



## Teresa "Terry" (Burkett) Buffington

September 27, 2022

Terry was welcomed into the Burkett family by her parents, Ted and Bobbie (Hipp) Burkett, and older brother, Mike, on December 7, 1955, in Toledo, Ohio. Because of Ted's career in the U.S. Air Force, Terry would live in many places over her early years: Roswell, New Mexico; Izmir, Turkey; Biloxi, Mississippi; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Montgomery, Alabama; and Oxon Hill, Maryland where she graduated from Friendly High School. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Ohio University in 1977, and relocated to Boise, Idaho to work for the City until 1982. Terry viewed moving frequently as a positive by thinking of the good things that were in store for her at the next place. This may be related to her love of travel both in the U.S. and internationally.

Mike indicates that Terry's integrity developed early on and ended up getting him in hot water many times with his parents because she provided such honest information. Strong integrity was a great asset for Terry as she earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Colorado in Boulder in 1985, and practiced with Holland & Hart first in Colorado Springs, Colorado, then in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Terry represented clients throughout the States of Wyoming and Colorado in all areas of commercial transactions, which included real estate, corporate, finance, and acquisitions and dispositions.

In Colorado, the El Paso County Bar Association recognized Terry as an Outstanding Young Lawyer in 1989. While practicing in Wyoming, she was

recognized by Chambers USA from 2003 to 2022 in corporate mergers and acquisitions and real estate. Chambers USA is a guide produced by Chambers and Partners, which identifies the best lawyers and law firms in the U.S. Essentially, it's the legal industry's version of the Michelin Guide to the best restaurants. From 2007 to 2020, The Best Lawyers in America recognized Terry for multiple areas of commercial transaction law, as well as Lawyer of the Year for several years. The Best Lawyers in America is a publication whose core mission is to highlight the top legal talent in America utilizing a peer-review process – and loved by her peers she was. Terry was noted as highly regarded in the IFLR1000, a guide to the world's leading financial law firms, in 2019 and 2021 for mergers and acquisitions, real estate finance and real estate acquisitions. Most notably, Terry was highly regarded at her firm and a mentor and friend to colleagues and clients alike. This was evident when the firm appointed Terry as Holland & Hart Cheyenne's Administrative Partner, and she served several years in that role.

In late summer of 1989 on a blind date, Terry met John Buffington whom she would marry on September 22, 1990 in Cascade, Colorado. Although it took Terry and John a little longer to find each other, both the Burkett and Buffington families were very happy for them when they married. Their son, Sam, completed the family when he was born in 1995 in Denver, Colorado. One last move would bring Terry and her family to their current residence in Fort Collins on the northeast side of town.

Because Sam played tennis in high school and college, Terry developed a strong interest in the sport and enjoyed following tennis at both the amateur and professional levels. She also had an interest in antiques and along with her mother, bought and sold antiques in Colorado Springs. In addition, Terry had a very soft spot for Sweet Tarts, chocolate shakes and pie.

John and Terry anticipated the many things they would do after Terry retired.

Unfortunately, Parkinson's disease, like a thief, stole those dreams and over the past seven years progressively robbed Terry of her physical ability, even though she put up a heck of a fight. Through all of this, Terry remained her intelligent and articulate self and maintained her kindness and wonderful sense of humor. Terry will be sorely missed by her family, friends and colleagues.

In addition to her husband, John Buffington and her son, Sam Buffington, family members include her brother Mike, his wife Erin, and their children Kyle, Kelsey, and Kaitlyn and their families; and her Hipp family members.

The mass to celebrate Terry's life will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, November 4, 2022, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 300 West Mountain Avenue in Fort Collins, Colorado. If you should choose to make a contribution to the Parkinson's Foundation in lieu of flowers, please go to:

[https://secure3.convio.net/prkorg/site/Donation2?10243.donation=form1&df\\_id=10243&mfc\\_pref=T](https://secure3.convio.net/prkorg/site/Donation2?10243.donation=form1&df_id=10243&mfc_pref=T)

# Tribute Wall



“ Teresa "Terry" (Burkett) Buffington

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ John, we share your grief, but feel fortunate to have shared in Terry's work and professional life. As a lawyer she was a consummate professional, always thoughtful, careful, poised, dedicated and hard working. As a law partner, she was our best example of kindness, compassion, understanding and respect for all colleagues and staff; she always gave more to the firm and to others than she took for herself. As a friend, she was always there to listen, support, encourage. In short, Terry was above all else a kind and caring person who set that example for the rest of us.

*Sam, the pride and joy your Mom took in parenting you, from the moment you were born and ever after, was so obvious; she lit up the room every time we talked about you over so many years. We share in our grief as well, but we learned a lot about parenting from trying to learn and follow from Terry's example. You have our best wishes.*

*Don and Su Schultz*

donald i schultz - October 25, 2022 at 04:29 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Teresa "Terry" (Burkett) Buffington.



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October 24, 2022 at 07:56 PM



“ John and Sam, please accept my sincere condolences and prayers on your loss of a wonderful wife and mother. I enjoyed getting to know Terry through tennis and we would both commiserate during matches with our very competitive red-headed sons. She was always a bright spot during FCHS Boys Tennis. Her kind and happy personality will be missed.

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**Lois Ascough** - October 23, 2022 at 04:45 PM



“ I had the pleasure of meeting Terry years ago through my visits to Holland & Hart as a massage therapist. She scheduled regularly for my chair massage sessions. Later, Terry became a regular monthly client at my place of business. I was always impressed by Terry's honesty, sincerity and kindness toward everyone around her. We lose the good ones far too early and Terry will be greatly missed by those she touched in life. God Bless.

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**Kathy Kussman, LMT** - October 22, 2022 at 11:02 AM

DP

“ I worked with Terry for many years. She was an amazing lawyer, mentor, boss, and most importantly, friend. We shared so much while she managed our office - tears, frustrations, victories, and many, many laughs. She was humble, yet confident in her abilities and convictions. My heart breaks for John and Sam. My sadness is deep - I can only imagine yours.

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**Dayle Petrillo** - October 19, 2022 at 10:58 AM

ML

“ We send our love and prayers to you John, Sam and the whole family. We have known Terry and her family for many years as are kids attended St. Joseph Catholic School. We had years sharing school activities, festivals, fund raisers and Friday Masses together. For our family, we were blessed that our son's played competitive baseball together for the Fort Collins Eagles, which provided many more opportunities to spend time and travel with this wonderful family.

*John and Sam, it is our earthly loss of Terry, but always remember you now have a wonderful new advocate in Heaven.*

*Wishing you all Peace,*

*Pete, Margaret, Ryan, Spencer and Austin Long*

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**Margaret Long** - October 11, 2022 at 05:10 PM

TP

*We remember Terry as a vivacious, articulate, smart and oftentimes funny person who always harbored a great sense of humor. We shall be forever grateful for her assistance during the purchase of our current home. John and Sam, you were lucky to have her as a wife and mother. Please accept our sincere condolences regarding your great loss. She will be missed.*

*Russ Smith & Tanya Paleski*

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**Tanya E Paleski** - October 16, 2022 at 04:28 PM

SE

*I remember Terry from decades ago when we both worked at Holland & Hart as young attorneys. Although I've had no contact with her since then, she made an indelible impression and I feel her loss. Terry was so smart, kind, and funny. A great colleague and friend. We were all so happy for her when she found John and personal fulfillment in her family.*

*This is a terrible loss. Know that she was loved by many and is remembered.*

*Sari Escovitz*

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**Sari Escovitz** - October 23, 2022 at 02:12 PM

LL

*We had such great times with you guys - boating - office bashes - drinks & dinners - that bus trip to see the Rockies game. Loved her sense of humor! Remember the time you stopped to see us at the lake house in Arkansas & how we teased her about her need for a carload of snacks for the trip home. You two were truly meant for each other. We were so lucky to have her friendship. We're thinking of you & Sam with much love.*

*Lola & Adrian*

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**lola logsdon** - October 29, 2022 at 11:14 PM