

## **Janet Marlene Berridge**

**June 6, 1937 – June 4, 2025**

Janet Marlene Berridge, 87, wife, beloved mother, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, great aunt and friend passed away surrounded by the family she loved so deeply. A woman of quiet strength, infinite heart and compassionate soul, Janet lived her life with grace and humility. She was the center of her family, the sunlight in every room and a beautiful person inside and out. One couldn't avoid having their life enriched by knowing her.

Janet grew up in a small home on S. Cascade Ave. in Colorado Springs. She shared stories of her childhood that gave her much joy – the Saturdays spent with her older sister, Patty Jo, playing jacks on the front porch flanked by all their dollies dressed in their mother's handmade outfits, each lined up, side-by-side on the porch swing. Her bicycle, equipped with a front basket, served as an amusement ride for her younger brother, Gary. Janet adored her sister and brother. These unbreakable childhood bonds remained a constant throughout her life.

Janet was baptized at First Presbyterian Church in 1938, became a lifelong member in 1948, joined Young Life and married Larry E. Berridge on August 12, 1956. She faithfully served her church until her passing. Janet's family was deeply rooted in the church and city as her grandfather and father built numerous Colorado and New Mexico businesses, schools and churches, First Pres being their crowning achievement. Janet was most proud of her family's legacy to First Pres – it was her sacred space.

Janet graduated from Colorado Springs High School (Palmer) in 1955 and attended a year of college at Phillips University in Enid, OK. She left college and married her high school sweetheart and began her family. She raised three children while working as a receptionist at dermatology clinics for 25 years.

In retirement, Janet worked for a local caterer and made not only beautiful, but delicious wedding cakes. She mastered ceramics, beading and diamond art. Not a craft was had that she didn't achieve perfection. In between her projects, she and Larry would snowbird to Tucson, AZ where they lived in a lovely community and often hosted get-togethers with their many friends.

To her three children, their mom was the heart of the family. She had a remarkable way of responding and supporting each unconditionally. She listened intently, laughed infectiously and loved endlessly. Her presence was felt in every word of encouragement, every handwritten note tucked inside lunch boxes, and in every holiday lovingly prepared. They felt loved, safe, celebrated and treasured -- always.

Janet faced life's challenges with unmatched courage and strength. She fiercely fought through her long battle with multiple cancers, scoliosis and osteoporosis and wanted to live her life for every precious moment. She treasured the many visits, cards and notes sent during her illnesses. They became fuel for her spirit and a reminder of the love that surrounded her.

Janet will be fondly remembered for her ageless beauty and elegance, her quiet strength and as a ruthless force at the card table. Playing Bingo each week amongst friends at the local bingo hall became a welcomed distraction.

Janet was preceded in death by her parents, Harold S. and Virginia J. Teats; her husband of 65 years, Larry E. Berridge. She is survived by her daughter, Jo Berridge of Irvine, CA; Lori K. Butcher, cherished daughter-in-law; her two sons, Ronald S. Berridge and Thomas S. Berridge both of Colorado Springs; her sister Patty Jo (Roger) Bruggeman; her brother Gary H. (Vickie) Sherwood; her extended family of beloved nieces, nephews and the many treasured neighbors and friends who brought her so much joy throughout the years.

A memorial service will be held in the sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church, 219 E. Bijou St., on Monday, July 7, 2025, at 1 PM. A reception will follow. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Janet's memory to First Presbyterian Church Deacon's Fund.