan & Erin

June 14 at 11:42 AM

CM

**Curtis Malone** posted:

TW, Words cannot express the way I feel for your loss. My family will continue to pray for your family. Curtis

June 14 at 9:48 AM

BB

**Bo Bradham** posted:

For the strongest woman I have ever known. You showed such strength and grace through out these years that you have become an inspiration for you family and your friends. I'm so glad that I was able to call you a friend. We will miss you and we will take

June 13 at 8:50 AM



## Tribute Wall

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CH

**Christine** posted:

Janice, This is your cousin, Christine. I wanted to talk with you but don't have a number. I am so sorry to hear of Selen's passing. I havent seen you or her for many years because of distances apart; but that has never affected my love for you an

June 12 at 4:44 PM

DL

**Donna & Jeff Littrell** posted:

Selene's brave battle has come to an end. We pray that she is now in a better place. We also pray for comfort for Trevor and the kids and also for all of those in her family and all of those who knew her well who have suffered this loss.

June 12 at 2:14 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Catherine by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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