



## Sharon Bashaw

March 14, 1951 - November 26, 2016

Sharon (Sherri) Bashaw, 1951-2016.

On November 26, 2016, Sherri Bashaw, 65, of Loveland, CO courageously ended her fierce four and half year long fight with chronic illness, and went to be with her Lord and Savior.

Sherri was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, sister-in-law, neighbor and friend to many. She was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the oldest of three girls, and grew up enjoying swimming, sewing, crafting, and traveling to quench her insatiable thirst for adventure. She attended Western Michigan University where she graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Education in 1973. Upon graduation, she adventured to Falls Church, Virginia where she began her 30-year teaching career that would eventually take her to Warren, MI and then back to Grand Rapids where she taught high school special education and elementary school science in the Kentwood Public School System.

In 1975, Sherri met the love of her life, Butch, in the Badlands of South Dakota on a road trip. She and Butch were married in 1977, and continued their love of traveling and adventure throughout their 39 years of marriage to almost all the 50 states, and to several places internationally. Sherri was always eager to learn, explore, and create new and unique experiences for

both her students and her family.

She graduated with her Master of Arts in Elementary Teaching from Western Michigan University in 1996 to further hone her craft of teaching. She and Butch took full advantage of their summers off as teachers to explore the United States in the family van with their two kids.

She was a tenacious woman with a fierce spirit that never gave up on anything or anyone. She planned and organized her life around her deeply seeded desire to help others, and went to great lengths to make sure others felt taken care of, loved, and known.

In 2002, Sherri retired from teaching, and moved to Loveland, CO with her family after falling in love with the Rocky Mountains. Her newly acquired time combined with her independent and go-getter attitude led her to a part-time job at Bright Beginnings working with new parents through the hospital system, creating a plethora of crafts, frequenting craft shows, training the family dog to be a therapy dog, getting certified in infant massage, pursuing a doctorate degree in homeopathic studies, and befriending her neighbors.

She made friends everywhere she went, and was a very giving, loving, kind, creative and artistic soul. She loved dogs, and owned two that were more akin to additional children than pets, and enjoyed taking them to nursing homes and hospitals as therapy dogs. She was a woman of strong faith, and lived in a way that truly honored others.

In the spring of 2012, Sherri suffered some major health complications, and was hospitalized for much of the next year. This began her subsequent struggle with chronic illness, to which she showed up ready to fight, no matter how adverse the situation. She remained mentally strong throughout her illness, fortified by her many friends and family, and did the best she could to

adjust to the numerous “new normals” required as her body slowly declined. During this time, she became a grandmother to her wonderful grandson, Brooks, who brought her much joy, and she loved him dearly.

Sherri is preceded in death by her father, Chester Dykema, and by her beloved husband, Butch Bashaw, six weeks prior.

She is survived by her son, Mathew; daughter, Alisha; and grandson, Brooks. She is also survived by her mother, Marian Dykema, her sisters Patti and Tom Peck (Andrew and Alyssa), and Brenda and Brad Poggi (Daniel) along with many cousins, nieces, and nephews. Sherri was very loved by all who knew her, and will be remembered by her determined spirit and her desire to help others any way she could.

Sherri had such a connection with therapy dogs that in lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made to Redeemer Lutheran Church, memo: Comfort Dog Ministries, and sent to Redeemer Lutheran Church, 7755 Greenstone Trail, Fort Collins, CO 80525 to continue to help provide comfort to those in need.

A Memorial Service for Sherri will be held Tuesday, December 6th at 3 pm at Foundations Church, 1380 Denver Ave, Loveland, CO.

Sherri was dearly loved, and will be deeply missed, and we are eagerly awaiting seeing her again one day, with her whole and healthy body.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC 6. 3:00 PM (MT)

Foundations Church  
1380 Denver Ave  
Loveland, CO

# Tribute Wall

SR

“ Dear Matt and Alisha,

*Both of your parents were just beautiful people and I'm honored that I was able to get to know them. I grieve for this loss for all of you and pray you have lovely memories of much happier family times.*

*Respectfully,*

*Sue Roberts*

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**Susan Roberts** - December 07, 2016 at 05:21 PM

  
Michelle  
Daly

“ *Sherri was one of the greats.....as a teacher, support, & friend. We will always be grateful for her expertise & guidance during Elise's first years of school. Many times I would consider quitting, and yet, Sherri was always there to encourage me to stay on the correct path. Elise is thriving now, & Sherri was a large part of that early team. Sherri will never be forgotten and she continues to pay it forward with Elise's every accomplishment. Rest In Peace my friend!*

*Love, Michelle Daly*

*Chip, Hope, Rhett, Elise & Hunter*



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**Michelle Daly** - December 03, 2016 at 03:24 PM