



## Denise "Dee Dee" Vela

January 6, 2023

Denise "Dee Dee" Vela never missed an opportunity to climb a ladder; on January 6, 2023 she climbed her final ladder to Heaven.

Dee Dee was born on November 21, 1960 and raised in Pacoima, CA. She was a proud San

Fernando High Tiger. Her childhood was spent at the ball field where she quickly became a star

softball pitcher while being coached by her favorite coach, her father. She had an outstanding

softball career, even receiving a state softball award from Billie Jean King. In 1985 Dee Dee

spread her wings and moved to New York. She started working as a tech at Cannon where she

then worked her way up to a Branch Manager in Manhattan. LA will always be her home but the

East Coast quickly became her heart when she met the love of her life, Tricia in 1986. Dee and

Tricia moved to Harrington Park in 1995 where they planted roots, Dee working at Optimum and

Tricia running her Bakery; then later survived running a restaurant together.

Dee loved many things but her top loves were softball, Barbra Striesand, Adele, her culture, her

Coca-Cola and cigarettes, her garden, her truck, Harry Potter, & reading books by her favorite authors. Her joy came from her many life-long friends and all of her nieces and nephews.

Dee Dee was predeceased by her mother and father, Frank M. and Estella Vela and her brothers, Frank C. and Bill Vela. She is survived by her partner Tricia, her beloved cats, Katniss and PrimRose, a whole crew of nieces, nephews, great-nieces & nephews, great-great nieces & nephews and countless friends.

Services in New Jersey will be held at Barrett Leber Funeral Home, 148 Dean Dr., Tenafly, NJ on January 14th from 12-2pm; with formal memorial beginning at 1p. A Repast to follow at the Tenafly Elks Lodge. (Tenafly, NJ No. 2271, 20 Franklin St., Tenafly, NJ 07670)

Info to follow for services to be held in Los Angeles.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11XZVXZ571KsTXR6K8IS6F6a2Y0oCPQdd/view>

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

JAN 14. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home  
148 Dean Dr  
Tenafly, NJ 07670  
(201) 568-8043  
<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

## Memorial Service

JAN 14. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home  
148 Dean Dr  
Tenafly, NJ 07670  
(201) 568-8043  
<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Denise "Dee Dee" Vela.*



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January 12, 2023 at 09:09 PM



“ *When Bobby and I got engaged, we went to tell my Tia Stella (DeeDee's mom). Dee must have been around 9 or 10. She somehow took my car keys and climbed up a tree. She stayed up there for more than an hour. She did return my keys and went outside to play. Always a Tomboy, always lovable. She's the last one to call me Bert. I can hear her in my mind from time to time saying "Hey Bert". Tricia you were very lucky to have been loved by Dee and lucky to have had her in your life.*

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**Roberta Haddock** - January 12, 2023 at 01:43 PM



“ *Laura Czachorowski and Family purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Denise "Dee Dee" Vela.*



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**Laura Czachorowski and Family** - January 09, 2023 at 10:01 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Denise "Dee Dee" Vela.*



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January 09, 2023 at 08:15 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Denise "Dee Dee" Vela.*



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January 08, 2023 at 04:44 PM