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Sally Petersen Bowler

Sally Petersen Burlingame Bybee Whitely Bowler, age 80, from Gray, LA., died on Monday, February 19, 2024, in Westminster, CO, with family by her side.

Sally was born the daughter of Eldon C. Petersen and Aline L. Lidtka Petersen on July 19, 1943. She was raised on the family farm in Sheridan Township near Grinnell and attended rural school Sheridan #3 and Grinnell High School with the class of 1961. Sisters Karen and Nancy completed the family.

Sally married Roger Burlingame of Grinnell in 1960. Together, they raised three children: Larry (Laura) from Mapleton, UT, Lowell from Gray, LA, and Lani Jo (Simon Tarr) from Gray, LA.

They moved to Denver, CO, before Lani was born, and divorced in 1973. She later married Craig Bybee. From this union, a son Shad (Sarah) from Westminster, CO, was born. There were many happy memories made during this period, including time spent with Craig's three children, Sherri, Brent and Mitzi Bybee.

Following that marriage, Sally married and divorced Darrell Whitely and finally ended up in Utah with all her children in the same state. Here, she found her true love in Boyd (Buff) Bowler. They later moved to Las Vegas and were married for eight years until his passing in 1999.

After Buff's death, Sally lived in Florida for over 20 years, always living close to Shad and Sarah. She loved life and helping people in need. She was an active charitable volunteer in ESI Sigma Phi and was also Guardian ad litem to many children in the foster care system. She spent the last three years living in Louisiana close to Lani Jo and Lowell.

Sally's survivors include her four children and their life partners (listed above); her sister Nancy (Mark Oehler) from Foley, AL; 17 grandchildren: Trevor, Jesse, Clinton, Shaniel, Alec, Whyatt, Gage, Riley, Bronze, Tanika, Kyler, Jasmine, Kiana, Soren, Serik, Shaela and Sakai; eight great grandchildren; nephews Mike (Jolene McKeag) Groves from Grinnell, Chris (Patricia) Groves from MO, and Nick Groves from IN; niece Ann (Daryk) Meigs from OK; along with innumerable friends and other relatives from her lifetime.

Preceding Sally in death were her parents; three husbands Roger Burlingame, Craig Bybee and Boyd Bowler; and her sister and brother-in-law Karen and Robert Groves.

Sally requested to be cremated. Her ashes will be spread at a later time when all her children can be together. She has a special spot in Bridal Veil Falls, Utah, next to Buff.