



Beverly Downing

March 23, 1930 - December 1, 2010

Beverly Downing died peacefully in her sleep following a brief illness on December 1, 2010. Beverly Jean VanWinkle was born March 23, 1930 in Ransom, Kansas to Clarence and Blanche VanWinkle. After moving many times throughout western Kansas and eastern Colorado, Beverly graduated from Windsor High School in 1948. Although she was blessed with a wonderful soprano voice, she decided to forego a career performing and instead went to Wichita State University in Kansas, where she graduated in 1952. On November 23, 1952 she married Harold Downing and together they had three children. They recently celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary. Legally blind since infancy, she never felt disabled, yet devoted her career to helping others with disabilities first as a speech therapist and then, for the final 17 years before retirement, as the preschool teacher for Foothills Gateway. Her retirement years were filled with gardening, reading and playing computer games, as well as spending time with her family. Preceding her in death are her parents; and sister, Dorothy Cammack. She is survived by her husband, and children, Lorraine Wright, Elizabeth Downing Brion Rohrbacher, and Randy Downing. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to Foothills Gateway in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80538. A Memorial Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday at First United Methodist Chapel, 1005 Stover St.

Tribute Wall

RS

“ I am so sorry to hear of this. For those of you who don't know who I am. I am Anita's Lloyd's sister granddaughter. My grandmother loved her so much, they were always best friends. Now they are both with God. May she rest in peace. Prayers to all of you. I hope uncle Lloyd is doing well. \=

Rhonda Septelka - August 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ Bev was the preschool teacher at Foothills Gateway when my son, Jay Steele, started there. I will never forget her warm, caring spirit as she worked with these young children, some barely 3 years old. She not only cared about her pupils but also their mothers, having a regular group meeting for all of us so we knew we were not alone and had a social activity when so much of our time was devoted to our child. My prayer is for your peace and comfort at this time and may the memories of those she touched help you to know how much she was loved by all.

Elsie Czenkusch - December 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Liz, I'm very sorry to hear about your mom. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Janelle Dowling - December 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ To all of Beverly's family: I am sorry about the passing of "Aunt Bev" and was shocked to see it in the paper. I truly loved her even in the short time that we shared together. I have thought about her often. She, and the rest of the family, always made me feel so welcome in your get-togethers. She once told me that I just seemed to fit in with "the group" and that meant so much to me. "Aunt Bev" always had a sweet and caring nature about her and she will be missed. I feel blessed to have known her. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Love, Shirley

Shirley Albright - December 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ Randy and family, I am sorry about your loss, my thoughts are with you! Take care,

Allison Runyan - December 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ My heart aches at such a loss. Bev was like a mother to me for so many years. She was a wonderful woman and a joy to all who had the pleasure to know her. Smart and funny and the BEST cook ever...it will never be the same without her. My sincere to condolences to Liz, Brion, Randy, Lorraine, Jason, Daniel and Patrick and all the rest of the family.

Faun Smith - December 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM