



Connie Lee LeVasseur

March 17, 1947 - March 27, 2023

Connie LeVasseur Grant lost her battle with cancer Monday, March 27, 2023, at the age of 76. She fought hard and fierce throughout her journey with strength and conviction. She can now finally rest in peace pain free.

She was born Monday, March 17, 1947 to Eugene and Jennie (Jose) Grant. She joined siblings Carole and Dick Grant. They lived on the East Side in Butte. Later they resided in Kirkland, Washington. She attended the Grant School and graduated from butte High School in the class of 1965. She volunteered at St. James Hospital as a candy striper, which planted her seed of passion for her future without even knowing it at all at the time. She belonged to numerous clubs in high school and loved spending time with family and friends. After graduation she worked at Metals Bank as a teller, at the Montana Standard and at nursing homes. It was then she pursued her lifelong dream and went to nursing school.

She married Jim Mayo and had two children: Eugene, (a son who passed away from SIDS at two weeks old) and Connie her daughter. They divorced shortly after. She then married Del LeVasseur and had her son, Del and daughter, Colette. They divorced years later but remain close friends and support each other.

Being a single mother with three children, she had to work to make ends

meet. She decided to go to nursing school, which ultimately was her passion and she excelled at it, graduating the top of her class. During this time, she worked part time nights, went to school during the day while raising three children. She also helped care for her mom and looked forward to retiring to travel and spend more time with her. They were remarkably close. Their relationship was incredibly special, they spent almost every day together, loved to go gambling, taking trips together but most important were the best of friends. They were known around town as Dorothy and Sophia. Their bond was so inspiring. After Mom retired, she got cancer, then lost her mom at the age of 99. Then, the whole world as we knew it changed with COVID. Her life changed from that moment on, as everyone's did, but Mom's heart broke a little bit more.

With her busy schedule, she didn't have much time for hobbies, but did find fun in ceramics, loved the holidays, made each family member their own Christmas stocking, loved to cook goulash, banana bread, turtle cookies and loved volunteering at the Mother Lode Theater. Her passion was garage sales is certainly worth mentioning, she never missed one or the chance to strike a bargain.

She lived a full life of perseverance and she never hid how she felt about things. She was stubborn and very straightforward which for some people was intimidating but for others was endearing and she never backed down. She was a hard worker and worked hard for everything she had. She worked hard, played hard, loved hard, cried hard, laughed hard and fought her cancer with pride and gave it her all. She beat it twice, went into remission twice and fought with such courage, strength and dedication that many deemed her a hero. To the Doctors she was known as a miracle. After her first remission she was told she now had stage 4 lung cancer and by the grace of God, she beat it again. She entered remission a second time. What a blessing to her achievement and perseverance to not give up, and I thank God every day for

the extra time we had with her. She was chosen by the Montana Standard as a highlight to the Relay for Life (which we participated every year from her first diagnosis in 2009) and was featured on the front page in an article named "Too Stubborn to Die". It sounded scary and morbid and to see it in huge letter was overwhelming, but to those who truly knew her, it was a comfort to know that they were her own words and it was perfect for her journey and how she viewed it. Instead of sitting and waiting for this disease to take her down, she used her stubbornness as a tool to prolong her life. She retired after 42 years of nursing and with her experience and knowledge she was no stranger to seeing what cancer does so she had more of an insight on how to approach the cancer walk in life than any of us did. No one wants to think that just because you have cancer that it can't be talked about, in fear of hurting people's feelings or fears, but she was straight forward about her journey and shared it whenever she could. One thing that I admire most about her was her ability to share her own experience and miracles, 106 Plus chemo treatments and her ability to share that with new comers in the chemo room who were coming there scared and full of fear and what if's? Connie would set an example and provide a sounding board to help other in what to expect, what chemo does to your body, etc. She provided comfort and laughter to so many people. After she retired was when she found out she had cancer and it changed her plans drastically. She fought the battle on and off for 12 years but the last 6 with chemo being the hardest. She described it as a nightmare. Her daughters were her rock as she stated and could not have gotten through it without her kids support. There were days she suffered but was afraid to ask for help because she did not want to be a bother. She got involved with the cancer retreats, Mending in the Mountains, and made lifetime friendships with others sharing her same battle. It gave tremendous support. After her 100th chemo treatment, her mother passed away. This loss made her feel lost and alone. She lost the will to fight. Grief overtook her momentarily and then she said with a huge smile, "Cancer will get me some day, but not today." Laughter

turned her grief into strength to keep fighting. Her doctor admired her strong will to fight, her determination and humor even helped him cope and she outlived the 5 year timeline they gave her by another 10 years.

She loved taking care of people of all ages. She never met a stranger. She could enter any setting, store, garage sale, car lot, public parking, festival etc., not knowing a soul walking in, but leave the establishment knowing not only their names, dates of birth, addresses, but could tell you how many children they have, their names, what they drove and what they had for dinner last night. She loved people and has always had a passion for helping others, mentally, financially and did it with a sense of humor. This is who she was; a fierce friend to all who met and knew her. She could even make the grumpiest old man smile. She did tequila shots with Barak Obama at the M&M Bar and could make even the toughest guards of the palace in England break into a blush. Humor: this was her gift to all that met her. Humor is what healed her in many ways and that gift she passed on to every person she encountered. Her nickname was "Bubbles". She will be remembered as one of the strongest women I know. I know that we will also remember her courage, strength and the pure essence of her character. She will be deeply missed but never forgotten. "Todaloo".

She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Connie and Bruce Berry of Manhattan, Colette and Chad Getten of Great Falls, son and his partner, Del T. LeVasseur and Sheena St. Vincent of Arizona, ex-husband, Del C. LeVasseur of Great Falls, sister, Carol and Richard Riley of Seattle, Washington, grandchildren: Raelyn LeVasseur, Keaton Corbitt and Kolter and Alivia Corbitt, Ali and Cagen Getten and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. She is preceded in death by her parents, Eugene Glenn and Jennie Grant, stepdad, Joe Sullivan, brother, Dick Grant, ex-husband, Jim May and her son, Eugene Alden Mayo.

A special thank you goes to Dr. Hueftle and his staff for all the years of all their support on her journey.

Cremation has taken place. Memorial services will be conducted Friday, April 14th at 11 am in Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home with Father Thomas Haffey officiating. Interment of ashes will follow in Mount Moriah Cemetery and a reception will follow in Wayrynen-Richards Community Center.

Cemetery Details

Mount Moriah Cemetery

2415 S. Montana Street
Butte, MT 59701

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 14. 11:00 AM (MT)

Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home
1800 Florence Ave
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 723-3221
<https://wayrynen-richards.com/>

Tribute Wall

MN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marlisa Nakwas - April 14, 2023 at 03:01 PM

MN

You will be truly missed you made me laugh alot sure going to miss that and addison will miss you too love you.

Marlisa Nakwas - April 14, 2023 at 03:02 PM

CS

“ May God wrap all the family in comfort as he welcomes Connie Lee home into his loving arms. Prayers and Love Cathy Speich-Ferugson

cathy SPEICH-FERGUSON - April 05, 2023 at 02:10 AM

LM

“ Love, Ted and Virginia Musselman purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Connie Lee LeVasseur.



Love, Ted and Virginia Musselman - April 04, 2023 at 10:20 AM

CR

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Carole J Riley - March 30, 2023 at 11:17 AM

DC

Oh these sweet pictures of my cousins and I do remember them. Especially Connie, She was only 3 months older than me. My Dad and Connie's Mom were siblings. Every summer of my childhood we'd go to Butte on vacations to be with Family. The last I saw Connie was in 1999. We had great laughter. ❤️Diane Jose Chevial

Diane Jose Chevial - May 18, 2023 at 02:11 AM

MW

“ *Connie was a wonderful women who always had a great attitude about. Loved talking to her in Walmart. Deepest sympathy to all her family.*

Margie Welter - March 30, 2023 at 03:44 AM

KH

“ *Your mom and I were friends as children on Galena St. in Butte. We played had birthday parties all the time. We went to Grant School for 6 years and road the the bus to East Jr. High together. In high School we had found other friends, but still seen each other at games and dances. It so nice to have known Connie I have some great memories with her. She will be sadly missed. 🥹🙏*

karen Hulverson - March 29, 2023 at 05:34 PM

CW

Carole - I am so sorry to read of your sisters passing 📿🙏❤️

Charlene Warren - March 30, 2023 at 04:25 PM

CR

Thank You Char...she fought a long battle she is now at rest & will be missed by many.

Carole J Riley - March 30, 2023 at 07:22 PM

KA

“ My condolences to the family of this wonderful lady. She was one of my biggest fans of my artwork - my watercolor series of the "Butte Christmas Stockings". I remember her comment after she had hung up her set of the stockings for Christmas, "Nobody's touching them! I'll make sure of that!" I was honored that she treasured them so much. Rest in peace, Connie. - Kathleen Arvila-Scott

Kathleen E Arvila-Scott - March 29, 2023 at 05:33 PM

LI

“ We met as Girl Scouts at Silver Bow Homes with Mrs. Wilson in fifth grade! Many happy memories of a great gal! RIP Connie

Linda - March 28, 2023 at 09:16 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home - March 28, 2023 at 07:28 PM



So "Butteeful". Sleep with the angels mom.

Connie Beery - March 28, 2023 at 08:40 PM



Thank you for the beautiful write up on your mom.

karen Hulverson - March 29, 2023 at 05:37 PM



My love & prayers to Carole (Dick), Connie, Colette, Del, and all of Connie's family and friends. She was such a strong lady going through all the treatments she did. A true "Butte tough" girl. She also did it with dignity and never let it keep her down. May her memories hold dear in your hearts. She is at peace now and reunited with her mom & dad and all her loved ones that went before her. Rest in peace Connie...you fought a hard fight (((hugs)))

Janice Muniz - April 01, 2023 at 04:24 AM