



Patricia Louise Talley

October 6, 1943 - November 2, 2024

On Saturday, November 2, 2024, Patricia Louise Talley, 81, of Fort Collins, CO, peacefully passed away. Under the care of hospice and her nurses at Gardens Care in Evans, CO, her body was able to free her beautiful soul to be reunited with her son Johnny who she had lost 27 years ago.

As a downtown business owner for decades, she witnessed the growth of Fort Collins and was an integral part of the fun and celebration that Fort Collins is known for. Toy Dungeon and Life of the Party were icons of the budding downtown culture long before 'Old Town' was even a thought. She was an active participant and leader of the Downtown Business Association and the Soroptimist Club and became friends with many other business owners. She enjoyed going out with her friends and family especially to The Rio Grande where she enjoyed chips, salsa, and a couple of margaritas.

Born in Chicago, IL, she lived there until her parents moved the family to Colorado Springs in the early 1950's. She graduated from Cheyenne Mountain High School in 1961 and worked for years as a secretary at a local bank. She met Roger Kress Talley, who worked at Colorado Natural Gas, and they married on December 27, 1965. They had three children, Amy, Mike, and John, and then moved for Roger's employment to Bartlesville, OK. After the crash of the oil market, Patricia and Roger moved to Fort Collins in 1978 and got divorced shortly thereafter.

She started Toy Dungeon at 133 S College Avenue with the help of her father, Henry, because he knew the business from owning Levine's in Colorado Springs for many years. Henry and Pat then saw a need for a party store and opened a second store downtown, Life of the Party. She ran the stores with the help of many talented people, expanding the party store and eventually moving it from College Avenue to Mountain Ave because she always wanted to remain part of the downtown scene she helped create.

She was an avid reader and lover of movies, but Rock and Roll music was always her first love. Her all-time favorite was Elvis, but she also loved Chubby Checker, Fats Domino, Chuck Berry and many others as evidenced by her extensive record collection. In lieu of gifts or remembrances, please put your favorite record on high volume and recall times of laughter and joy that you had with the Life of the Party, Pat.

She was preceded in death by her son, John Talley (1973-1997), her father, Henry Novak (1914-1998), and her mother Vera Novak (1918-2002).

She is survived by Amy Lovell (John), her daughter, of Ault, CO, Mike Talley (Santhe), her older son, of Madison, AL, Henry Novak, JR, her older brother, of Austin, TX, four grandsons; Ian, Jefferson, Connor, and Zachary, and one granddaughter, Elizabeth.

A private graveside service will be held at Grandview Cemetery. The memorial service will be held 12 pm, Monday, November 18, 2024 in the chapel at First United Methodist Church, 1005 Stover, Ft. Collins.

A full obituary will be posted soon.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **18**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (MT)

First United Methodist Church
1005 Stover Street
80524

Tribute Wall

MA

“ Pat hired my mother at Life of the Party around '98. I would take my daughter, who was 1 and a half to 4, to visit my mom at work and she would try on all the pretty costumes. Pat loved to watch Taylor dance with the feather boas. When I started working there my son was almost 2. And he would get so excited to see Nana and Pat and play with the little plastic toys by the register. Pat watched both my kids grow up in her store and always doted on them when they came in with candy and little toys. She always wanted to hear about everything going on in their lives. She even hired my daughter to dress up and hand out balloons at New West Fest when we opened the new store on Mountain. Pat was like a second mom to me. She gave the best advice and was always there to listen to me when I had a fight with my mom, which was often. Haha. She believed in me even when I didn't believe in myself. She had the best sense of humor and it was humor that you NEVER SAW COMING! Which is what made her so funny! Playing her the song Paradise by the Dashboard Light by Meatloaf and/or Single Ladies by Beyonce would always make her smile, and sometimes sing and dance. Hahaha. If you ever worked for Life of the Party and went for a margaritas with her then back to the store to "grab your stuff". Then you know that she would turn on one or both of those songs in the empty store and crank up the volume and jam out! Especially Paradise by the Dashboard Light by Meatloaf. That song will always hold a very special place in my heart ❤️. I love you Pat! You will be sorely missed!!



Melanie Ault - November 22, 2024 at 02:53 AM

KA

“ A friend introduced me to Life of the Party and it was love at first sight. When Pat wanted to sell the business, we worked together on a marketing campaign to spread the word. I'll always remember Pat helping put together costumes from the store for videos we created for early social media marketing. She was a dear dear woman, a backbone of our growing downtown, and greatly deserving of recognition for all she accomplished.

kate - November 15, 2024 at 02:06 AM

KW

“ I met Pat when she and Henry opened Toy Dungeon. My Dad, from New York had met Henry many years before and they shared mutual experiences in the toy business. I worked with Pat on the logos and ads for Toy Dungeon and Life of the Party. She was a delight to work with and I am sorry to hear this news.

Karen Warren - November 10, 2024 at 05:22 PM

RS

“ Shortly after I moved to Fort Collins I discovered the Toy Dungeon. What a magical place!. I mad a habit of going every Saturday for years to see what new things Pat and Henry had found to sell. We would play and laugh and laugh. Pat always had this great smile an was so welcoming. Those were wonderful, magical times. I really do think of her and the store every time I pass by the store front on college. I'll miss her.

Rich Shipman - November 10, 2024 at 11:04 AM

DT

“ Pat was a neighbor, friend, 2nd mom & roommate. She loved Halloween and love going to the conventions and buying and playing with all the new items for Halloween season each year. Pre store she always had fresh cookies coming out of the oven at 3 pm, and often took us out for McDonald's. When ordering she always requested no onions for us to ensure fresh burgers. She had her gal pals Luanna, Delores, Judy, and Mary those nights were full of laughter and support for one another. Pat always was wanting to help everyone out the best she could. She loved dogs Peggy was her favorite, she had Holly, Dory, Heidi, Sam. She tolerated several bunnies and even a jackrabbit Mike & John brought home named Cinnamon. She loved the Rio and the chips and salsa all the way up to her last birthday!!!!!! She will be missed.



Dalynne Turman - November 09, 2024 at 10:52 AM

CF

“ I fondly remember how our sons Mike and Doug enjoyed each others company. The many Friday nights Pat and I would take turns car-pooling the boys to the Roller Skating Rink in Ft. Collins. The fun times Doug enjoyed helping Mike unpack toys at the store. Pat, you will be missed.

Carol Fox - November 08, 2024 at 05:57 PM