

# In Loving Memory



Kathy Knott

December 27, 1950 - December 3, 2020

Kathleen (Kathy) Knott, nee Peak, 69, of Loveland, Colorado, died December 3, 2020.

Kathy was born in Wilmington, Delaware to Kathryn and Harry Peak. Her father worked for the US Army, which meant a childhood spent moving around the country. She also spent some of her school years in Germany and visited family living in Korea. All of the moving around brought the family closer together.

Kathy attended college at Illinois State University, receiving her degree in special education. She later earned a Master's Degree from Winona State in Minnesota. While attending college at ISU, she met and married Douglas Knott of Omaha, Nebraska. The pair remained together for 47 years until her passing, raising two children (and four dogs) in Appleton, Wisconsin and Rochester, Minnesota. After retiring, the couple moved to Loveland, Colorado.

Her entire adult life was spent in the service of children. From her twenties on past retirement, Kathy was a tireless teacher and advocate for education. Most of her career was spent in the Rochester Public School system where she dedicated nearly 30 years of her life as a teacher of children with special needs. She also developed lifelong friendships with her teaching colleagues. She impacted the lives of countless students and was a relentless supporter of our public school systems.

After retirement, Kathy and Doug moved from Minnesota to Colorado to be closer to family. Almost immediately upon arriving, she began to make a two-hour round trip weekly drive from her home in Loveland to volunteer at her grandchildren's elementary school in Louisville. At their school, she again formed new relationships with the teaching community and a strong bond with her grandchildren. She also volunteered at the assisted living facility in Loveland where her mother had stayed. Even after her mother's passing, Kathy continued to volunteer at the home and nurtured relationships with the residents.

She was an avid skier, knitter, hiker and golfer; especially upon moving to Colorado. Kathy often spoke of her goal to be skiing well

into her seventies. Travel was another passion for Kathy and Doug, crisscrossing the United States and traveling to Canada, Germany, Italy, Belgium and France. She was diligently working to become fluent in German in preparation for her and Doug's next trip to see her son and daughter in-law in Kaiserslautern. In retirement, Kathy was incredibly passionate about politics, quickly learning the names of her elected officials in Colorado and making phone calls to Representatives, sending emails to Senators and being a genuine force for the causes in which she believed.

Kathy is survived by her loving husband Doug Knott, her brother and sister-in-law Jim and Mija Peak, her sister and brother-in-law Sue and Bill Hogeboom, her son and daughter-in-law Chris and Alissa Knott, her son and daughter-in-law Ben and Sara Knott, and her three grandchildren who she dearly loved, Grace, Violet and Henry.

Kathy's life was one of continuous learning and celebration of others. Through education, she strived to be a better person, mother, spouse, grandmother, teacher, friend, and peaceful contributor to this world. She will be missed immensely by those who knew and loved her.

At this time, no public service is planned. However, a gathering to remember and celebrate Kathy's life will take place at a future date when COVID restrictions allow.

At the time of her passing, Kathy was taking care of her grandson's bearded dragon (lizard) for a month. She knew very little about caring for a "beardie", but she approached this responsibility like she did everything in life; with complete passion and a quest for knowledge. The family's interest in reptiles grew when she purchased a family membership to a local non-profit, My Nature Lab, where she would bring her grandchildren to hold, experience, and learn about reptiles, conservation, and the natural world around us. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations or membership purchases be made with [My Nature Lab](http://mynaturelab.org) with ([mynaturelab.org](http://mynaturelab.org)) in Louisville, CO.