



Kathryn Marie Lynch

September 12, 1917 - March 21, 2017

Katie Lynch, 99, of Fort Collins, passed away Tuesday, March 21, 2017, leaving a legacy built on the belief in the goodness of all people and the desire to make the world a better place. With kindness, encouragement, curiosity, and undaunted faith, Katie modeled the life well-lived.

Kathryn Marie Proffitt Lynch (Katie) was born September 12, 1917, in Western Missouri, to Vallie and Frank Proffitt. She will be remembered for many things – being the only girl playing trombone in high school, baking scrumptious pies, teaching high school students the fine art of typing, riding a motorcycle with her son at age 90, walking with a quick step in brightly colored shoes, and supporting Poudre High School's athletic and music programs. Most of all Katie will be remembered for teaching those around her to look for the good in life and in all people.

Growing up in Kansas during the Depression taught Katie the meaning of “frugal,” though she spoke only of good times and friends. From a young age, Katie enjoyed music, singing and playing the piano. At Ottawa High School Katie sang in choruses and played the trombone in orchestra and band while her best friend and sister Colene, played clarinet.

She met her lifelong partner, Joe Lynch, at Ottawa University; they married on December 28, 1938. Joe and Katie raised their children, Sharon Weaver and

Ron Lynch in Kansas and Colorado where Joe was a teacher and administrator. In 1961, Katie joined Joe in the education field, teaching in Holyoke, Sterling, Denver, and in Fort Collins at Blevins Junior High and Poudre High.

Throughout their lives the Lynches created a welcoming home where food, fun, counsel, and friendship were always ready. Together they canned vegetables and fruit; Katie made pies, freezing them to have one always on hand for company, and she always made sure to have peanuts and red hots for snacking. The couple shared their gift of hospitality with Colorado State University families from around the world. They traveled throughout the United States and toured Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. On any given weekend, Katie was known to hold cookie baking parties for her “adopted grandchildren” and young friends; she made quilts for family and friends and always had time to sit on the back patio swing to listen. After Joe passed away, Katie continued her active life serving as the editor of The Parkwood Estates newsletter and the director of the residents’ Sing-a-long. Clearly, Katie was not one to sit idly.

Perhaps Katie’s own words, written at age 87, give the most accurate insight into how she instilled optimism in others:

“Joe and I always knew we’d be in touch with our dearest friends from our previous hometowns, and that has been true. We felt we were making our next move with the assurance that it was what we were meant to do. We looked forward to making new friends, meeting new challenges, and finding a new church family. Not only did we find new challenges in each new place we lived, but we found new endeavors. Joe and I had a wonderful life!”

Katie is survived by daughter Sharon Weaver (Elmer DeBruin) of Fort Collins; son Ron (Deb) of Minnesota, grandsons Michael Lynch and David Lynch, and numerous family and friends. Preceding Katie in death are her parents Frank and Vallie Proffitt, her sister Colene Proffitt, and brother Charles Proffitt.

Katie was a long-time member of the American Baptist Church in Fort Collins.

The family is most grateful for care given Katie by Tami Meurer, Nurse Practitioner and friend and also by the staff at Brookdale Assisted Living.

A Celebration of Katie's Life will be held Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at the American Baptist Church, 600 S. Shields, Fort Collins on what would have been her 100th Birthday. Guests are invited to honor Katie by wearing the bright colors that Katie so loved.

Memorial contributions can be made to the American Baptist Church, Fort Collins; the Lynch Family Scholarship, Poudre School District Foundation in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Fort Collins, CO 80524. Friends may send condolences to the family at bohlenderfuneralchapel.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP **12.** 2:00 PM (MT)

American Baptist Church
600 S. Shields
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Tribute Wall

VF

“ I have so enjoyed talking with Katie through these many years I have been singing in assisted living homes...1st there was Parkwood Estates...2nd there was The Sterling House. She was always full of light and smiles. She loved to sing...she loved to smile at us as we sang and to eat her ice cream as we sang! Oh she loved her ice cream! Sharon would come in to visit her at times when we were singing at The Sterling House and we spent a few minutes visiting about Holyoke. Katie was a lovely woman of God and would welcome me into her world for a moment in her life. I'm honored to have known her better in these few years !

Vicki Fisbeck - September 12, 2017 at 02:51 PM

RW

“What an impact Katie has made on everyone who knew her. She was such a close friend even after we moved from Ft. Collins. Charming Katie had many talents, super-intelligent, a leader, an organizer, great hostess, always smiling and having time for others. In 1965 my late husband, Bob Vincent, and I sponsored a young-married couples Sunday school class in the Ft. Collins American Baptist Church, starting out with merely one couple. Later we asked Joe and Katie Lynch to help us as co-teachers and co-sponsors of this class. Joe would teach when Bob was unable due to Bob's violent headaches; Katie and I would be responsible for monthly socials. We two couples grew close as we greatly enjoyed each other and the young people. Our reward was that the class grew to 50 attendees. One of our young couples, the Gary Hixons, became almost the adopted children of Katie and Joe's from that time on. Our close friendship never wavered even after we moved from Ft. Collins in 1969. How we appreciated those many long, single-lined, typed pages of news from Katie and later their several-day's visit to us in Oregon in April of 1985. We last visited Joe and Katie in Ft. Collins in 1993, again starting off visiting as if we had never been apart.

To love is to be vulnerable to the pain that follows, but the memories bring joy. Mine, that would take pages to write, have been flooding forth during these weeks following Katie's death, even tiny things such as the container of ground cranberries-oranges-apple-sugar-red coloring that Katie kept in her refrigerator each fall so she could quickly toss this dressing along with whipped cream on a bowl of bananas, celery, grapes, nuts for a winter fruit salad on a moment's notice. Let's celebrate Katie for whom she was and for her faithful service to God who blessed her abundantly and us through her.

Ruth Vincent Willis

Ruth Vincent Willis - June 02, 2017 at 01:54 PM



Luana Proffitt

Beautiful words for my Aunt.....Thank you

Luana Proffitt - June 30, 2017 at 04:00 PM

PW

“ *Mu husband, Terry, our sons, Mike and Steve, and myself have so many wonderful memories of Katie and Joe it is hard to pick out just a couple. We met them when we moved to Ft. Collins from Colorado Springs and started attending American Baptist Church. Katie was such a sweet, fun, smiling, positive person who loved to entertain. I was always amazed how organized she had her freezer full of great food. If an army had stopped by, Katie would have been able to feed them all. We ate many meals with them at their house and at ours, played cards, met with them and the Hixons and Stevens for fun times while they watched all of our kids grow up. As I lounge around the house in my shorts or sweats, I remember I never saw Katie when she wasn't dressed up. Joe and I had a running joke about when we ate dessert. He wanted it as soon as the meal was over, but I wanted to wait until after we played cards. We decided at their house his way and at our house my way. Joe made us an end table per Gary Hixon's design plus several more things of beautiful wood. When both our sons went to college, Terry and I moved to California and didn't get to see Katie and Joe as much. When our Steve graduated college in Mobile, AL and a week later our Mike graduated from CSU, Katie insisted all of us, my parents included, stay with them. We had their graduation party and picnic the next day at Katie's and Joe's. We know live in Tallahassee, FL, but tried to see Katie when we went to see Mike and his family who still live in Ft. Collins. They were such a treasure. Every one of our memories of them are of happy times.*

Pat and Terry Weber - April 07, 2017 at 01:01 PM

LN

“ I have very fond memories of both Katie and Joe. Katie was our youth choir director in Holyoke and she always made it a fun practice. Our reunion of youth choir member several years later will always be remembered. Katie had lots of energy and got us to perform at the best level RIP Katie

Larry Naggatz

larry naggatz - April 05, 2017 at 04:51 PM

AS

“ What an exemplary life Katie has led! Our memories go back to the church in Sterling where she led the choir and to Ft Collins where she was a valued member of that choir. Katie and Joe were just synonymous as you thought of them, they were the Power couple to so many as they lived their faith. They were instrumental in our adoption of our two children with their letter of recommendation and support as we waited for them. It was always a treat to be invited to the Lynches for great food and fellowship. We have never met a couple that were such an inspiration to so many. Katie will be missed.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

Alan and Beth Stevens

Alan and Beth Stevens - April 03, 2017 at 05:55 PM

SD

“ Aunt Katie was a wonderful Aunt and an even more wonderful person. She was truly part of "The Greatest Generation". Thanks for all the love you sent our way over your lifetime! RIP Aunt Katie

Stephanie Dekok - March 29, 2017 at 09:54 AM



Luana
Proffitt

“ *My Aunt Katie was a pistol for sure....smart, adventurous, kind and a super host for sure. RIP Aunt Katie...*

Luana Proffitt - March 29, 2017 at 09:40 AM