



Lolita "Chita" Jane Lebsack

December 2, 1929 - December 30, 2020

Lolita Jane (Chita) Lebsack passed away peacefully on December 30th, 2020 at her home in Greeley. Our beloved mother, grandmother and friend, was a woman who lived life to the fullest.

Born on December 2, 1929 in Denver, Colorado to Ceora and John Ludwig. Chita spent her early years: playing with cousins (Jim and Eugene Ball), ice skating, collecting dolls (a lifelong hobby) and developing a love for reading and history. After high school, Chita completed her undergraduate English degree at what was then Colorado Teacher's College in Greeley (now the University of Northern Colorado).

Before entering the workforce, Chita met and married Donald Lebsack in 1951. They settled in Greeley and raised three children. When her youngest child began first grade Chita added a teaching degree to her accomplishments and began teaching middle school English and Social Studies at Brentwood Middle School for the next twenty-six years. Each year she incorporated new learning and artifacts in her teaching she collected from her summer travels. Chita never stopped learning and earned a Master's Degree in 1964. Throughout her career Chita was very proud of the part she played in her students' lives, often buying needed supplies for students. She followed many as they married, became parents and launched into their own professions. When she encountered a former student, she would ask about their children and their significant other by name.

Her faith was very important to her. She was an active member and founder of St. Gabriel's Anglican Church in Greeley and served on the church council and as the treasurer. She delivered and arranged fresh flowers, sometimes from her own garden, each week for the Sunday service. As a church elder, she organized and supervised the church socials. Chita took her church duties seriously, and if you visited her on a Sunday, you would find yourself in the pews beside her: no matter what your excuse.

After her retirement from teaching, her life increased in pace rather than slowed down. She became a community volunteer. If you attended an event at the Union County

Community Center in the past four decades, chances are Chita helped you find your seat or took your ticket or helped you by performing one of her many other jobs as a volunteer. During the day Chita helped women who had left abusive relationships prepare to enter the workplace by assembling and fitting outfits for interviews. She drove seniors to medical appointments and took grocery orders over the phone for the elderly RSVP. Chita's volunteer days started early and ended late. She was busy every day of the year. A centerpiece of Chita's kitchen was a calendar hanging on the cupboard. She proudly shared what she was doing that week with family and friends. Each square of the month was a challenge to decipher because so many activities were listed. In 2015 President Obama recognized Chita with a Lifetime Achievement Award for national and community service. To be recognized for this award Chita documented 4000+ hours of community service over a lifetime. In 2018, her forty years of volunteering culminated in Chita being awarded the "Volunteer of the Year Award" for Weld County. She continued to volunteer until the pandemic.

Chita loved to read and travel. Her bookshelves are a tribute to her curiosity about places and people. She loved Europe and South America. Her most recent international trips were to Turkey and Croatia. In her lifetime she visited 41 countries and 48 states. The past few years, her trips took her closer to home and the east coast of the United States. Over the years she had many different traveling companions but her favorite trips were ones she took with her daughter Elaine.

When not volunteering or traveling Chita loved to sing and performed at retirement homes as part of the "Keen Age Singers." Chita collected dolls with a particular interest in dolls made of wax, china, bisque or Paper Mache. She was an active member of the Doll Collecting Community.

Now rejoined with her parents and husband, Chita is survived by children: Donita Lebsack May (Tim, deceased) of Greeley, John Lebsack (Ann Claunch) of Albuquerque and Elaine Lebsack Meyer (Dave) of Evans, four grandchildren: Sean Meyer, Morgan May, Collin May and Wynnell Lebsack Black: six great grandchildren: Kaitlyn May, Keegan May, John Patrick Black, Stella Arya Black, Bethany Ruth Black and Justice May. Chita is survived by special friends: Kathy Humphreys, Bev Greene, Liz Armstrong, and Rose Takamoto and her volunteer family. Sonja Burron, her European traveling companion, preceded her in death.

As family and friends say goodbye, they are comforted knowing with Chita's passing that Heaven has a new and tireless volunteer among the angels.

No memorial is planned at this time. A "Celebration of Life" will be held when the pandemic is controlled. In lieu of flowers, please remember Chita through a donation to the Wildlife Sanctuary in Keensburg, The Humane Society of Weld County or an organization of your choice that makes your community better..

An online guestbook and obituary available at www.moserfuneralservice.com.

Comments



“ We worked together at LeAnna's closet as well as NCMC...

What a neat lady...I share your loss for a special lady

Monica Kahn

Monica Kahn - January 12 at 08:29 PM



“ I am also one of Ms. Lebsack's students in the mid 70's at Brentwood . She instilled a love of travel in me which we have carried out the last 20 years. She was a tough disciplinarian but I was use to my German grandma teacher. I had not seen her for 20 years until my wedding reception in 1996 at the union colony civic center. She ask my wife if I was still an aunt blabby. She said he is a lawyer so yes. I am so sorry to hear of her passing. I would speak with her son in law Dave Meyer at work out west and he would keep me up to date. Thanks Ms. Lebsack for instilling a love of history and travel in me. Brad Laue

Brad Laue - January 12 at 12:58 AM



“ I was lucky enough to travel with Chita several times with the Greeley and Evans Senior Centers, and she always made the trips better with her quick wit and keen eye. She was a wonderful lady and will be missed.

Joann Vollmer



Joann Vollmer - January 10 at 02:33 PM



“ As the City's Festival Coordinator, I had the pleasure of working with Chita at the Union Colony Civic Center for many years. Chita was a perfect example of what you'd want a volunteer to be... always willing to lend a helping hand no matter what was asked of her and doing it with a big warm smile on her face! Many evenings, while I was planning the UCCC's annual Festival of Trees, Chita would be volunteering for an event at the Center. I'd make a point to walk through the lobby on my way home so I could say hello to this dedicated and hardworking group of individuals, including Chita. She always struck up a conversation about the upcoming festival expressing her excitement about it and letting me know what her assignments were. Every time we spoke, Chita made me feel like what we did as a team (UCCC staff and volunteers) was so important for the community. We are all luckier to have know this amazing woman. I will cherish the memories I have of her!

Rhonda Welch - January 10 at 01:35 PM



“ I am one of the Brentwood students from the late 70s who had Mrs. Lebsack for both English and history. Mrs. L is my favorite teacher and taught me the most. I learned to cross stitch from Mrs. L, an inspiration in my life long love of the craft. I was a hellion/rebellious child and credit Mrs. L daily for keeping me out of jail. Though I saw her once in a while around town I think my mom saw her more, she always asked about me and my cross stitch work and how I was doing. I remember her with great fondness and I can say I am the person I am today because of her. Thank you Mrs. L



Amy Jerome - January 08 at 01:48 PM



“ Donita, Elaine, and John, we share the sorrow in the loss of your mom. It sounds like life kept her very busy and I'm sure the world travel was a highlight for any educator to experience. Our blessings go to you for peace, during your time of grief.
Your cousin,
Lynn Bauer

Lynn Bauer - January 07 at 11:44 AM



“ Thank you cousin we truly appreciate your kind words,
Elaine

Elaine - January 09 at 11:45 AM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Chita at LeAnna's closet and at NCMC. What a fine woman she was. She will be missed

Monica Kahn

Monica Kahn - January 12 at 08:33 PM



“ I am saddened to learn of Chita's death. I had the pleasure of working with her at Friendly Forks at the GAAC. She had such a delightful sense of humor and was so gracious. She will be sorely missed when we are able to return to serving meals.

Mary Grey - January 06 at 01:32 PM