



Special Edition

NTBA HORIZONS

Honoring the Life of Sally Johnson

October 4, 1961 - March 25, 2022



By: Jenny Cox (Sally's sister in England)

Sally Jane was born on the 4th of October 1961, the youngest of Mary and Brian Cox's three daughters, baby sister of Julie and Jenny. The family moved from Latchingdon in Essex, England where Sally was born, to Suffolk when she was a toddler.

Sally was a very bright and precocious little girl with many talents. She passed each of her ballet exams with honours and won a Butlins talent competition by reducing the audience to tears with her rendition of 'When Irish eyes are smiling'. She loved an audience when she was a child!

The Head teacher at Sally's primary school recognised her academic ability and suggested she sat the 11 plus a year early. (This was an exam all children took to determine whether they were able enough for a place at the prestigious Grammar Schools). She passed with flying colours and went through secondary school a year younger than her class mates. As a young teenager she was a bit of a tearaway, always up for a challenge (on her first day at school she set off the fire alarm because she was dared to do it) and always the most popular girl in the class.

When she was fifteen Sally started a Saturday job at the hotel in Saxmundham, the small town where we grew up. She was an efficient organised hard worker and before long she was pretty much running the hotel. Once she was old enough she worked in the bar and all the Suffolk locals and yokels would go in to chat with Sal.

Sally had something of the chameleon about her. Wherever she found herself she would adapt to her surroundings and thrive. This stood her in good stead when she married a USAF pilot and moved from sleepy Suffolk to Las Vegas.

Back in England we all missed her terribly and mum and dad visited at least once a year and she came back to see us whenever she could. Later she had her two sons Scott and Michael and the grandparents made sure they knew they were every bit as special to them as the grandchildren in England. Sally lived for her boys.

If I had to choose a few words to sum up my very dear sister they would be caring, pragmatic, practical and a whole lot of fun!

Honoring the Life of Sally Johnson



Honoring the Life of Sally Johnson

By: Paul Rossini

Sally Johnson came to NTB, Inc. in March of 1993. With Kim Howell at her side since 1995, she kept the administration of a multi-million-dollar corporation on track, or at least in the right-of-way. There were many obstacles....

In 1995, Sally worked directly for Al Bergamini and together they tutored me on the basics of managing the finances of a corporation. I moved next door to her office in 2000 as a new owner. By 2005, Sally had risen to Vice President and stockholder in NTBA. Over the next 22 years, I estimate we spent well over 40,000 hours next door to one another. She bore witness to some pretty happy, sad, mad, scared, proud, and occasionally loud eruptions coming from next door while I fretted over NTBA and its employees. Point being, that Sally knew just about everything I knew about the inner workings of NTBA. If it dealt with money or created a liability for NTBA, she was in on it. She was in every board meeting since 1995. If there was a prospective employee, client, new office opening, (new office closing) -- she was involved. It all passed over her desk.

Although, she may not have written any of the letters, contracts, memos, or CEO Corners penned by me, I hold Sally personally responsible for any errors in grammar or punctuation. Working with any person for 29 plus years, you get to know things about them. These are the things I learned about Sally:

Above all else she loved her two sons Scott & Michael.

She was so ready to meet her first grandchild, Colin and to be with him, Maggie, & Scott.

She was honest, loyal, and integral to the success of NTBA. Sally worked hard for all the employees who labored here during her tenure. She helped to build it, she worried about it, and she loved it.

Thank you, Sally, for your consultations on corporate matters, your opposing views on all things political, and your friendship. You were a most esteemed colleague and friend to me and to NTBA.



Honoring the Life of Sally Johnson

By: Greg Gras

I met Sally on Wednesday, July 5, 1995. I remember the day exactly, because Rod (the "T" in NTB) did not want my first day at NTB to be on Monday and then get a paid holiday, July 4th, on Tuesday. I arrived bright and early that morning along with a raging thunderstorm that had me and my fresh new haircut, brand new clothes, and box of work supplies soaking wet. (There was no awning back then.) She must have seen that on the door camera, because when the elevator doors opened, she was there with a handful of paper towels and a sympathetic smile. Little did I know, that day would be the start of an almost 27-year long friendship.



Sally loved the Saints, loved the LSU Tigers, and like all good Tiger fans, hated Nick Saban. She could also talk a little baseball and even watched a little golf (mostly the British Open). Reminded her of home. As co-workers, business partners, and best good friends, we shared a lot of good times and a few rough ones over the years. I will remember her fondly and miss her dearly. Rest in Peace, Sally.



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COLIN LI WALKER

Born Monday, April 11, 2022 at 9:15 PM

- 7lbs. 8 oz -



By: Sarah Rossini

I would like to introduce each of you to Colin Li Walker, son of Scott & Maggie Li. Colin is Sally's first grandbaby! Although, Sally didn't get the chance to meet him, she was counting down the weeks till his arrival. I remember when she first found out, she quietly crept into my office and whispered the exciting news. She was beaming brightly that day and each time we discussed his arrival and all the beautiful memories they would make together. I look forward to watching Colin grow (thanks to social media). I know it's what Sally would do as she lived many hours away from him. By doing this, I feel it honors her and the love she had for Colin. Sally was always quick to share in my excitement for my two daughters. She asked for updates on them often and always had positive words to share. Not only was Sally my mentor, she was my friend - my party planning buddy - and we made a great team. Sally & I connected immediately when I was hired in July 2008. She was greatly empathetic and relatable, and I confided in her many times. We connected on family, food (even shared homemade desserts), sarcastic humor, and life's obstacles, heartaches, and accomplishments. I'd like to share one of our last text exchanges. Brian was travelling to Alabama for training; Kim was scheduled to be out for her birthday; and I had a child sick with the flu. Heavy with guilt for missing work and leaving them shorthanded, Sally told me, "*Do whatever you need to do for the kids*". This was always Sally's stance. Family first. For a full-time working mom of two, this meant the world to me, and it made the toughest days feel more manageable. Sally, I miss you dearly. Thanks for your support and guidance for nearly 14 years as it's helped mold me into who I am today — both professionally & personally.

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Life Celebration for Sally Jane Johnson Organized by her best friend, Michelle Love Willis

By: Michelle Love Willis

Life is funny. You can never tell when you meet someone if they will just be passing through your life or become someone significant. I can't remember the first time I met Sally Walker over 30 years ago, but I could have never imagined how important she would become to me. Together, we went through three divorces, several broken relationships, struggles with children, a Super Bowl win, and three LSU National Championships. She was responsible for setting me up on The Worst Date Ever, but I never held that against her. She was my travel buddy, and recently we had resumed plans for our trip to Prague which Covid sidelined in 2020. We were always there for each other. She was my closest and dearest friend and watching LSU football will never be the same without her.

