



## Patricia Ellen Buckner

October 2, 1947 - December 10, 2019

Patricia Ellen (McWethy) Buckner, known as "Ellen," passed away peacefully at home on December 10, 2019, in Fort Collins, Colorado, at the age of 72.

Ellen was born on October 2, 1947, in Cheyenne Wyoming, to Leslie Keeney McWethy and Anna Mae (Blakeman) McWethy, and lived in various places until the age of five, then lived in Loveland, Colorado, where she was actively involved in Loveland High School activities, including being Rag Day Queen in 1962, then graduating in 1965. She married Neal Buckner on April 1, 1967, and they had two children, Todd Michael Buckner and Jyl Michelle Buckner Phillips. They divorced in 1977. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley in 1968 and her Master's Degree from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, in 1985.

Ellen taught Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades for 29 years at Tavelli Elementary School in Fort Collins, touching many lives in the community, until she retired in 2000. She then worked as editor/distributor at a locally published magazine, as quality control expert at her sister's legal publishing company, and briefly as a "skiff chick" on her brother's commercial salmon boat. She loved to travel and fulfilled her "adrenaline junkie" side by being a water-skiing champion (even attending Nationals), teaching it to many friends and friends' families, mostly at Marianna Lake, plus snow skiing, snorkeling, skydiving, bungee jumping, scuba diving (she got certified at the age of 46), softball, volleyball, tennis, river rafting, and kayaking through the crocodiles in the Everglades. She enjoyed being with her son and daughter and their families, and was affectionately known as "Granny." There were many family members and friends throughout the country who knew how special, amazing and loving she was.

She was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her children, Todd (Lisa) Buckner and Jyl (David) Buckner Phillips; grandchildren Taylor Phillips, Kaylen (Allan) Phillips Riley, Alex Buckner, Regan Buckner, Naythan Phillips and Raylee Phillips; and great granddaughter Adalynn Riley and a great grandson to be born in March 2020 to Kaylen. She is also survived by her siblings, Louise McWethy Dyekman and Mike

McWethy of Richland, Washington, Sherry McWethy of Fort Collins, Colorado, and Chuck McWethy of Kodiak, Alaska, and by an aunt and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. She will also be missed by the many special friends she had made throughout the years.

A celebration of her life will be held on January 11, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Timberline Church, 2908 South Timberline Road, Fort Collins, in the east auditorium. Since she loved tropical vacations by the ocean, please dress in bright, tropical colors and join her family and friends.

As a mother, grandmother and former teacher, children were an important part of her life, including children's literacy. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Realities for Children at <https://www.realitiesforchildren.com/get-involved/donate/> or the Fort Collins Crossroads Safehouse at <https://www.crossroadssafehouse.org/donate/donation/>; or donations may be through Bohlander Funeral Chapel in Fort Collins at [www.bohlenderfuneralchapel.com](http://www.bohlenderfuneralchapel.com).

# Comments

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“ Jyl and Todd, Sherry, and Shirly, So very sorry to have lost your Mom/Sister. She was always wonderful, and soooooo much fun to be around. We continue to keep her and each of you in our prayers.

Chris and Heidi Baldy



**Chris and Heidi Baldy** - January 13, 2020 at 02:18 PM

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“ Teresa And Jacinda Chamberlain lit a candle in memory of Patricia Ellen Buckner



**Teresa and Jacinda Chamberlain** - January 10, 2020 at 04:13 PM

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“ So very sorry to discover that Ellen has passed away. She was such a wonderful loving and caring person to know. Helen Mawhiney



**Helen Mawhiney** - January 06, 2020 at 11:27 PM

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“ I have so many great memories of Ellen, from lots of fun playing tennis, many lunches, a blast on our girls trip to Mexico, and a long ago ski trip to Steamboat where, on the ride home, their VW bus had no heat. Being with Ellen always made me happy.

I am so sorry for your loss.

Nancy Churchwell Maus

**Nancy Maus** - January 05, 2020 at 05:07 PM

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“ Jyl and Todd-

I am so shocked and saddened to hear of your mom's passing. I have so many fond memories of Ellen and your family during our time together in Fort Collins. She was always so energetic and upbeat and ready for adventure! She was also so supportive of the various projects we dreamed up to entertain ourselves. Above all, I remember her kindness and positive steadying influence on my young life that helped me more than I could ever express. I have no doubt she was this for many of her students as well.

She has gone way too soon and I pray for all of you that all the great memories will carry you through this difficult time.

**Judith Maples** - December 25, 2019 at 02:50 PM

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“ As a kid, I thought my cousin Ellen was such a cool "grownup." She was always in the middle of all the fun things we did when we visited. Once I was a grownup, I realized that she was like Peter Pan; she had the heart, positive outlook and fun loving attitude of a kid. I'm glad she and my Mom are discovering heaven together.

Tanya Blakeman Ikeda

**Tanya Ikeda** - December 21, 2019 at 09:08 PM

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“ Mary Ashworth lit a candle in memory of Patricia Ellen Buckner



Mary Ashworth - December 20, 2019 at 08:17 PM

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“ Mrs. Buckner was my teacher in first grade...to this day she has always been my very favorite teacher. I will always remember her.

Lara Deakin



Lara Lindner - December 20, 2019 at 03:27 PM

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“ Cheryl Wilson lit a candle in memory of Patricia Ellen Buckner



Cheryl Wilson - December 18, 2019 at 10:03 PM

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“ Mark Williamson lit a candle in memory of Patricia Ellen Buckner



**Mark Williamson** - December 17, 2019 at 03:17 PM

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“ Janet Knoll lit a candle in memory of Patricia Ellen Buckner



**Janet Knoll** - December 16, 2019 at 06:26 PM

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“ Ellen will forever have a place in my heart. Our friendship started in grade school at the old country school Summit, south of Loveland. Our friendship lasted thru our many years of growth with our families and friends. (Just a note to Todd and Jyl, Bill and I double dated with your Mom and Dad in high school. I have so many memories that I couldn't begin to list them. Just know all the good memories will be in your hearts forever and soon time will heal your hearts, then you will remember many things that will bring laughter and happy tears. God bless all of you and your families and know Ellen is in many of our hearts and we will heal with you.

Bill and Ellen Ritter

**Ellen Ritter** - December 16, 2019 at 05:17 PM

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“ So very sorry for your loss. You will all be in our thoughts. Sandy Dinsmore Irby

**Sandy Irby** - December 16, 2019 at 01:34 PM

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“ Evi Buckner-Opler lit a candle in memory of Patricia Ellen Buckner



**Evi Buckner-Opler** - December 16, 2019 at 09:50 AM

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“ Sharon Swartz lit a candle in memory of Patricia Ellen Buckner



**Sharon Swartz** - December 16, 2019 at 07:32 AM

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“ Mrs. Buckner was my 3rd grade teacher in 1995-1996. She was one of the main influences that changed my life, converting me from a typical troublemaker boy, to a "normal" student, simply because she understood that I didn't need some drug, but a challenge. She created extra credit and other brain teasers that were worksheets and kept me busy, challenged, and helped me learn a lot more than if I was left to my own devices.

Mrs. Buckner will certainly be missed, and her incredible impact and legacy will be felt for generations to come.

Mark W.

**Mark Weyers** - December 15, 2019 at 09:02 PM



“ Ellen will forever be in my thoughts and heart. Freshman year at CSU at Ingersoll Hall brought about our friendship. I can remember “piling” into her red Corvair (?) to go out to the edge of town (S. College/University Mall) to get McDonald’s yummy food. To all of us, their food was better than dorm food. Oh, how we laughed as we tried to squeeze as many kids into her Corvair as we could.

There were about 5 of us who, during the school year, shared our hopes, dreams, our good times and our bad times.

I'm fortunate that Ellen came into my life.

**Sue Wintheiser** - December 18, 2019 at 10:44 AM

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“ Gary Cissell lit a candle in memory of Patricia Ellen Buckner



**gary cissell** - December 15, 2019 at 05:12 PM

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“ Please accept my sincere condolences in this great loss to your family, especially Todd, Lisa, Alex, and Reagan, whom I know. She was always "Mrs. Buckner" to us as the second grade teacher of both of my now adult children. I credit her with the wonderful job she did teaching them to read. It has helped them with so much over the years. She was a patient and caring teacher. I had no idea about all the exciting adventures she enjoyed having in her life outside of school. It sounds like she lived a full life. May God comfort you and, in time, turn your hearts to the many good memories you have Of her. With heartfelt sympathy,  
Linda Wagner

**linda eagner** - December 15, 2019 at 04:21 PM

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“ We are very sad to hear of Ellen’s passing. She was my son’s wonderful third grade teacher at Tavelli in 1988. She was always positive and cheerful and motivated children everyday. She will be greatly missed! Pam Swerer and Matt Swerer Wells.

**Pam Swerer** - December 15, 2019 at 04:06 PM

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“ Ellen you have touched the heart of so many of us. I met you many “moons” ago in high school, had the privilege of working with you and shared a few adventures with you. My memories bring me some comfort and I hope the warm memories of the family bring them comfort and love.  
May you fly on the wings of an Angel  
Judy Maisch Jacobs

**Judy Jacobs** - December 15, 2019 at 12:11 PM

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“ Ellen was among my favorite people when I worked at Tavelli in the eighties. Her wonderful smile and contagious laugh will always come to mind when I hear her name. My deepest sympathies to her entire family, but particularly to her two children.

**Connie L. Werner** - December 14, 2019 at 06:19 PM



“ Dear Todd and Jyl,  
Please accept our sympathies! YouMother was such a fantastic teacher and good friend. She was the best water ski instructor and provided many fun times for Jon. I remember many “teacher” type discussion with her. She was so helpful, understanding, caring and wise. Our love to you and your families.

Sue and Jack Reid ( Ithaca New York\$

**Sue and Jack Reid** - January 05, 2020 at 05:10 PM