



Louella Marie Axtell

July 28, 1942 - August 19, 2025

Louella Marie Walton Axtell passed away Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at her home in Butte. She was born in Omaha, Nebraska Tuesday, July 28, 1942 to Charles and Myrtle (Harding) Walton. She attended schools in Omaha and graduated high school in 1960. Following high school she attended beauty school.

Louella married Kirby Kay Axtell on May 11, 1963 in Longmont, Colorado and together they had two children, Wilard Charles who was named after both his grandfathers and Renee' Antoinette and they only used her full name when she was in trouble. In 1977 the family moved to Butte, Montana where they call home. Louella lost Kirby on September 23, 2013 after 50 years of marriage.

Louella "Lou" worked as a waitress at the Flying J and Perkins until she was called to raise her grandkids, Zach and April, which she took great pride in. She adored all her grandkids and loved them all unconditionally. Lou was involved in Alano for teens, The Butte Vigilante Petticoat Patrol and the Red Hat Society. She loved all the outing with the Red Hatters and had a closet full of apparel which she loved dressing for every dinner or convention. She was also a member of the Saturday Night Widowers Group. Lou was always on the go with her best pal, Chaz, her adored yorkie. Lou spent many winters in San Tan Valley, Arizona and came home every Summer with a golden tan.

Lou is survived by her children Will Axtell of Deer Lodge, Renee' and tony Vialpando of Butte, brothers and sisters-in-law, Tom (Sharon) Walton of Sand Point, Idaho, Kathy and Gary Cooper of Bennett, Idaho, Patrick (Greg) Walton of Tacoma, WA, grandchildren: Eric, Chance (Julie), Jessica, Zach, April, Jorey, Duke, Charlie, Andre, Peggy and Jaydee, great-grandchildren: Mercedes, Kirby, Kailee, Aston, Jaxson, Zander, Macy, Meggie Lou, Miliana and Jaycee. Also surviving are numerous nieces and nephews that she loved so much.

Special thanks go out to Tom and Sharon, Kathy, Pat, Zach, Jorey and Chance and Julie. You all helped make things so easy. Thank you to Inhabit Hospice, Dr. Lynch and Dr. Silva.

Cremation has taken place. Memorial services will be conducted Friday, August 22nd at 11 am in Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home with Father Patrick Beretta officiating. A reception will follow in Wayrynen-Richards Community Center.

Mama, your fight is over and you can rest on the beach and breath the cool air and we can write each other stories.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG **22**. 11:00 AM (MT)

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

Tribute Wall

LR

“ I met Lou and Kirby in the early 80's through our love of horses (especially Kirby, not so much Lou!). They later became our neighbors and we spent some wonderful times together with them and the twins, Zach and April. We shared in family activities, but the cutest was Lou in her crown at her 80th birthday party! My thoughts go out to all of the family.

Linda Musick Rosin

Linda Rosin - September 04, 2025 at 03:08 PM

JM

“ My love & prayers to Renee(Tony) Jory and all of her family and friends. May her memories hold dear in your hearts. Rest in peace. (((HUGS))) Janice Clark Muniz



Janice Muniz - August 22, 2025 at 01:32 AM

CM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Chris Monaco - August 21, 2025 at 06:43 PM

CM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Carol Monaco - August 21, 2025 at 06:39 PM

GS

“ Gerry S. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Louella Marie Axtell.



Gerry S. - August 21, 2025 at 04:27 PM

JM

“ John & Susan Vaughan & Deb & Tim McMahon purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Louella Marie Axtell.



John & Susan Vaughan & Deb & Tim McMahon - August 21, 2025 at 10:44 AM

JG

“ I got to know Lou through school activities back when she was raising Zach and April. Zach and my Son, Spencer, were classmates. She was always so nice and a lot of fun to be around. She was a wonderful Grandma to those kids. We moved away but FB allowed us to keep in touch through the years. It was always fun to see the photos that she would post~sometimes it was something as simple as a beautiful sunrise and other times photos of beautiful floral arrangements that Zach faithfully sent her that she adored. Lou's smile made the world a brighter place. Prayers for her entire family and for that precious fur baby.

Jennifer Greene - August 21, 2025 at 09:25 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Louella Marie Axtell.



August 20, 2025 at 06:30 PM

ID

“ I met Louella and family when our kids were about 3 years old. Lived next door to each other. Became instant friends and had many great times together. We all did a lot of laughing. Then my family and I moved away. Over time, we lost track of each other. Many years passed and many changes happened in our lives. After I settled down this last time, I spent a lot of time on the computer. One day, I saw her name about some games. I didn't think there would be too many people with the same name, so I sent a message. Since I had a different last name, I did a lot of explaining. Much to my great surprise, I got a message from my dear friend. Now, our 3 year old kids were probably over 50. Louella was such a wonderful, fun loving person, it was like we never missed out. We met for a meal when she was in the midwest. Then, I had the honor of being invited to her surprise 80th birthday party in Montana. I was so excited and managed to be able to go and visit for a few days. We continued to play the games on the computer and send information about fun family things to each other. Oh, how she will be missed. I can still hear her laughing. RIP my great friend. Until later.

Ilene Dwyer - August 20, 2025 at 06:14 PM

KH

“ Heartfelt Condolences for all of her Family, Her Precious Fur baby and friends.~ So sorry for your loss, Such a Special Lady. Fly high Lou



Kim Stracener ~Frank in Heaven - August 20, 2025 at 04:10 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home - August 20, 2025 at 02:00 PM

RE

RIP Lou ❤️

Renee - August 20, 2025 at 06:24 PM

GD

I met Lou and Kirby back in the early 80's. We became great friends. I moved to Tucson and kept in touch on facebook. My heart aches at her for her leaving us, but I know she is in heaven having peace and joy. My condolences for her children and family. She always had the best laugh of anyone I ever knew. She will be missed.

Georgia A Dunfee - August 21, 2025 at 10:19 AM