

Brigitte Louise Jacobson



“Goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes because for those who love with the heart and soul, there is no separation.” -Rumi

Brigitte Jacobson’s smile didn’t just brighten up a room – it enveloped spaces in light. It was impossible not to smile with her, not to laugh when she laughed. She connected with people in a deep and meaningful way and once you knew her you simply wanted to be around her. As a close friend put it;

“With her hair-raising stories, her sympathetic ear, spending time with Brigitte is the best—the most fun you can have. But you always leave having learned something, a book to read, a recipe to try, a recommendation for a plumber or a new strategy for bedtime.”

Brigitte touched us all in a way that few people do and through that contact, she has woven us all together in a way that will outlast her - and each of us.

Brigitte Louise Lott was born on May 3rd, 1973 at the base hospital on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia where her father was

stationed as a Captain in the Marine Corps. She and her family lived in Hawaii, Okinawa, and southern California as her father’s duty station changed. She would later refer to herself proudly as a “Marine brat.” The family lived in New Jersey during Brigitte’s high school years and she was the New Jersey state champion in the 400m hurdles during her freshman year at Monmouth Regional High School.

Brigitte enrolled at Norfolk State University in the ROTC program. There, she served as the Battalion Commander of the Hampton Roads Naval ROTC Battalion, one of the largest ROTC training battalions in the nation. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in English, she was commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy and selected for the aviation program. Completing flight training and earning her wings, Brigitte became one of only a few black female pilots in the Navy. She was stationed at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma City where she was assigned to fly the E-6B, a Boeing 707 outfitted for strategic communications and nuclear command and control. She became an Aircraft Commander (captain), Mission Commander, Instructor Pilot, and was later named Pilot Evaluator (lead instructor pilot) for her squadron. In 2001 Brigitte was featured in a book about female pilots called “Yankee Doodle Gals,” aimed at educating and inspiring young women.

Brigitte married fellow Navy pilot, Mike Jacobson in April 2002 and the two began what would be a long, happy, and adventurous marriage. In 2004 she earned a Master of Liberal Arts from the University of Oklahoma City with an emphasis in photography. This began a long relationship with the arts and birthed what would be a lifelong interest in photography. Brigitte completed the final years of her naval service as the Administration

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Officer for the strategic communications wing and she was honorably discharged as a Lieutenant Commander.

After completion of her naval career, Brigitte dedicated herself to raising her two sons, Nicholas born in 2004, and Noah, in 2007. She read voraciously about early childhood, nutrition, and education, and applied what she learned to her parenting.

The family moved to Baltimore in 2006 where Brigitte quickly became a leader in the community. She was an active member and manager of the on-line list serve for the group BaltAP (Baltimore Attachment Parenting), a member of The Le Leche League, and The Baltimore Food Makers Group. She became a sought-after expert on all things parenting among her friends and the community at large. One former member of BaltAP said of Brigitte:

“Your wisdom was so incredibly helpful to me in the early days of motherhood. You helped me to trust my baby and myself and I especially appreciate your no-nonsense but still compassionate, and thoughtful approaching to parenting your boys.”

Brigitte mentored young girls in west Baltimore as a member of The Enterprise Women’s Network Girls’ Mentoring Program and later became a co-captain and member of the leadership group for that organization. She became a champion for environmental and political causes as a member of the Sierra Club, The Mom’s Clean Air Force (MCAF), and the League of Women Voters. She traveled to Annapolis and to Washington D.C. to lobby legislators as a member of MCAF and traveled to Ohio to register voters ahead of the 2016 presidential election.

During these years Brigitte used a darkroom in her home to hone her skills as a photographer, working exclusively with 35mm film and specializing in black and white artistic photography. She was an accomplished woodworker and framed her own pictures using found objects and reclaimed wood.

An avid traveler all her life, Brigitte visited Egypt, Israel, Turkey, Canada, Japan, and many other places as a child and young adult. With her husband Mike, she traveled to Belize, Guatemala, Germany, Spain, and Morocco. As a family, the Jacobsons traveled extensively in South and Central America and Europe, and in 2018 the family spent almost a month in Tanzania and Zanzibar. During that trip Brigitte summited Mt. Meru, the 5th highest mountain in Africa while, unbeknownst to her, her body was already battling metastatic breast cancer. She stood on the peak of that mountain having lived a full, flowering, and amazing life.

Brigitte died peacefully surrounded by friends and family on December 17th, 2019. She is survived by her husband Mike, her children Nick and Noah, her parents Claude and Janette Lott, her sisters Tracy Williams and Kelly Bridgeforth, and countless others who will never, ever, forget her.

**“Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing.
And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb.
And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.”**

— Khalil Gibran