



## Constance Rae Van Laningham

May 16, 1944 - July 29, 2020

Connie Rae Van Laningham, 76, of Fort Collins Colorado, passed away Wednesday July 29, 2020, after a lengthy illness.

Connie was born on May 16, 1944, in Hastings, Nebraska, to Ray and Elsie Blum. Connie graduated from Hastings High School in 1962. Connie met the love of her life and future husband Don Van Laningham in junior high school. Their relationship blossomed on their walks home from school, in the ninth grade. On May 22, 1964, Don and Connie were married in Hastings, Nebraska. Daughter Diane was born on April 26, 1965 and son Jeff was born March 4, 1969. On Halloween night 1974 Don and Connie moved the family to Fort Collins, Colorado. Connie spent much of her life working as a laboratory technician. When Connie retired from the health care field, she opened her in home childcare which she operated for more than 20 years. Connie was forced to retire in 2004, after suffering a stroke while rendering aid at an accident scene. Since the stroke, Connie was confined to her home being cared for by her loving husband Don. Childcare was very important to Connie, as she had the ability to impact so many young lives. All the children that attended Connie's childcare were very special to her.

Connie is survived by Don her husband of 56 years, Daughter Diane (Jay) Klassen, of Fort Collins, Son Jeff (Kris) Van Laningham of Fort Collins, 5 Grandchildren, 3 Great Grandchildren, Sister Judy Jurecki of Prescott Valley, Arizona and several nieces, nephews and cousins. Connie was preceded in death by parents, Ray and Elsie Blum and sister, Sandy Young.

At the family's request, there is no formal service scheduled. The immediate family had a celebration of life in Connie's final hours. Connie was a very special wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, great grandmother and a friend to all!

The family would like to thank the staff from Pathways of Northern Colorado for their care and compassion over the last three months.

We encourage you to share a special thought or memory in Connie's honor. In lieu of

flowers donations in Connie's memory can be made to Pathways of Northern Colorado,  
[www.pathways-care.org](http://www.pathways-care.org).

# Comments

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“ I was still a teenager when I met Connie. She embraced me and always made me feel welcomed in the family. I remember her as being kind hearted and level headed. Sending you my thoughts and prayers for strength and comfort. Vivian Brinkmeyer

**vivian brinkmeyer** - August 03 at 08:47 PM

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“ Patty Ring lit a candle in memory of Constance Rae Van Laningham



**Patty Ring** - August 03 at 08:37 PM



“ Connie was one in a million! She was a caring and loving woman who played such a huge part in and helped to shape so many many children's lives. She stepped up and helped me through a very hard time. That's who she was-always ready to help anyone in need. Rest In Peace Connie. I will always remember you.

**Patty Ring** - August 03 at 08:55 PM

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“ I knew Connie from the world of childcare. She, Candy Thurman and I had many great times, especially going to Denver for our state association meetings. She was a hoot; and I have missed her very much. “ Sail on, silver girl...your time has come...to shine”

**Bette Matero** - August 03 at 06:26 PM

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“ Don, Jay, and Diane. Thank you for sharing Connie with so many. She was such a blessing to my family and me. I am glad Connie has finally found peace and pray that you all can find peace as well. We are thinking about you guys!

**Calet Faulkner** - August 02 at 12:06 PM

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“ I am saddened to see that Connie is gone. I have great memories from when she and Linda worked together. My thoughts and prayers go out to you.

Barry Long

Barry Long - August 01 at 12:46 PM

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“ I always think of Connie with a smile. She had a generous, warm spirit. Hugs to the family and our sympathy at your loss.

Randy & Karen Johnson

Karen Johnson - August 01 at 12:07 PM

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“ Connie and I shared a great, crazy and amazing friendship! Not only did we get to work together, we also spent time, out of town and roomed together for conferences. It gave us a chance to get to know our young growing families, share meals, give each other lots of advice and oh--yes we had fun!! We celebrated with the other girls, Christmas parties, thru out the years. We organized The Sisters of Finance-- a group of women that learned about and bought stock,. We all did well with that venture!! When I think of Connie, it brings a smile to my face, and I shall think of her most fondly!

Memories of love and friendship are treasures to carry with you always.

Love you always Connie!!!

Toni Wallace - July 30 at 06:18 PM



“ Connie's folks, Uncle Ray and Aunt Elsie, were the the uncle and aunt we got to see the most. The three girls were always so much fun to be with. I remember going to stay with them in the basement house.

We so enjoyed visiting Don and Connie whenever we were in Colorado. Our love and prayers are with you, Don and family.

Dale and Bev Johnson

Beverly Johnson - August 01 at 12:32 PM



“ I have so many happy memories from working with Connie at the clinics. Connie was the most caring, compassionate and courteous person I have known. Our families enjoyed cutting down Christmas trees in the snow, putting up wallpaper--thanks Don--and shared family stories. She had an amazing sense of humor and loved Don, Diane and Jeff and their families so very much. She was such an exceptional person.

Our love, prayers and thoughts go out to you at this time.

Mike, Bette and Amanda Bodak

**Bette Bodak** - August 01 at 03:06 PM



“ Connie was a Godsend to our family when my mother was unable to physically take care of our daughter after she was born. Connie took her in a little earlier than planned and was a huge support, not just in taking care of Kelsie, but emotionally for me at a rough time in my life.

She always had an ear to lend, a shoulder to cry on or a way to make us laugh. She was an amazing person who always had love and a smile to share.

May she rest in peace. Sending prayers and blessings to Don and your family.

Kristi, Randy & Kelsie Fisher

**Kristi Fisher** - August 05 at 09:07 AM