

MONSON

Carol Shelton Monson

Carol Monson (stage name Laura Shelton), 73, television actress, beloved mother and grandmother, died of complications of Crohn's disease on May 15, 2008 at



Providence Memorial Hospital in El Paso, TX. Ms. Monson was a frequent guest star on several popular 1960s television series including "Wagon Train," "Harrigan and Son," "The Detectives" starring Robert Taylor, "The Beverly Hillbillies," "My Favorite Martian," "Have Gun, Will Travel" and "Death Valley Days." She retired from State National Bank in 2000 after twenty-five years in the banking industry in El Paso, TX. Ms. Monson was born Carol Jean Ready, September 5, 1935 in Eastland, Texas to Beth Allene Judkins and Mack Ready, and was adopted by Hubert Haskell Shelton as a small child shortly after her mother remarried. Raised primarily in El Paso, Texas, she graduated from Austin High School in 1953. Ms. Monson was married briefly to classmate Frank Grimmer while attending Texas Western College (now the University of Texas at El Paso). After divorcing and winning a contest to appear on a television game show, Ms. Monson was offered a scholarship to the prestigious Pasadena Playhouse's school of theatre, known as the Hollywood "Star Factory," where her contemporaries included Oscar-winner Gene Hackman and Rue McClanahan. While there, she met and later married actor/director Carl J. Monson in 1961. In 1964, with Carl, she founded the Curtain Call Theater in North Hollywood, a critically acclaimed invitational play-

house run by professional actors on a cooperative basis. In addition to working in the theater throughout the 1960s, Ms. Monson focused on her television career as Laura Shelton and her two children, Clay born 1964, and Cristen born 1969. Her last stage appearance was as Elsa Schraeder in The Sound of Music starring Oscar-nominated Anne Blyth for Houston's Theatre Under the Stars in 1969. After her second marriage ended in 1972, Ms. Monson moved from California back to El Paso to provide a home for her children. Active in her children's lives, Ms. Monson was also a member of Trinity-First United Methodist Church and could often be seen supporting local theatre. Upon retiring she became the primary caregiver for her aunt, writer/educator Mary P. Jensen until her death in 2007. Ms. Monson is survived by her two children, son Clay Jay Monson, El Paso, TX, daughter and son-in-law, Cristen Beth and Scott Stephen Susong, Bloomington, IL; her brother and sister-in-law, Haskell and Joy Shelton, Midland, MI, sister and brother-in-law, Marti and Eddie Horn, Houston, TX; and three grandchildren, David Fox Monson, Fort Hood, TX, Elijah Samuel Susong and Eden Carroll Susong, Bloomington, IL. A Memorial Service will be held at Trinity-First United Methodist Church's Chapel in downtown El Paso, 801 N. Mesa, Saturday, June 7, 2008 at 3:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, please make a tax-deductible donation in honor of Carol Shelton Monson to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America at www.cdfa.org. Services entrusted to Harding-Orr & McDaniel Funeral Home.