



Susan Louise Minatta

August 6, 1949 - October 24, 2010

I am growing

I am being carried toward the light

I lack nothing Susan Louise Minatta, born in Albert Lea, Minnesota on August 6, 1949 to Ervin T. and Doris G. "Sylling" Rechlitz, passed away on Sunday October 24 at the age of 61. Sue courageously battled against a terminal brain tumor for the past two and a half years and died peacefully in the company of her husband and two sons. Sue was an inspiration to everyone that came in contact with her and the majority of her life was spent giving her time and affection to those in the Fort Collins community. Sue grew up and attended high school in Pueblo, Colorado, but moved to Fort Collins in 1967 to attend Colorado State University where she would meet her future husband, Al Minatta. They were married in 1969, upon which Sue left CSU to raise her two boys Joseph and Anthony. Sue was a very caring and loving mother, who dedicated her time to her family. As the boys got older Sue decided to pursue her own interests and took a job with the Poudre R1 School District at Rocky Mountain High School in 1980 as a teacher aide. She worked at Rocky in a variety of different roles for the next ten years and then moved to Lincoln Junior High School as the office manager in 1990. Sue held the position at Lincoln until she moved on to the Office Manager Position at Preston Junior High School from 1993 to 1995. During that time Sue's mother Doris was battling breast cancer and when it was determined to be terminal, Sue had her come and live with her family to care for her during her last days. At that time

Sue contacted Hospice of Larimer County to assist in the care of Doris. Doris passed away in 1992 and although Sue had dedicated her professional life to the Poudre R1 school district, she couldn't help but be drawn to Hospice. She very much admired and respected what they did for Doris and found herself wanting in some way to work with them. Although it was a difficult decision, Sue followed her heart and retired from the school district in 1995 to go to work for Hospice as an administrative assistant to Volunteer Services and Bereavement Services with Karyn Eddins and Nancy Jakobsson. Sue eventually was named to the position of Volunteer Manager, spent time working in the Clinical Records and then again in the position of Volunteer Coordinator. She got a lot of fulfillment in her life working for Hospice and being able to help those needing their services. In 1996, Sue began to take night classes at Regis University determined to finish what she started in 1968. Sue was a very intelligent and articulate woman, who was well respected by all that she came in contact with, but it always bothered her that she didn't have a degree. Although it was tough working full time and taking a full credit course load, Sue got through it all and graduated in August of 2002 with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Communications. Through all of this Sue found time to volunteer on the Board of Directors for the Fort Collins Soccer Club from 1990 to 2004 and helped shape the policies and structure that has made the club what it is today. In addition to serving on the board, Sue also volunteered as a youth coach for many recreational teams. Although Sue loved her job at Hospice, she felt that it was necessary to go in a different direction. Her time as the Volunteer Coordinator took an emotional toll on Sue and she wanted to continue her work with Hospice, but in a different way. She approached her supervisors and peers with an idea to add a massage therapist to the services that Hospice provided. As she usually did, Sue followed her heart and in 2005 she left Hospice to attend the prestigious Boulder College of Massage Therapy in hopes that upon graduating, she would be able to go back to work for Hospice providing Healing Touch and Reiki massage to the patients. Sue graduated from Boulder College of

Massage Therapy in April of 2006 with Honors. She earned the Community Service Award for having the most internship and community service hours in her class. Those that were fortunate enough to have a massage from Sue said that she was particularly gifted in Reiki massage. Sue very much believed in the healing power of touch and anyone who ever came in contact with her was truly blessed. Sue was a vibrant and loving woman who truly lived her life the way that she wanted. She never let herself get tied down by what she was supposed to do; she did what she wanted to do. Sue loved to travel and share those experiences with her family and friends. She frequently visited Akumal, Mexico where she would be the first one in the water at Half Moon Bay to catch a glimpse of the sea turtles. She loved to go hiking with her "committee" of friends. Sue just loved to live. You cannot sum up Sue's life in a word, a paragraph or even a book. She was truly an amazing person, whose whole life was dedicated to caring for and helping others. Upon learning of her brain tumor in February 2008 she was an inspiration to all she came in contact with for her bravery and determination in the way that she battled the disease that finally took her life. She is survived by her loving husband, Al Minatta; her two sons, Joseph and Anthony Minatta; her brother, Anthony Greer Rechlitz; and sister, Mary Rechlitz, brother in laws, John Cindy, and Sam; and many nieces and nephews. Susie will be sorely missed by all especially dear friends Billie Mohr, Joyce and Tony Bonanno and her "Committee." A Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday at 11:00a.m. at Timberline Church, South Auditorium, 2908 S. Timberline Rd. A reception will immediately follow. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Pathways Hospice in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524.

Tribute Wall

TT

“ Al Joe, I was so sorry to read today about Sue's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you. I hope to see you one of these days and give you a big hug. Love, Tom

Tom Thompson - November 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ My heart goes out to the extraordinary family and friends of Sue Minatta. The memories and moments that I've been gifted to experience with Sue were brief, but distinguished and never to be forgotten. I knew Sue mostly through Tony. i enjoyed a nice dinner with her family . she made me feel at home not like a guest

Christine Barnett and family - November 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ I worked with Sue at Hospice as the volunteer coordinator while she tried on the clinical records job. She is one of the best people I'll ever know. Fun, smart, patient, caring, clever and absolutely passionate. I will miss her greatly and am so very sorry for your loss.

Beth Conant - November 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ Al and family, I was very saddened to hear of Sue's passing. Of course I know you all from many years of soccer, but Sue reached out in so many other dimensions in our community. What a wonderful person for so many to have had the privilege to have known. My condolences to you and your family.

Kate Von Loh - November 01, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AA

“ Al and Tony: We had the good fortune to talk to Susan on only a few occassions - and each time were struck by her genuine, sincere and caring demeanor, as well as her bravery and grace during her illness. We observed her watching her son coach soccer and she seemed very much the dedicated and proud mother. Al, your love and care for your wife during her illness touched our hearts. We are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are certainly with you in this difficult time.

Adriann, Jim and Kellie Anderson - October 31, 2010 at 12:00 AM

HR

“ Tony we are so sorry about the loss of your mom. We know she was a wonderful lady. We are praying for you and your dad. The Robinsons

Hunter, David and Gina Robinson - October 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ Al Joe, I was so sorry to hear about Susan. I had met Susan on several occasions and always enjoyed our conversations. There must be a special place in heaven for someone who has gone through such a difficult battle with cancer. My sympathy to all of you and may wonderful memories of Susan and your years together sustain you through the difficult days ahead. Hope to see you at a reunion sometime. My sincere sympathy. Linda

Linda Hrutky Pumphrey - October 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May your memories and words from friends help ease the sorrow. Your friends at Pride Soccer

Candy Brooks - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Dear Al, Joseph and Tony, I am so sorry for the loss of your beloved wife and mom. The service today was beautiful and honored a truly amazing person. Sue always made me feel welcome and loved in your home. She was my inspiration to become a stay at home mom so I could be there for my daughter when she came home from school just as Sue was at home and available for her children. When I am hiking in the mountains, I often think of Sue and some advice she gave me years ago when our families were on a hike. Sue was moving effortlessly up a hill and I asked her how she was able to hike so fast and she replied that she just looks up the hill, decides the best way to go and then makes footsteps in her chosen path. Wise words for both hiking and life from a beautiful and amazing woman. All my thoughts and prayers are with you. Love, Kristin Kendall Beasley

Kristin Kendall Beasley - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ I knew Susan in high school. She had a vibrant personality. My heart reaches out to her family and close friends.

Lucia Redmond Knutson - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ I worked with Sue at Rocky Mountain in the 1980's. She was totally dedicated to her job and would go above and beyond in helping students, parents, and teachers. My sincere sympathy to her family and friends.

Ken Bledsoe - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Al & Tony, Sue battled it with everything she had. We know how hard this has been for your family. We wish you peace. Alan, Jill, Alex and Andrew Fenn

Alan Fenn - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ We're sorry to hear of Sue's passing. We hope many fond memories and the knowledge that she had a positive influence on so many people comfort you. You're in our thoughts and prayers.

Kevin and Jane Lynch - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ As a Junior High and High School classmate I have many fond memories of Susan. I was fortunate to have opportunities to visit with her a number of state wrestling tournaments and talk about old times and what was going on in each of our lives. While her life's journey took her to Ft. Collins right after high school, she will always be a Bulldog. My sincere condolences to the family. We have certainly lost a special person. God bless.

Ron Pike - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Dear Al and family, I worked with Sue at RMHS during the 1980's. I am thankful our paths crossed. She always had a bright smile. I pray God will give you His strength, His peace, His love and His joy, as you all go through this most difficult time. She fought the battle with courage. She will be missed by many. Love and Prayers, Carol

Carol Modellmog - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ I knew Sue through Hospice and enjoyed every minute I was able to spend in her presence. Vibrant and loving are such perfect words used to describe her in the touching tribute in the newspaper. What a beautiful life she lived.

Carole Becker - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ The Storm soccer team is saddened by your family's loss. The sincere devotion we know Susan demonstrated to be part of the club's growth is woven into the fabric of what it is today and we've all benefitted from it. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Storm- Soccer Team - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Al, Joe and Tony, please know that the entire Hogerty family has you in our thoughts and prayers. Sue was a wonderful person and will be missed. Your love and care must have been a great comfort for her. Take care of yourselves - Di, Dennis, Erin, Kelly, Meg and Reagan

Diane M Hogerty - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ I worked with Sue at Rocky Mountain High School during the 1980's. She was a very positive person who was always ready with a smile and a problem solver with the ability to bring people together. She was a wonderful person and will be missed. My condolences to Al and the family.

Paul Radcliff - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ Al, Joe and Tony, We feel honored to have known your wife and mother. She was so kind and loving and we will cherish all of the memories of being included in the Minatta Family gatherings. We will miss her smiles and warm hugs. We are so deeply sorry for your loss. Much Love, Brad, Amy Claire and Libby Hoy

Amy Hoy - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of sorrow.

Julie Steffens - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ I have such great memories of working with Sue at hospice, many years ago. She was such a bright spot there, and I also remember how much she talked about her sons and husband with lots of fondness and good humor.

Ashley Harvey - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ I'm deeply sorry for the loss of a wonderful woman. Since I first heard of her illness Sue has been in my heart and prayers daily. I met Sue, through Nancy J. Sue just finished massage school and I had just opened a massage practice and was looking for a massage therapist to work with. Sue was the perfect fit for my business. I enjoyed getting to know her and working with her. I certainly didn't know Sue very long but there are just some people that cross your path and you just know right away, that they will affect your life in some way. Sue was one of them. My thoughts and prayers are with your family. Barb Wintermute

Barb Wintermute - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Sue was a special woman whose massages helped me during me grieving over the loss of my husband. We shared many soccer and family stories. I will miss Sue's loving smiles and hugs.

Dorothy Kuckuck - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Al and Tony, You are in my thoughts and prayers as you mourn the loss of a special woman who made our lives full and rich. Cheryl

Cheryl Harrington - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Al and Family. Our prayers are with you at this time of grief. Always be thankful for the many years of fun and happiness. What Earth lost, Heaven gained.

Marvin & Dorene Burke - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Al, Tony, my thoughts are with both of you. I have seen how hard this has been for everyone and how incredibly strong both of you have been throughout - helping the rest of us.

Brent Spomer - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Dear Tony and the entire Minatta Family, we are so sorry to hear of your loss and please know that your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Reagan Hogerty - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Tony, May Gods peace be with you and your family. May you find peace in your heart as you grieve the loss of your precious mother. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Consuelo and Cacey

Consuelo Sandoval - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ Dear Al, Joseph and Tony, I got to know Sue and your family in the late 1970's while teaching at O'Dea Elementary. She was such a fun, personable and kind lady. I think we connected through our love of kids and sports. Our paths would cross every once in a while over the years and I always came away with a smile on my face and a warm feeling in my heart. I hope that the wonderful memories she left will help you through your loss. With prayers and love, Jan Johnson

Janet johnson - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

NL

“ Dear Al, Joseph & Tony - We are so sorry about Sue's passing. She was such a wonderful Wife, Mother and Friend. Our community has lost a loving, gracious, woman. She will always be in our thoughts.

Nick, Linda, Daniel & Joseph LoRusso - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MV

“ Al and Tony, It was an honor to know Sue. The enduring strength of your family is testimony to her love and dedication. Our condolences. Mike, Laurie, Molly and Brian Verde

Mike Verde - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Dear Al, boys & family, So sorry to hear about Sue. Just know my thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Judy Moore - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ With great joy we remember our days with your family and Sue. We send our love and hope for some quiet peace. Love, David and Ella Mae

David and Ella Mae Williams - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Dear Al Joe and Family, Please know your in my thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time. That darn cancer is horrible. I hope some day there will be a cure. My brother Rick passed away from Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma in 1993, and Sherry passed away on February 17, 2010 from Pancreatic cancer. I feel your pain. Sincerely, Charlene

Charlene Alumbaugh Himes - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Susie was full of life and love and laughter and light. She leaves a little bit of that behind in all of us who knew and loved her. She taught me a few things about living life to the fullest; lessons I will always carry with me. Al, Joseph, and Tony, we hold you close in our hearts and prayers. May God give you peace. Candyce Sylling

Candyce Sylling - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ We knew the Minatta family through soccer and always enjoyed Sue at the games and her gental way with my kids. A pleasure to know. Steve,Pam, Mathew and Hannah Peterson

STEVEN PETERSON - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ My thoughts and prayers are with your family as you go through this very difficult time. Michael Jansen, Friend to Joseph Minatta

Michael Jansen - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Sue Will be missed. She has a special place in heaven. May her memories be peaceful and bright.

Jerry-Jeanne Shirley - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Tony, Al, and the Minatta family: Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. May you find peace and comfort in all the wonderful memories of your mom, wife, sister, aunt, and friend. If there is anything we can do, please ask. ~ Curt, Cindy, & Jenni Bengener and family

Curt, Cindy & Jenni Bengener - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ I did not know Susan, but I am a friend of Joseph Minatta, one of her sons. I attended GA Tech with Joseph. I send my sincere condolences to Joseph and the family.

Beth Hagberg - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Dear Al and family, My deepest sympathy. What a great gal. Jon and Peggy DeStefano

Jon DeStefano - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ A bright light has dimmed but Sue's memory will continue to shine. No matter what, she had a smile on her face and a sparkle in her eyes and was always so positive and happy whenever I saw her. My deepest symapthy, thoughts and prayers to Al, Tony, Joseph and the rest of the family.

Debbie Smith - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ May our God of loving comfort bring you peace and rest in your time of sorrow. Love & prayers, Dick

Richard Arnold - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ May our God of loving comfort bring you peace and rest in your time of sorrow. Love & prayers, Dick

Richard Arnold - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ Joseph, I am so sorry to hear about your mother. I know this has been a terrible trial for her and your entire family. As you know, I went through this with my father. If there's anything I can do to help, please let me know. Although I never met your mom, she sounds like an amazing person. I know you will treasure memories of her for the rest of your life. Again, I'm so sorry for your loss.

Mark Taylor - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Tony, I am very sorry about your mom. I know Sue was a wonderful mom to you. She will be missed.

Reinhold Huber - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Dear Tony and Al, You all fought a valiant battle. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Juli, John, Lauren and Rob Guenther

Juli Guenther - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Sue was a very special woman whom I enjoyed knowing at Hospice. So sorry for your loss.

Jane Householder - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ Dear Al, Joseph and Tony, Please accept our sincerest condolences on Sue's passing. She was always so warm and friendly to the players and their families on Al and Tony's teams. Fort Collins is diminished without her. May the many good memories you have of her help to fill your hearts. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Sadly, Mark, Carol, Connor and Dylan Tobin

Mark Tobin - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Al, Tony and Joseph: Our deepest condolences for your loss. My life is richer after having known and worked with Sue. She was a great lady. Dan & Paula Muffly

Dan and Paula Muffly - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

YM

“ Remembering Susan from high school as a very sweet, caring classmate. Please accept prayers from our entire '67 Bulldog class!

Yvonne McAllister-Klune - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Dear Al, I am so sad for you & your sons -- Susan & I were high school classmates and really nice friends, what a great gal: I can't even imagine how difficult this has been... so so sorry. Take good care, Linda Adams Stepanek

Linda Stepanek - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ I haven't kept up with Susan since high school, but loved reading her very valuable life story and how she made a difference in the lives of so many whom she touched. May God bless and keep her. May her memory be a source of comfort for those she has left behind.

Carole Greenberg - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Al Joe, Joseph and Tony We are so sorry for the loss of Sue. Al Joe, you did an amazing and wonderful job of caring for her during her illness. We are sure she will be with you in spirit always. May you find peace as she goes to her place in heaven. Sandy Giordano and Jim Sprague

Sandy and Jim Sprague - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ Sue was an amazing woman whose strength and compassion reached everyone who met her. Bruce enjoyed volunteering under her direction at Hospice, and felt her to be a friend and good director. She will be greatly missed, but we are all so much richer for having known her. Our sincere sympathy to her family.

Bruce and AnnMarie Davis - October 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ I was lucky enough to work alongside Sue as a massage therapist for Hospice. She taught me everything I needed to know to work with Hospice patients. She was an inspiration and a blessing to those who were fortunate enough to know her.

Katie Briggs - October 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ Dear Tony and Al, We are so sad for your loss--Sue was a special and dear woman who lived life to its fullest. She faced her challenges w courage, dignity and determination. It was a pleasure, an honor, and an inspiration to know her. All our thoughts and prayers are with you now, love Cathy and Roger

Cathy Ow and Roger Ashmore - October 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ I took my training for Hospice under Sue. She was a very caring and dedicated person. It is because of her that I followed up working in the Hospice program. She was a great lady.

Patrick DesJardin - October 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM