



## Phyllis Lynn Freeman

July 9, 1947 - June 23, 2025

Phyllis Cummings Freeman passed into peace on June 23, 2025, surrounded by her family.

Phyllis was born on July 9, 1947, in Denver, CO, to Gerald and Twila (Turner) Cummings.

She graduated from Arvada high school in 1965 and then moved for Fort Collins to attend Colorado State University. She lived the remainder of her life in Fort Collins. After graduating with a degree in Sociology, Phyllis began a life-long career in social services assisting children and adults with intellectual disabilities. She retired after 43 years, in April 2011, from Foothills Gateway.

Phyllis married Bruce Freeman in 1971, and they raised their family in Fort Collins. As a mom, Phyllis was active as a Girl Scout leader for over a decade, and member of the RMHS Parents Athletic Club. She was a steadfast presence at every game, match, recital, and performance—always available as a sounding board, offering unwavering encouragement to nurture strong, independent daughters.

Phyllis was an avid reader and longtime book club member who looked forward to social time with friends. Bunco was another long-standing social event. She was an amateur seamstress and stitched many of the clothes her kids wore as children as well as baby clothes and blankets for friends. Her

true handiwork passion was cross-stitch, and she created many holiday pieces. She loved going to the mountains, watching the river run, looking for birds, and seeing the aspen change color. She enjoyed gardening with both vegetables and flower gardens.

Later in life, Phyllis especially loved to travel. Pre-covid she made annual trips to the Pacific Northwest to visit family and explore the Washington and Oregon coast to beachcomb. Big travels included trips to New England, Costa Rica, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Bruce passing in 1998, her parents and brother, Russell Wayne Cummings.

Phyllis is survived by two daughters: Brenda Hamilton (Roger) of Vancouver, Washington; Janell Watkins (Drew) also of Fort Collins. The great joys of her life were her four grandchildren: Logan Cannon (Matthew), Carson Hamilton, Zachary Watkins, and Mason Watkins. She is also survived by long-time partner Jim Patakotis.

A celebration of her life will be held at Bohlender Funeral Chapel on July 18 at 1 p.m. Celebration of life reception to follow at The Agave Room.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the National Audubon Society (honoring her love for birds) or the American Heart Association.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUL 18. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel  
121 W. Olive Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80524

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ *Brenda and Janelle, We lived across the street from you when you were younger girls on Meadowlark. We were deeply sorry to hear of Phyllis. We have thought of her over the years and the good times we had with you as neighbors. All the Bronco games with the family. Snowball fights between kids, and memories to last a lifetime. Take care of each other and we will remember her always. The Shotwell family*

carolyn M shotwell - October 18, 2025 at 07:23 PM

TV

“ *Terri V. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Phyllis Lynn Freeman.*



Terri V. - July 17, 2025 at 10:43 AM

MJ

“ *If Bev could write something I know she'd write, how much Phyllis's friendship has meant to her throughout all these years. All their giggles and laughter that I've been listening to for years between those two has been an absolute joy.*

*Michelle J*



Michelle Johnson - July 17, 2025 at 10:30 AM

LN

“ *What wonderful chats we had, so insightful and funny you were. I feel lucky to have known you and even luckier to have your daughter as one of my best friends. Love to you all.*

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**Lindsey Nielsen** - July 13, 2025 at 08:10 AM

JH

“ *Janell & Brenda and families, and Jim, I am so very sad for your loss. Phyllis was such a kind soul with a bit of crustiness around the edges - just enough to keep us in line! I met Phyllis at Foothills Gateway - she was the guru of all regulations and State processes, and could be counted on to share her knowledge when it was needed. More importantly (to me at least!), she taught me about motherhood. Whenever I had questions about illnesses, kid crises, or how to navigate when a second child arrived, she gave me calm and confidence. Plus she gave me two great babysitters! ;-)* Phyllis taught me so much in the years that I worked with her, and beyond when I transferred to Poudre Schools and we continued our friendship over dinners and love of shared books. I'm so glad that we kept in touch over the years. I am very sorry that I cannot make her memorial service, but I'll say a prayer for her and offer a toast in Ireland (I'll pretend its an Irish wake!). All my love and sympathy,  
*Jane Haack-DeBroux*

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**Jane Haack-DeBroux** - July 12, 2025 at 01:52 PM

JP

“ *Loving you was easier than anything I'll ever do again.....jim*

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**Jim Patakotis** - July 09, 2025 at 05:03 PM

GR

“ *Happy Birthday dear friend. Miss you already. Gail and Garrett*

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**Gail Raetz** - July 09, 2025 at 01:01 PM

TT

“ So sad to hear this. Phyllis was a wonderful person. She and I worked together at Foothills Gateway for two decades. She was dedicated, smart, compassionate, incredibly organized, and had a profound impact on the lives of many, many people. RIP Phyllis.  
Tom Turner

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**Tom Turner** - July 08, 2025 at 01:48 PM

JE

“ Brenda and Janell, I am so sorry to hear about the death of your mother. I have many fond memories of our days as Brownie leaders and all the activities at Beattie. She was always so organized. May good memories and good times with her give you comfort!  
Joan Ewing

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**Joan Ewing** - July 06, 2025 at 10:55 AM

VC

“ 2 files added to the album FGI



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**Vicki Chamberlain** - June 29, 2025 at 03:14 PM