

Hello Members of TTT and Owners of Luxury Properties Worldwide,

Last week I announced the passing of my mother, Vanlene Hardy Botens, the exuberant visionary who had the unprecedented idea to create Trade to Travel 27 years ago. Today and tomorrow there are memorial celebrations and I wanted to share the poem I wrote as a tribute to her spectacular life.

We wish you a wonderful weekend as we wish Vanlene bon voyage!

All the best,
Leah



[Click here to view the Obituary.](#)

Vibrant Vanlene

We bid adieu and bon voyage to the amazing Vibrant Vanlene
Visionary and vivacious, tough and tenacious, the best this world has seen.
The epitome of the human spirit, larger than life was she
We salute you as you sail over the horizon, forever wild and free.
Deeper than the sea was her love, wider than clear blue sky
Strong as iron, so honest and brave, now with angel wings she can fly.
She believed in God with her whole heart and mind, her spirit and soul did shine
Integrity was the foundation upon which she lived, God said to her, "You are mine."
Superhero mother and exuberant wife, she got an A+ on her spectacular life
a healer and dreamer who did endless good, losing her cuts like a knife.
We know she's not gone, she's transformed, as caterpillar to butterfly
She's delighting in whatever realm comes next, still many who miss her cry.
We'll share endless stories about her adventures and epic takes galore
She started 24 companies and traveled the globe, yet we're left wanting more.
She was the most fun of anyone, brilliant and wise, always telling the truth and never lies
The most inspiring and most alive, in the Great Game of Life, she took the prize.
Blackstone High school, Class of 1957, she was a cheerleader and played basketball
She then married Richard Benjamin Hardy the Third and they had 2 children snail.
He left her alone to raise them on her own, with the help of Betty and Leo
In the town of South Hill and then on Lake Gaston, instead of one mom they had three.
This Renaissance Lady was a bon vivant, she taught her kids to swim and water ski
to always play fair, never ever give up, they had ponies and sailed happily.
She got them scuba certified when Richard was only thirteen, she taught them to love the sea
She got Leah into gymnastics and Rich into golf, she was Wonderwoman and lucky were we.
Twice while diving Vanlene nearly drowned but always she surfaced, she always bounced back
She survived every storm and withstood each attack.
As a Physical Therapist, she started Rehab Management which had over 600 employees
Provided excellent patient care for tens of thousands in over 50 facilities.
Then there was that rainy day at the beach with Betty, on the Outer Banks in 1991
When she had the idea to create a club, for owners of vacation homes so they could trade and have fun!
Twas a life changing day, a world changing day, we had no idea of all the future would hold
The trips we'd take and friends we'd make, they were treasures more precious than gold.
Trade to Travel is in over 70 countries with properties beyond compare
Homes and hotels, resorts and castles, private islands and majestic estates galore.
So fluff your iridescent feathers, Mom, strut your stuff and be Proud as a Peacock
We enthusiastically applaud your colorful life, you're phenomenal and YOU ROCK.
Fortunately in her fifties, Vanlene's love life got far better
Through Ted Botens, God answered her prayers to the letter.
He saved both her business and her hopes of romance
They worked hard and played hard, they laughed and they danced.
Greece, Croatia, Slovenia, Ireland, worldwide they went roaming
Rode the range and herded cattle at the Bitterroot and Red Rock Ranch in Wyoming.
We rode horses through Italy from castle to castle, rode Segways in Florence under a full moon
Wandered the Caribbean from island to island and sailed on my beloved brigadoon.
We went many times to the Peackers and Belmont, chasing a Triple Crown
Time after time our hopes were high, time after time they were let down.
Till American Pharoah won it for the first time in 37 years, he led the race wire-to-wire
the roar of the crowd was deafening, he ran like his tail was on fire!
We galloped on the beach in Costa Rica, caught sailfish and dove in 60 miles off the coast,
Explored the jungle and saw tropical creatures, to pure wild we did boast.
She was the embodiment of "Joie de Vivre" in Paris and on the French Riviera
Octoberfest in Munich, skiing in Whistler, the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra.
In Vegas she would gamble around the clock, on blackjack, craps, poker and slots
Much beloved by Lady Luck, she usually won big and hit many jackpots.
She partied like a rockstar, loved Bellinis, mimosas, Long Island ice tea, Jack and Coke
She had a twisted sense of humor and loved a practical joke.
She loved being "Nini" to Chris, Jason, Katie, Kael, Koen, Remi and Kinte
She was their playmate and role model, they are the flowers in her family bouquet.
She saw this world through rose colored glasses, her joy it was contagious
Everybody dies, but not everybody lives, this woman she was outrageous.
Vanlene Hardy Botens, has anyone's flame ever burned brighter
This remarkable lady was a born leader and lover, not to mention one helluva fighter!

Guatape Lake House
Guatape, Colombia

T3261
Available January 25 - March 30

**Villa del Cielo**
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

T2568
Available November 16-28

**Casa Angel**
Acapulco, Mexico

T2604
Available January 31 - May 30

**Palm Desert, California**

T693
Available January 9-20

**Casa Del Azul**
Buena Vista, Mexico

T3263
New to Trade to Travel!



"Give us a week and we'll give you the world!"