



PHYLLIS ANNE McCRAW

February 11, 1942 - February 2, 2014

Phyllis Anne McCraw, 71, of West Milford, died on Sunday, February 2, 2014, after a long battle with breast cancer.

Phyllis was born on February 11, 1942 in El Dorado, Kansas to Euna and Maxwell Tompkins.

She was a professional musician in the band Southern Connection for many years.

Phyllis later earned a PH.D in Educational Technology from the University of Oklahoma and then taught educational technology at the University of Southern Indiana, Piedmont College, and Ramapo College of New Jersey.

Phyllis will long be remembered for her artistic skills as a wood turner, jewelry maker, and painter.

Phyllis is survived by her beloved partner Cherrie L. Kassem of West Milford, her daughter Jolie DeVries of Indiana, her brother Flint Tompkins of California, her grandchildren Zoe, Gus, Emma, and Ted DeVries, and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Final disposition will be private.

Memorial donations may be made in her name to: American Cancer Society,
PO Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718.

Tribute Wall

JT

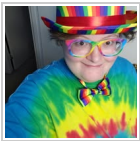
“ *Garland and I danced many miles, rolled many cables, and carried that heavy amp with Southern Connection. Phyllis was many things to me - friend, musician, artist, and most of all a shining example of bravery and grace to the end. I loved her and will miss her!*
Jane Thomas

Jane Thomas - February 12, 2014 at 09:56 PM

NP

“ *I will always be grateful to Phyllis for encouraging me to begin a new career. It came at a critical time and made a huge difference for me, Steve, Eric, and Kelly. Also we had some great times on Bellwood just visiting, eating, and solving the problems of the world. Good memories!*

Nancy McCraw Poore - February 12, 2014 at 03:39 PM



“ *Made this world a better place with her musical talent and artistic ability.... all our love Dottie, Cliff, and Doug Riviere and me.*

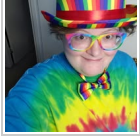


Nikki Riviere - February 11, 2014 at 04:53 PM



Thank you, Dottie and family!

Jolie DeVries - February 11, 2014 at 09:13 PM



“ *Nikki Riviere lit a candle in memory of PHYLLIS ANNE McCRAW*



Nikki Riviere - February 11, 2014 at 04:49 PM



“ *Lori lit a candle in memory of PHYLLIS ANNE McCRAW*



Lori - February 11, 2014 at 06:28 AM



“ *Phyllis was such a beautiful inspiration to me and the strongest woman I had ever known. I can only imagine what an amazing world this would be if everyone had Phyllis' strength and love for life. I will miss her terribly and will carry her memory with me always. Welcome Home Phyllis. <3*

Lori - February 11, 2014 at 06:27 AM



Well said, Lori. Thank you.

Jolie DeVries - February 11, 2014 at 09:14 PM

MH


“ *Phyllis was a talented musician. We shared many a mile before and after gigs laughing and eating those Love's Country Store sandwiches. Phyllis always overlooked my shortcomings, never judged. You will be missed. My love to the family*

Mike Hardwick - February 07, 2014 at 11:53 PM



Thank you, Mike. We love you too!

Jolie DeVries - February 11, 2014 at 09:15 PM

 Theresa Quirk

“ *I will miss her, her smiles, her joyous art. She was a very special and wonderful woman. Little Suki and Cherrie were so good taking care of her. Prayers...*

Theresa Quirk - February 06, 2014 at 07:17 PM

JD

Thank you, Theresa. She enjoyed your friendship so much!

Jolie McCraw DeVries - February 06, 2014 at 09:50 PM

DB

There is an old song that starts: " If you are ever in a jamb, here I am..". And that would describe what Phyllis was all about. Kind, considerate and always with a smile. We who were privileged to have had Phyllis as a friend are truly blessed. As long have we remember her she will always be around.
Dorothy Barbanti

Dorothy Barbanti - February 07, 2014 at 01:03 PM



Well said, Dottie. Thank you!

Jolie DeVries - February 11, 2014 at 09:15 PM