

Memorial Minute for Alice Elaine Berry Miller

May 14, 1942-January 30, 2020

Alice Miller, age 77, died on January 30, 2020, peacefully in the company of her family at Peace Hospice in Great Falls, Montana. Alice was born May 14, 1942, to Bertie and Blanche Berry in Bridger, Montana. She was the second youngest of 11 children. She graduated from Bridger High School in 1960 and moved to Great Falls, Montana. Alice married Dennis Miller in 1962 and they had two children, Kimberly and Todd. They later divorced.

Alice was a strong single mother as she pursued a career in nursing, graduating with a BSN from MSU, Bozeman. She worked as a pediatric nurse specialist at Benefis Health Care for 30 years. During this time she was in the Army reserves achieving the rank of Lt. Colonel. On her 75 birthday she travelled to a medical mission in Tanzania to help for a month.

For over 20 years Alice had a special relationship with her partner, Starshine. Together the two of them travelled the world going all the way from a Yukon River canoe trip to a voyage along the coast of Turkey. With a group of eight Wild Women friends, they originally canoed the Boundary Waters of Minnesota and after that they rafted or canoed local Montana rivers as well as the Grand Canyon. Alice was a special friend to many in the community, and always made herself available to help. She always had a spare bed available and gave rides as able including to the airport in the wee hours of the morning.

During most of this same time period, Alice participated in the Montana Gathering of Friends, our local Great Falls Worship Group, and retreats of Quaker women. She also went to North Pacific Yearly Meeting several times in support of local Friends. She brought to us a clear and simple message of how to be present in the now. Her presence during worship was very grounding. At her last Quaker meeting shortly before her death, she declared that she would support young adults in travelling to a Quaker lobbying weekend in Washington, DC. With her contribution declared, others jumped in to make it possible.

Alice was a devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She was always involved with care taking, visits, and music for her family. She attended football games, travelled to see a granddaughter in her station in the Army, and had pedicures with another granddaughter. She enjoyed swimming with others, and just hanging out. She was a powerful and strong role model for her whole family. She will be tremendously missed by all.

Alice will be remembered for her strength, wisdom, her guidance, encouraging words of love, her wonderful laugh, her witty sense of humor, and her love for her family and her many Friends and friends.

In her memory, it is suggested we plant a tree.