



Pieter Gerrit Aukema

October 29, 1936 - January 19, 2025

Pieter Aukema, age 88, passed away in the city he fell in love with years ago: Fort Collins, Colorado.

Born on October 29, 1936, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Pieter was the only child of Minke and Harmen Aukema.

When the Second World War broke out, Pieter's father was working aboard a ship. After the Nazis captured The Netherlands, all transportation into and out of the country was halted, leaving Pieter's father unable to return and join Minke and Pieter. Food became scarce, and Pieter's mother often had to leave him in the care of a neighbor while she ventured on her bicycle to forage for food in the countryside. Minke navigated curfews and dangerous routes but always managed to return to find Pieter and the neighbor anxiously awaiting her arrival.

During the war, The Netherlands suffered greatly, and Pieter had vivid memories of drinking tea made from carrot shavings and eating oatmeal topped with a scummy, unappetizing milk. Once grown, he vowed never to eat oatmeal again.

Harmen, who had traveled extensively before and during the war, remembered America and decided to move the family there when the war

ended.

In 1948, they settled in New York, where Minke found happiness in her new surroundings. Harmen secured a job, and the family was fortunate to have a home and a steady income. Pieter attended the Friends School in New York and later Erasmus Hall. After graduating, he enrolled at Polytechnic University and earned his degree in Civil Engineering in 1959. His father had encouraged him to pursue civil engineering, as it was a lucrative and stable profession in The Netherlands.

Pieter met his first wife, Susan, and they were married for 15 years. However, over time, they realized their paths were diverging, and they divorced.

Ten years later, Pieter met MaryPat. Quietly and patiently, he waited for her feelings to change from seeing him as a “hiking friend” (their outings often included their dogs, children, and even his ex-mother-in-law, Helen) to something deeper. They married in 1991 and spent their retirement years traveling extensively through Europe and occasionally in the United States. Wherever they went, Pieter’s love for people shone through, and he was loved in return.

Pieter was predeceased by his parents, Minke and Harmen, and his daughter, Alissa.

Pieter is survived by:

His wife, MaryPat Aukema;

His ever-faithful dog, Joy;

His ex-wife, Susan and his daughters:

Amy Aukema & spouse, Heather Draper;

Abigail Aukema & spouse, Shane Williams and grandchildren; Stephanie & Gerrit;

Angelica Aukema & spouse, Steve Hanley;
Son-In-Law, Tony Mathis and grandchildren; Jason, Joshua, Jasmine, Justin,
Destiny, Serenity, Harmony, Tony Jr., Reggie, Patience & Siyani;
Stepdaughter, Colleen Murphy; spouse Joe Nesvara; grandson, Michael
Murphy and spouse, Catherine; great grandchildren; James and Christian and
grandson, Kerri Shepherd.
Stepson, Patrick Ortell and grandson, Trevor Ortell;
Special family members; Jeanne and David Brunkow; dear friend, Arthur
Swanson and countless other friends.

The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to Pathways Hospice
for their incredible compassion and support every step of the way.

A memorial service will be held at Foothills Unitarian Church, 1815 Yorktown
Avenue, Fort Collins, on January 31, 2025. The service will start promptly at
1:00 p.m. Pieter loved Foothills Unitarian Church, which was an important part
of his life for over 16 years.

In honor of Pieter, donations may be made to Foothills Unitarian Church at
1815 Yorktown Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 31. 1:00 PM (MT)

Foothills Unitarian Church
1815 Yorktown Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Tribute Wall



“ Opa, it's been over a year and you are still missed. The boys often mention you and how much they miss you. There's definitely a void here, but I know it will heal with time. Thank you for how you impacted and spoke into our lives. You are still loved.

Michael Murphy - February 05 at 08:38 AM

DJ

“ I worked with Pieter, in Commercial Sales at Public Service Company, in the early 1970's. I always enjoyed Pieter for his unique wit, his dedication to his job and his customers. Rest in peace Pieter! Don Johnson

Don Johnson - January 31, 2025 at 02:36 PM

LA

“ Ah, Pietro--lots of good memories of times with you at River Rock. Thanks to you & Mary Pat for being such integral parts of that community. Love from Linda & Alan.

Linda Albright - January 27, 2025 at 05:20 PM

MF

“ Mary Pat, caregiving is such a labor of love. You were what it meant to be a carepartner and spouse. I am so glad that I got to meet you in a meditation class and have missed you. My heart goes out to you and I am sending a hugh hug to you. Hope our paths meet again soon. Mary Farrell

Mary Farrell - January 26, 2025 at 10:43 PM

ML

“ *Such a good guy.*

Mary Beth Lathrop - January 26, 2025 at 11:45 AM

GOES
FUNERAL CARE

“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - January 24, 2025 at 02:24 PM