



Diana "Pennie" Hutchins Bell

March 1, 2024

Diana "Pennie" Hutchins Bell, aged 77, departed this life at her residence in McAllen, Texas, on March 1, 2024. She was born to Diana Cisneros and James Wheeler on October 19, 1946, in Raymondville, Texas.

A 1963 graduate of Raymondville High School, Pennie was also crowned Miss Port Mansfield that same year. She excelled academically, earning her bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Pan American University as the valedictorian, followed by a master's degree in Physics from Texas A&I University. Pennie's passion for education led her to a fulfilling career as a Physics professor at Texas Pan American University. Later, she ventured into the world of real estate, founding Hutchins Realty, where she met her life partner, Bob Bell. Together, they embarked on countless adventures and traveled the world. Realizing her lifelong dream of owning a palapa hotel on the beach, Pennie spent many years dancing to the rhythm of the steel drums at Wanna Wanna.

Pennie was a Renaissance woman: a Mensa member, beauty queen, artist, Cub Scout Den Mother, and a decorated sharpshooter. Her hobbies included deep-sea fishing, hunting, and scuba diving. She upheld the tradition of making buñuelos with her children and grandchildren every New Year's Day and was renowned for cooking the finest migas north of the Rio Grande. Her indomitable spirit was an inspiration to all, leaving an indelible mark on everyone she encountered. Her absence leaves the world dimmer, yet her legacy endures.

She is lovingly remembered by her husband, Bob Bell; siblings Kurt (Bertha) Klefisch; children Byron (Clarissa) Vassberg, Brad Vassberg, Vanessa Hutchins, Hari Khalsa, Bryan (Jennifer) Bell, and Chris Bell; grandchildren Grant (Nicole) Vassberg, Allison (Zachary) Whittaker, Trent (Megan) Vassberg, Heston (Baleigh) Hand, Macy Hand, Andrew Erps, Bailey Erps, Nick (Andrea) Bell; along with great-grandchildren Tristan Vassberg, Wyatt Hand, Desmond Whittaker, Banks Bell, and Daisy Bell.

Our heartfelt gratitude extends to Juanita Sanchez and Arely Montes for their devoted care.

A Celebration of Life in honor of Pennie will be held beginning at 11:30 a.m. on March 24, 2024, at Wanna Wanna Bar and Grill, South Padre Island, Texas.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR **24**. 11:30 AM.

Wanna Wanna Bar and Grill
South Padre Island, TX