

## Rhonda Stute

August 26, 1956 - October 3, 2017

Rhonda Stute, 61, of Fort Collins, Colorado passed away on Tuesday October 3rd, 2017. After years of pain and struggle with many health issues she passed peacefully, surrounded by her family. Rhonda was born in Wray, Colorado to John and Leona (Wiltfang) Stute. Rhonda grew up in Nebraska and northern Colorado. She was the first class to attend Blevins Junior High. Rhonda attended Poudre High School for two years where she was very involved with band, choir and theater. She was transferred to Rocky Mountain High School her senior year and was a member of it's first graduating class in 1974. She then attended the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. Through her high school and college years she was able to travel abroad in Europe as well as attend school in Italy for a year. Rhonda would carry a strong love of travel and language throughout her life. She was bilingual, fluent in Spanish, the language of her heart. She could also speak some German, Italian and Russian. She worked over the next years in many places, most notably for her family's construction company, Stute Construction. In 1990 she moved to Mexico and would meet Joel Hernandez. Their daughter Annie was born in 1992. Annie was born missing a portion of her left arm. Caring for a child with a disability led Rhonda into what would become a passion in her life. She would soon begin working for both the Larimer and Weld County health departments for the Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (HCP). Rhonda worked as a bilingual parent advocate for many years guiding families through the challenges that come with having a

child with special needs. Annie accompanied Rhonda through much of this. Due to her own many health problems and disabilities Rhonda was forced to stop working, though she never stopped helping people. She may have been physically limited but was constantly helping people in any way she could. Family was the essence of her life, not only her biological family but the huge network of friends who she also considered her family. She loved to talk and could truly talk to anyone. She was so proud of her daughter and son-in-law and enjoyed seeing them everyday. Her smile, infectious laugh, and huge heart will be missed by more people than can be counted. She is survived by her daughter Annie (Alex) Cheatham, parents John and Leona (Wiltfang) Stute, three sisters Rebecca (Dave) Jivan, Regina (Doug Fritchel) Whitney, Relissa Stute, two nieces Sarah (Joe Cruz) Ludwig, Madison Stute, three nephews Joseph Peralta, Nicholas Peralta, Sam Whitney, aunts, uncles and many cousins. She was preceded in death by grandparents Simon and Anna (Harman) Wiltfang, Frank and Hazel (Trout) Stute, uncles, aunts and cousins.

Memorial service will be held Saturday, October 14, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at Meadowlark Church of Christ, 2910 Meadowlark. Rhonda loved friends and family to gather so all are welcome. A finger food reception will follow the service.

Rhonda's favorite verses states "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice..". We will rejoice in knowing Rhonda is at peace and no longer in pain and is talking with all those she loved who went before her. A special thanks to the staff, especially the nurses, of Poudre Valley Hospital ICU and medical floor for the unbelievably compassionate and respectful care they provided to Rhonda in her final days.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **14**. 2:00 PM (MT)

Meadowlark Church of Christ  
2810 Meadowlark  
Fort Collins, CO

# Tribute Wall

RS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Relissa Stute - October 14, 2017 at 11:14 AM

MA

“ Sending all my love and prayers today. I will miss Aunt Rhonda dearly, I have so many memories with her from my childhood. She was an amazing Aunt to me and will be dearly missed. I wish I could be with the family to celebrate her great life today.

Madison - October 14, 2017 at 10:53 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rhonda Stute.



October 13, 2017 at 12:13 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rhonda Stute.



October 13, 2017 at 08:22 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Rhonda Stute.



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October 12, 2017 at 04:19 PM



“ *Maria lit a candle in memory of Rhonda Stute*



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**maria** - October 11, 2017 at 04:08 PM

MM

“ My buddy and I go back a way back. It was so much fun ,when we did crazy stuff together ,her and my daughters had a very special relationship between. She was my best friend in this world, cause years could pass us by and talking to each was like we never were far apart, remember the times we got to go swimming at her mom's house ,really didn't know how to act cause of Mr. and Mrs. Stute,Rhonda would tell me ah Mujer , you worry to much just be yourself you and your girls,times we did crazy things, one thing. I know Rhonda loved to do .when we hang out together ,she loved to dance Mexican music,that was a plus for her, everyone whom knew Rhonda knew the woman mean business. But you never saw her with a drink in her hand it was alway a coke.we had our times that all we did was crazy stuff, Mrs. Stute do you remember one week end way backwhen ,when you told Rhonda not to go out of the state, well we did we landed up in Evanston, Wyoming.just riding around having fun,Rhonda told me don't let my mom know where we have been.well my friend the cat is out of bag now.



Like my buddy Rhonda there will never be another one, just remembering the joy she had when she found out she was with child,oh my goodness this woman didn't fit anywhere cause that was how happy,she finally hadt her own to love and care for,her daughter Annie"

Rhonda for what it's worth now I Love You so much will miss you do much,sorry buddy I couldn't spend more time with you.knowing both the conditions of our health ,I wasn't able to drive long any more,so that made a big dent. where I couldn't go see you and spend time with,but something came up in life or I just didn't feel good ,had my bad and good days. Like i do to this day. Love you,mi amiga de alma forever till we meet again amen.

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Maria M.Martiez - October 11, 2017 at 03:44 AM

RS

*Maria, Thank you for sharing such wonderful thoughts and memories you have from your long, deep friendship with Rhonda.*

**Relissa Stute** - October 13, 2017 at 06:49 PM

AF

“ *Art, Hazel, Susan and Family, Mary and Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Rhonda Stute.*



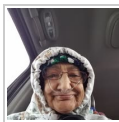
**Art, Hazel, Susan and Family, Mary and Family** - October 10, 2017 at 06:53 PM

RJ

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**rebecca jivan** - October 10, 2017 at 08:06 AM



*My BEAUTIFUL friend of a life time.  
Miss. RHONDA STUTE*

**Maria Martinez** - October 11, 2017 at 01:39 PM

JD

“ Rhonda had the most beautiful smile of anyone I've known. So genuine!! My fondest memories of childhood include all the many family gatherings and playing with the cousins. Usually there would be up to nine of us girls and my brother John Randels playing games or dolls or house. Wasn't a problem until the late 60's and John felt he was getting too big and too old to play "house" with all of us girls. Rhonda had the idea that John could be our "dog" so we wouldn't have to play without him. He was a good sport and joined in. My favorite memory of Rhonda is when she would take out her accordian and play it for us. She would set up outside the house on S. Shields and play every song she knew. I was mesmerized while listening to her. She was SO good!! I will always remember her that way. I hope she is with her Aunt Sally; they will be sharing alot of laughs together. Love to all.... Joan Duvall

Joan Duvall - October 09, 2017 at 10:09 PM



“ Sunny Memories was purchased for the family of Rhonda Stute.



October 09, 2017 at 05:45 PM

MM

“ Maria M.Martinez lit a candle in memory of Rhonda Stute



Maria M.Martinez - October 09, 2017 at 03:22 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rhonda Stute.*



October 09, 2017 at 09:14 AM



“ *Connie And Steve Roper lit a candle in memory of Rhonda Stute*



**Connie and Steve Roper** - October 09, 2017 at 02:06 AM



“ *Being one of the neighborhood kids I attended Blevins, Poudre and Rocky Mountain with Rhonda. Rhonda was a friend who never had anything but good feelings for everyone. She will be missed.*

*Darrell Sipes*

**Darrell Sipes** - October 08, 2017 at 01:39 PM



“ *Patricia (Mead) Brungardt purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of Rhonda Stute.*



**Patricia (Mead) Brungardt** - October 08, 2017 at 12:26 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Bohlender Funeral Chapel** - October 08, 2017 at 10:45 AM

NC

*Rhonda was special in so many ways. First and foremost she was fiercely proud of her family, especially Annie. She always told of how Annie played her music, loved to learn and was always there to show the bright side of any situation. She was proud of her parents and told anyone who was around all that they accomplished in life.*

*One of my favorite memories of Rhonda was when her cousin Tim began attending church she was so elated. The first time he was asked to give the opening prayer I was sitting next to her and Annie. She grabbed my hand and said she was so proud of him and kept stating how eloquent he was.*

*Rhonda your infectious smile and laugh are missed dearly.*

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**Nancy Cowley** - October 09, 2017 at 05:24 PM

JH

*I met Rhonda when we were both attending University of Northern Colorado and both working in the university food services to supplement our rather meager incomes as struggling college students (at least that is what I was doing--I think that Rhonda was there simply because she loved being with and helping others).*

*She quickly became a trusted and valued friend who was always there to offer a sympathetic ear when I was going through my many "identity crises." I soon found that I was spending most of my free time conversing with her on everything from literature to music to God.*

*I credit Rhonda with strengthening my faith in Jesus Christ. At a time when I was going through a rather lengthy illness--brought on by the foolish excesses to which I was prone back then,--it was Rhonda who was there to assure me that God would heal me--that He still loved me despite my many failings.*

*As with so many others on here, Rhonda soon took me to meet her wonderful family--and they more-or-less adopted me as one of their own. I spent many relaxing weekends and some special Christmases with them and came to love them all.*

*When I accepted my first teaching position, Rhonda and I became separated by distance, and soon, by time. I returned first to my home state of Ohio and then went on to teaching positions in Pennsylvania and Virginia. But Rhonda still got in touch with me on occasion, and we would do some reminiscing and catching up.*

*I still cannot quite accept that she is gone. She was a lovely, kind, and caring person who exemplified the AGAPE love that Christ says that true Christians must manifest. Standing in my office at school during the mid-morning break today, I shed the first of what will undoubtedly be many tears. I know that she is even now rejoicing with Jesus--but we, her loved ones, will still miss her sorely.*

*Joe Henthorne*

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**Joe Henthorne** - October 11, 2017 at 04:38 PM

RS

*Joe thank you for sharing your heartfelt memories of Rhonda. I know she thought of you often over the years, as did all of us. You held a special place in her heart.*

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**Relissa Stute** - October 13, 2017 at 06:46 PM



*Thank you so much to all who shared their thoughts and prayers.*

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**Leeona I Stute** - October 19, 2017 at 05:31 PM