

Julie Montiel
April 10, 1970 – January 4, 2017 (age 46)



Julie Ann Montiel passed away peacefully at her home on Lake Killarney near Auburn, Washington. She lived her life with passion, and was a caring and loving family member, friend, neighbor, and co-worker who had the rare gift of improving the lives of those around her with her beautiful smile and personality. Julie was born and spent most of her early childhood in Manson, Washington, but later lived in Oxnard, California, and ultimately graduated from Santa Clara HS.

After completing her collegiate marketing studies and residing briefly in San Diego and Jacksonville, she returned to the state of Washington.

Julie was a long time and dedicated employee at Best Western International, serving as a senior sales manager. She was in a Masters swim club in Federal Way and was a master gardener. She is survived by her parents Bud and Sybil, brothers Marc and Jeff, nieces Alyssa, Jenna, and Haley, stepsons Jerry Jr. and Hunter, extended family, friends, and co-workers as well as her two Yorkies Molly and Mojo, and cockatiel Sunny, who will all miss her greatly.

A Memorial Service was held January 21 at the Center For Spiritual Living in Tacoma. Published in The Seattle Times on Jan. 15, 2017 (source: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/seattletimes/obituary.aspx?n=julie-ann-montiel&pid=183607780>)



Longtime BWAQ swimmer Julie Montiel had that rare gift of making everyone she encountered feel as if he or she were her **new best friend**. **If you've participated in *Champs*, *Swim Defiance*, or *Last Gasp of Summer*, you've no doubt been the beneficiary of Julie's special brand of hospitality. She was our team's Caterer-in-Chief.** No matter the challenge we threw at her, Julie would always respond, **"Yep, I can do that!"**

Fun was Julie's middle name. **Saturday morning locker sessions just aren't the same** without her bubbly presence and radiant smile. In typical fashion, she would arrive with armloads of gardening magazines to share (she was also a Master Gardener), regaling teammates with tales of her latest business travels and always being the first to organize post-workout plans. **"So, who's going to breakfast?" she would ask. "Who's up for a pedicure?" or "Don't forget. Wreath-making tomorrow at my house. Bring wine."**

If Julie was involved, you knew a good time would be had by all.

Part of her appeal was her self-deprecating humor. At one point she considered writing a book for other plus-size aspiring triathletes, entitled *Yes, You Can Beat that Skinny B*?<#& !* because Julie herself was living proof it could be done, often emerging from the water portion of the race well ahead of thinner competitors. She was the first to welcome new swimmers to our team and the first to congratulate them when their skills eventually surpassed hers. She took genuine delight in the success of others.

It's an understatement to say that Julie's sudden death at age 46 came as a huge shock to her BWAQ teammates, but we take great comfort in knowing that she passed away peacefully in her sleep and that hers was truly a life well lived.