



Loretta F. Coykendall

October 3, 1933 - August 17, 2025

Loretta Lang Forbes Coykendall: Letty Coykendall, born on October 3, 1933, passed away on August 17, 2025, in Fort Collins, Colorado, where she made her home for the past 44 years.

Letty was born in New York City to Joseph and Mildred "Mimi" Lang. Growing up in an urban setting, she attended Hunter Elementary and graduated from Dalton High School at the age of 16. After graduating from Bennington College in Vermont at the age of 20, she married G. James "Jim" Forbes in 1954, and they moved to his family's cattle ranch in rural Albany County, Laramie, Wyoming. Letty and Jim raised two children, Jamie Lisa and Mark Jonathan.

Despite growing up as a "NYC girl", Letty embraced and loved her western life and lifestyle. Letty, who was a horseback rider and an animal lover, worked regularly on the ranch while maintaining their home and raising their son and daughter.

Letty was a trailblazer. In 1970, at a time when few women ran for public office, particularly in Wyoming, she ran for Albany County commissioner.

In 1981, Letty married Joe Coykendall, and they moved to Fort Collins, where they built a home on Linden Lake. In Fort Collins, Letty developed a long and

successful career as a Realtor with the Group Realty, where she was known as being forthright, sharp, and a staunch advocate for her many clients. Both coworkers and clients alike became lifelong friends of Letty's.

Letty was an active member of her community: She was a member of the City of Ft Collins' Parking Commission in the 1980s and a member of the Human Relations Commission in the 1990s. Letty advocated for Spanish-speaking residents to ensure that the police citizen brochure was translated into Spanish as required by the Commission. From 2000-2012, she was a member of the Citizen Review Board, which functioned as a Police oversight committee.

Letty was an avid Bridge player, and she loved to read. She was able to master the New York Times crossword even at 90 years old. But, with all of her accomplishments, what will be most memorable about Letty was her keen sense of humor and infectious laugh.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Nancy Hamilton, and her husband Joe. She is survived by her sister Janet Lane, her loving children Jamie Forbes of Greensboro NC, Mark Forbes and daughter-in-law Terri Forbes of Glendale, CA, grandchildren Justin Smith and his wife Beth of Charlotte, NC, and Lauren Sarraf and her husband John of Sydney, Australia, Joe Forbes and his wife Ali of La Crescenta, CA, and Tom Forbes of Glendale, CA. She also leaves seven great-grandchildren, a loving step-mother and step-sister, Dorothy Lang and Barbara Friedman, respectively, and nephews and nieces.

Letty did not want a celebration of life service. Rather, the family will have a private ceremony in Wyoming to reunite Letty with Joe so that they may ride together once again.

The Family requests no flowers. Letty would appreciate any donations being made to The Matthew's House or Animal Friends Alliance, both in Ft Collins. Any cards or letters may be addressed to her son Mark at 3207 Country Club Dr., Glendale, CA 91208.

Tribute Wall

MM

“ Dear Mark and Jamie! I am so sad to read of Letty’s passing. She made a huge difference in my life from the day she sold me my wonderful home at Linden lake, “you LOVE IT!” She’d say, and she was so right. She introduced me to both of you, her wonderful talented children and amazing husband Joe. She made me laugh so often. I loved our many dinners together and her Wyoming ranching stories. I loved her sparkling eyes and her wry grin whenever she said something especially wry- and that was often. A special light has gone out now, and I am so pleased she will be with Joe. Much love to you both and blessings, too. Always, Margaret Maizel.

Margaret Maizel - January 24 at 04:32 PM

 Marguerite Pascale

“ Im so sad to see this- thinking of you all, and holding you in the light- Marguerite

Marguerite Pascale - September 15, 2025 at 06:54 PM

MG

“ Sorry for your loss. I will keep Letty in my prayers. I moved to CO over 20 years ago and had Letty as my realtor. She became friends with my mother. We would go out to eat for holidays - Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter etc. I am glad I got to know her, she had a very full and interesting life. Marilou George

Marilou George - September 01, 2025 at 03:07 PM

VG

“ I knew Letty 25 years ago when she sold us our house. She was an excellent realtor. My mother and letty became good friends as they both shared a love of bridge and they played with several groups over the years. My sister and I played at our house occasionally with them just for fun— she was a very good player and we all enjoyed the game. She loved her little dogs and would always tell us the funny things that they would do. I am sorry she is gone from us now but she is out of her pain and suffering finally and is with her loved ones who have passed before her. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family . Ginny George (Ruth George- mother)

virginia George - September 01, 2025 at 08:49 AM