



Devonda Jan Leperi

SEP 8, 1953 - JUL 16, 2025



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Devonda Jan Leperi

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Devonda Jan Leperi passed away on Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at BJC Evelyn's House in St. Louis, Missouri at the age of 71 years, 10 months, and 8 days.

Devonda was born on September 8, 1953 in Puerto Rico to the late John Robert Bigham and Anna Louise Bigham (nee Domingues). She was also preceded in death by her husband of 30 years, Stephen Leperi; and siblings: Debbie Verrochi and Darlene Bellais.

Devonda is survived by her daughter, Deanna Gossman; step-daughter, Renee Weimann; grandchildren: Karah Gossman, Kristen Gossman, Mitchell Weimann and Victoria Weimann.

She was also a loving aunt to: Dr. Meredith (Nichole Riley) Verrochi, John Verrochi, and Lauren (David) Ponder; and sister-in-law to Rick "Rock" Verrochi.

Devonda was an extraordinary woman whose creativity, warmth, and determination left an indelible mark on everyone she met.

A gifted sculptor with a focus on the beauty and complexity of the human form, and a talented painter, Devonda expressed her soul through her art. Her work spoke volumes, capturing emotion, movement, and life itself.

Outside of the studio, Devonda nurtured beauty in many ways. A passionate horticulturist, she found deep joy in gardening—tending to flowers and plants with love and care. She was also a skilled baker and a true Creole cuisine connoisseur, known for meals that fed both body and spirit.

In her 50s, Devonda took up belly dancing as a workout—and fell completely in love. Her passion blossomed into performance. She eventually formed and led her own troop, which performed at street festivals, Mardi Gras balls, and private events in The Hamptons, bringing joy, elegance, and energy to every stage she graced.



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Devonda worked hard to support herself and her beloved daughter, whom she considered her best friend.

A proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Devonda honored her heritage and family history with dignity. For the past 20 years, she was a dedicated employee at the Commissary at Keesler Air Force Base, where she was respected and appreciated by all who knew her.

Devonda's life was a beautiful tapestry woven with art, resilience, compassion, and strength. She touched the lives of many and leaves behind a legacy of love, creativity, and inspiration. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

A private graveside service will be held at a later date where she will be laid to rest in the Domingues family plot at Biloxi City Cemetery in Biloxi, Mississippi.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Devonda's name can be made to BJC Evelyn's House in St. Louis. The family would also like to extend their appreciation to the staff of Evelyn's House for their extraordinary and loving care for Devonda in her final days.

Services provided by Hughes Funeral Alternatives in St. Louis, Missouri. Family and friends can sign the family's online guestbook at www.HughesFA.com



Tribute Wall

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Karah Gossman shared 8 photos to the **Photos from granddaughter Karah** album.



July 23 at 9:41 AM



B Robinson posted:

She was my delightful and energetic craziness at Keesler.. We had some late nights working and some fun times listening to music. My beautiful Devonda will truly be missed!!!! Belle

July 19 at 1:13 PM



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Leperi family.



July 19 at 4:40 AM



Kelly Brody lit a candle in honor of Devonda.

Devonda was indeed a part of the cast and crew at the Keesler Commissary, Another part of the Heart is lost and her Legacy of Love and Fun goes with her, Rest easy Sweet Friend , God Rest your sweet Soul and be with your friends and family left behind to cherish your memory!!!



July 18 at 2:15 PM



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Sherry posted:

Devonda was my partner-in-crime for getting into mischief! She became one of my best friends, and I will miss her, immensely! I would always tell her that she was so dang bossy, and she'd say, 'I'm okay with that!' 🤪 She was a very, very talented woman in so many ways! It always boggled my mind. I remember for Halloween Devonda, Shannon, and I dressed up in those belly-dancer costumes! I think we all wore sporks to fit into them. Too many memories!!! I'll miss you always, D! Nate and Libby send their love, too!!! ❤️ ❤️

July 18 at 12:23 PM



Shannon Manning July 18 at 4:59 PM

Devonda was one of my best friends and I will miss her. So talented. The things she came up with still stuns me. She was always up for anything, which wasn't always a good thing... but always fun. Yep, true partner in crime. Someone whom had just met her once called her 'effervescent'. I had to look it up... lively, entertaining, enthusiastic, and exciting. I couldn't have summed her up any better.



Kelly Brody July 18 at 2:03 PM

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Karah Gossman shared 8 photos to the **Photos from granddaughter Karah** album.

July 23 at 9:41 AM



Devonda with DeAnna.



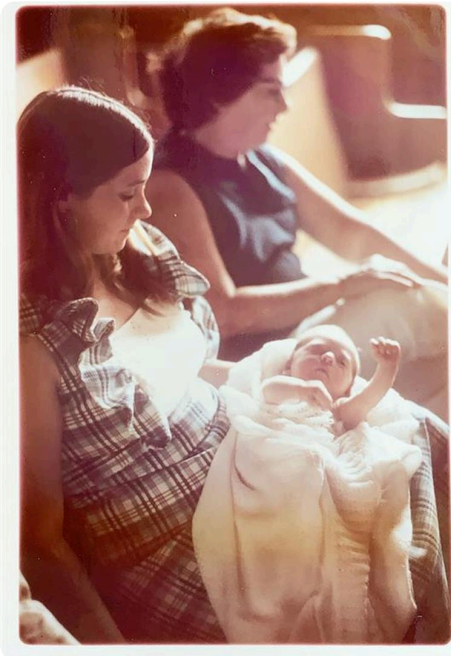
Devonda with newborn DeAnna.



Devonda with baby Karah.



Devonda on her trip in China.



Devonda with DeAnna at her baptism.



Devonda with DeAnna.



Devonda with DeAnna on her wedding day.



Devonda with Karah at her baptism.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Devonda by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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