



Longtime Bozeman resident Patricia "Patty" Louise Drumheller died peacefully from lung cancer Monday, Sept. 15, in her Bridger Canyon home. She was 76.

Patty was born Dec. 20, 1931, in Hazelton, N.D., to Earl and Hazel Weiss. She was the second oldest of eight children. Her surviving siblings are Joan Fricke, of Bismarck, N.D.; Earl Weiss of Fort Worth, Texas; Frederick Weiss of Fort Collins, Colo.; Paul Weiss of Washington, D.C., and Kerry Weiss of Arlington, Va. Preceding her in death were her parents; sister Kay Bickel, of Bismarck, N.D.; and brother Bob Weiss, of Minnesota.

Patty attended the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, Minn., and nurse's training in Bismarck, N.D. She was a surgical nurse in Denver and operating room supervisor in Boulder, Colo. In 1956, she married John Earl "Jack" Drumheller in Denver, and they had three children; John E. Drumheller III of Erie, Colo.; Kristen L. Drumheller of Bozeman; and Susan H. Drumheller, of Sandpoint, Idaho.

Jack and Patty lived in Zurich, Switzerland, for two years before moving to Bozeman in 1964, when Jack became a professor of physics with Montana State University. Patty was a Cub Scouts and 4-H leader, a member of the Bridger Bowl Ski Patrol and the Bozeman Women's Activity Group (BWAG), and one of the area's first Hospice nurses. She was an avid skier, hiker, bicyclist and world traveler, despite the fact that she was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis in her 30s. She was able to die at home, with a view of her beloved Bridger Mountains, because of the support of the Bozeman Deaconess Hospice program.

She is survived by her husband; three children and their spouses, Linda Drumheller, Bill Dockins and Mike Murray; and grand-children, John Daniel Drumheller, Erin Alyson Dockins and Megan Lillian Murray.

A celebration of Patty's life is planned from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at the Drumheller home, 11284 Bridger Canyon Road. Memorials can be sent to the Bozeman Deaconess Cancer Center Patient Care Fund in memory of Patty Drumheller, or Bozeman Deaconess Hospice, 915 Highland Blvd., Bozeman, Mont., 59715.