



Sarah Jeanne Pitts

December 31, 1945 - February 1, 2026

Sarah Jeanne Pitts, beloved mother and grandmother and a resident of Fort Collins Co, passed away on February 1st 2026 from a stroke. She was 80 years old.

Born on December 31, 1945, in Silver City, New Mexico, to Henry and Alberta Pitts, Sarah enjoyed a wonderful childhood in Wheaton, Illinois, alongside her brother Albert and sister Emily. She graduated from Goucher College in 1967, earned a graduate degree from the University of Wyoming in 1975, and later received her Juris Doctor from Drake University Law School in 1987.

As an adult, she had many adventures and lived in many interesting places from Arizona, Wyoming, Washington State, Illinois, to Minnesota.

She spent many years as a resident of Des Moines, Iowa where she worked as an attorney for the Principal Financial Group. After retirement, she moved to Fort Collins, Colorado so she could spend more time with her beloved grandsons.

Sarah cherished time with her family and found joy in their company. She was deeply passionate about environmental causes and dedicated herself to promoting election education and fairness. Sarah was active in many organizations, devoting countless hours to the League of Women Voters and Faith Family Hospitality.

Her immediate family fondly remembers her unique knack for low-speed

vehicle collisions involving family members' cars, her strong views on the world and her annoyance when it didn't measure up, and her love of reading. Sarah is survived by her children: William Kelley III and his wife Ungee of Loveland, Colorado, and Emily Kelley of Fort Collins, Colorado. She leaves behind three grandchildren: Alex Kelley of Littleton, Colorado, Tim Kelley of Laramie, Wyoming, and Rob Kelley of Littleton, Colorado. Her siblings, Albert Pitts and his wife Ani of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Emily Dixon and her husband James of Leesburg, Virginia, as well nieces, Rebecca Anderson (Pitts), Elizabeth Holtsclaw (Pitts), & Caroline Harpster (Dixon), and nephew Brian Dixon.

Sarah was preceded in death by her youngest child, Thomas Eldridge of Des Moines, Iowa.

The family will be holding a celebration of Sarah's life on February 28th between 2 – 4 pm at Goes Funeral Care, 3665 Canal Drive, Suite E, Fort Collins, CO 80524

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Nature Conservancy or the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB **28**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (MT)

Goes Funeral Care & Crematory

3665 Canal Drive

Suite E

Fort Collins, CO 80524

(970) 482-2221

info@goesfuneralcare.com

<https://www.goesfuneralcare.com/>

Tribute Wall

DE

“ Sarah was my mentor at Principal and, as a new securities attorney, I appreciated her kindness, and trusted and benefitted from her wisdom and advice. She often spoke of her family and I was glad to hear she was able to spend many years in retirement with them.

Deb Epp - February 26 at 04:49 PM

CS

“ I took over some of the work Sarah did at Principal, and had the pleasure of working with her as she was preparing to retire. I enjoyed her wit and tried to absorb as much of her knowledge as I could. She was looking forward to spending more time with family in retirement, and I can see from the obituary and some of the comments that she was able to do that. I'm glad for her and for her family. Her memory is a blessing.

Charles Schneider - February 25 at 03:16 PM

SA

“ Sarah was a strong woman who I've admired for years. I miss seeing her at the gym with her wonderful trainer Nico. Rest in peace and power, Sarah!

Sandy Ernst Aldern - February 24 at 10:48 PM

TN

“ Sarah was one of the smartest women I have ever known. She was so kind, compassionate and caring. I loved having great deep conversations with her. She asked the best questions. My heart goes out to her children whom she loved greatly and her precious grandsons of whom she was so proud. May she rest in the light.

Thea Nicholas - February 07 at 03:35 PM

MC

“ Sarah was a very valued member of our book club, *Read Between the Wines*. I so enjoyed her many great insights in the book discussions. Sarah was kind compassionate, hopeful, & she loved her family so much. Her volunteer work with the League of Women voters and other good causes was so admirable. The world is not as bright without Sara. My heart aches for her loss.
My deepest sympathy to Sarah's family,
Maryann Colarusso

Maryann Colarusso - February 07 at 03:30 PM