



Mary Dell Bender

September 25, 1939 - June 26, 2011

Mary Dell Bender passed away on June 26, 2011 at University Hospital with her husband at her side as a result of stroke complications. Mary was born September 25, 1939 in Limon, Colorado. She attended a one room elementary school north of Genoa, Colorado and graduated from Limon High School in 1957. She married her high school sweetheart, Thomas on November 17, 1957. As a military wife and mother, she raised their children while Tom served on almost continuous worldwide deployments for 20 years in the United States Air Force. In 1977 she finally settled with her family in their mountain home in Rist Canyon just west of Bellvue, Colorado. Mary worked at Woodward Governor Company until retirement. She then focused on her family welfare while being very active with the Larimer County Republican Party. Mary was a very loving mother and a selfless neighbor. She dedicated her life to her children and grandchildren. She loved to read, play computer card games but most of all to plan, organize and host family birthday and holiday celebrations. She loved her mountain home and enjoyed feeding her hummingbirds and considered viewing the frequent visits by wild turkeys, deer and other wildlife with her husband as memorable and satisfying moments of her life. Mary is survived by her loving husband, Thomas; her four children, Elizabeth Hale, Theresa Bottger, Katherine Myers and her son; Thomas D. Bender; grandchildren, Casey, Mason, Mary Katherine, Grant, Drew, Codey, Chase, Celena, Kristin, Kyle; one great grandchild, Alexander; her mother, Irma Kjosness, twin sister, Martha Torline, and two brothers, A.T.

Kjosness and Dennis Kjosness. A Memorial Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday at Blessed John 23rd University Center, 1220 University Ave. A Graveside Service will be held at Grandview Cemetery at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Mary's memory to any breast cancer foundation or for her daughter, Theresa's cancer foundation in care of Bohlander Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Fort Collins, Colorado 80524.

Tribute Wall

VM

“ *My thoughts and condolences to the Bender family at this difficult time. I have fond memories of seeing Mary at the various Tree Farmer functions, including her participation in the same Master Tree Farmer course that Charlie and I attended. Alas, for both Charlie and Mary we are left with just memories, sweet memories.*

Veta Mitchell - July 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *I was very sad to hear of Mary's passing. May God bless her.*

Christine Bebow - July 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ *Tom and Family, My husband Allan and I appreciated a barbeque that Mary prepared at your beautiful mountain home more than ten years ago. We wish you peace as you cope with her loss. Sincerely, Susan Kirkpatrick*

Susan Kirkpatrick - June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HO

“ *Tom, So sorry for your loss. Our prayers and thoughts are with you. Sincerely, Holly and Bob Oberoi*

Holly and bob Oberoi - June 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *Tom, & family, i am so sorry for you loss. I just seen you & Mary. There aren't enough words to say how sorry i am, she will be greatly missed. Belva Houston*

Belva Houston - June 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ Dear Uncle Tom, My God bless you and give you comfort at this very sad time. Aunt Mary will be terribly missed. Though my visits were far and few between since moving, I hold dear my many memories of Aunt Mary growing up and us coming to your mountain retreat for visits—they were always special times. I felt so welcome as Aunt Mary was easy-going and loving to everyone. She made all feel special. Charlene Bender-Deyle

Charlene Deyle - June 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ Dear Tom and Family. You have our deepest sympathy and our thoughts and prayers are with you and this time. God Bless Lyle and Connie Van Horn

Lyle & Connie Van Horn - June 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ Dear Bender and Bottger Families, I was so very sad to hear about Mary's passing. I know Celena and all the kids loved it when Mary would spend the whole day volunteering in the classroom. Her smile was contagious. Celena absolutely adored Mary! I am so thankful that Mary went on our field trip in May and spent the last day of school with us. She will be truly missed: Love and prayers to your whole family, Missy Dunnion Celena's 4th-Grade Teacher, CLPE

Missy Dunnion - June 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Linda, Terry, Sonny, and I are very sorry to hear of Mary's passing. I always remember running into her and Martha at the mailbox. She and Martha were always so nice to me. We were so glad to see her at Mom's memorial. Our sympathies go out to the whole family.

Sharon Saruk - June 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ Dear Bender & Bottger family, I am so sad to hear of Mary's death. She was such a kind and giving person and I will miss seeing her at school. She was such a great volunteer and I know Celena loved having her grandma come to have lunch and help in the classroom. We will miss her very much at CLPE. I wish you all my deepest condolences. My heart goes out to all of you. Trish Rundquist
School Secretary-CLPE

Trish Rundquist - June 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ My sympathy goes to all of Mary's family. May God be with you now during this trying time. I remember when she was born. We were at their house one evening while the girls were still very little. My mother was so facinated by Irma nursing both at the same time, she call my Dad in to see. Funny the things you remember!

Beverly Johnson Schulemire - June 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ May God give you his strenght and understanding in a time that makes no sense but knowing that some day you will be reunited. It was our pleasure to have been friends with such a lady and we are better for it.

Randall & Carolyn Stanley - June 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM