



Mary Lowe Shultz

July 26, 2018

Fort Collins lost a champion for women and the elderly when 95-year-old Mary Elizabeth Lowe Shultz passed away at Centre Avenue Health and Rehabilitation on Thursday, July 26, 2018. In spite of her strong will and fighting spirit, old age finally caught up with her and ended her service to others.

Mary was the eldest daughter of Lyle and Mary Lowe of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Much of her early childhood was spent on the eastern Colorado high prairie as her father moved from one small town to another setting up post offices and re-starting banks after the Great Depression. Following graduation from Palmer High School, she attended the University of Colorado in Boulder and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology. She began a 26-year career in hospital laboratories in Utah, Missouri, and Colorado. In 1971, Mary moved to Fort Collins, where she earned a Master of Science degree in health education and was employed in the Department of Microbiology at Colorado State University. After retirement from CSU in 1989, she worked for the Fort Collins Youth Clinic, Sunrise Clinic in Greeley, and Salud Family Health Center in Fort Collins. She was a skilled phlebotomist and was especially appreciated for her ability to work with small, seriously ill, children.

Mary was an active Girl Scout Leader for several different troops in Colorado Springs and later Fort Collins, and she was involved in the operation of summer Day Camps in both cities. In 1959, she was involved in the planning and execution of the national Girl Scout Round-Up with 8,500 young women gathering near the future home of the United States Air Force Academy north of Colorado Springs. She believed all girls should have the opportunity to join the Girl Scouts, so she started a mixed age troop at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind in the 1960's. After moving to Fort Collins, she created a troop for girls with mental and physical challenges, and took them camping in nearby Poudre Canyon.

Mary volunteered and served in leadership roles for the American Association of University Women, Fort Collins Foundation on Aging, Larimer County Office on Aging

Advisory Council, Fort Collins Human Relations Commission, and Fort Collins Senior Center Capital Campaigns. In 2018, the Office on Aging Advisory Council honored Mary for her service and dedication to the elderly in Larimer County. She was an active member of the Plymouth Congregational Church and served on several of their committees.

Mary enjoyed collecting stamps, silver spoons, teddy bears, and dolls from the foreign countries she visited after her retirement. She kept detailed photo albums describing her travels and was very interested in genealogy. She was a skilled seamstress and enjoyed embroidery. There were always a variety of pets in the house, and she raised Miniature Poodles and Old English Sheepdogs. Her large backyard was home to a wide variety of well-fed wild birds and squirrels, and she excelled in her ability to cultivate beautiful flowers and roses. Many were surprised to learn that Mary started taking organ lessons later in life, and she enjoyed playing her church organ in the basement.

She is survived by three daughters, Mary (Brian) Coates of Delta, Colorado; Joan (Dick) Bowen of Wellington, Colorado; and Elizabeth (Mike) Grant of Mustang, Oklahoma; four grandchildren and one great grandchild. She was predeceased by her parents, Lyle and Mary Lowe; siblings Lyle, Joan, Duane, and Keith Lowe; and ex-husband, Norman Shultz. She enjoyed many years of friendship with Elaine Boni, Helen Davies, Betty Moseley and Mary Munger. The family would like to thank the staff at the Internal Medicine Clinic, South Shields Dental Group, New Mercer Commons, Centre Avenue Health and Rehabilitation, and Pathways Hospice.

A memorial service will be held at Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect, on Wednesday August 15 at 10AM. Donations may be made to Rocky Mountain Planned Parenthood, 7155 East 38th Avenue, Denver, CO 80207; or the American Association of University Women in care of Goes Funeral Care, 3665 Canal Dr. Suite E, Fort Collins, CO 80524.

Comments



“ Several years ago when I joined Plymouth Church, I worked with Mary on the Social Concerns Committee. I remember fondly working with her on several committee projects. She was (and continues to be) an inspiration to me; she showed me how to be compassionate, thoughtful, and enterprising when helping others.
Marilee Long

Marilee Long - August 18, 2018 at 12:12 AM



“ Mary certainly lived her values of caring and service. I appreciated working with her in AAUW and the Foundation on Aging.

Wishing her family good memories and comfort,
Kay Hood

Kay Hood - August 10, 2018 at 02:13 PM



“ What a fierce champion Mary was for all who need a step up! From volunteering in elementary school, to girl scouts and especially working to help the elderly. Mary is an excellent model to us all!
I will miss her dearly, her strong commitments, intelligence and especially her sense of humor!
Love to Joan and Dick and the family,
Elaine Boni

Elaine Boni - August 09, 2018 at 09:19 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to the family. May you find peace knowing she lives on through so many of us.

Mary, an absolutely amazing woman. The tribute written shows such depth. If it is possible, she was even more. She was so smart, hardworking, driven, kind hearted and had a passion for life. I had the privilege to work with her on the Larimer County Office on Aging (LCOA) Council. Mary and Stan Ulrich were the two legacy members that showed me the ropes and made me realize that I was in a great place to serve older adults in the community.

Mary was such a blessing to this world because she was always looking out for those that may not have the strength or ability to care with for themselves. She shared her thoughts and ideas with those that had influence and voiced her views with conviction. She would never sit idly by if she could help. I was working a client that was having issues with her insurance and the client could not get her life saving medications. Because of the Foundation on Aging and Mary, Mary quickly received approval from the foundation and met the woman at the pharmacy and paid for this one time emergency medication refill.

Mary not only helped me feel comfortable at the LCOA council but she also shared her wisdom about schools for my daughter. She even had a family member write me and eased my concerns that the school I chosen for my daughter would be a good decision. I truly enjoyed spending time with Mary and learned so much. Mary will be greatly missed.

Thank you Mary for being part of my life.

Ellen Pihlstrom - August 08, 2018 at 12:10 PM



“ The world is a better place for having had Mary's participation in it. She so often put her values into action, working to improve our community in so many ways. I really valued the time I was privileged to spend with her, and remind myself often to follow her example. Hers was a life wells spent. I will miss her.

Debbie Buchele

Debbie Buchele - July 29, 2018 at 04:07 PM