



## Roianne M. Hackett

January 18, 1943 - November 7, 2017

Surrounded by the love of family and friends, both near and far, Roianne M. Hackett, nee Miller, of Buckhannon, WV, passed away peacefully on November 7, 2017.

Born in Fairfield, Iowa, on January 18, 1943, Roianne was the daughter of Roy Forrest and Hazel Conrad Miller. A long-time resident of Fairfield, she had many childhood classmates that developed into long-lasting and cherished friends. She attended Parsons College where she met her husband of 53 years, Thomas B. Hackett. There they began a life -- an adventure -- that ultimately led her from the cornfields of southeastern Iowa to the snowy climes of Minnesota to the blue ridge mountains of West Virginia...and many places in-between.

Always intrigued by new experiences and opportunities, Roianne devoted herself to finding new adventures and making others feel special and important. She was the family matriarch – intent on keeping the immediate family on the straight and narrow and making sure everyone was informed about family events. She was generous with her time and spirit, and she celebrated the milestones and special achievements of those around her. She saw opportunities instead of challenges, and encouraged others to do the same. In her more than 40 years of teaching, she inspired creativity and curiosity in students and encouraged friends, young and old, to find their unique gifts and pursue their passions. A pioneer in education, she believed in experiential education hands-on learning. In the 1990s, when the decline in

monarch butterfly populations was just emerging, Roianne and her students banded monarch butterflies to better understand their migratory patterns and life cycles. Following her retirement from teaching, Roianne developed and taught student-driven customized educational units for the West Virginia Farm Bureau, driving a mobile “agriculture education science lab” to schools across the state.

Roianne had an adventurous spirit and happily accompanied friends to find new activities, from underwater “sub” experiences, to Florida getaways, to bike rides across Iowa, to participating in a 1954 and 2014 covered wagon caravan to celebrate the opening of the Iowa State Fair. Roianne was loyal and committed to her friends, her family, and the broader community. Even this month, in final days of life, she diligently worked to complete a series of learning backpacks for children visiting the Upshur County Library. Roianne was not only fun-loving and a lover of life; she was a great advocate for all creatures great and small. She was a compassionate pet owner and rescued many pets in need of better care and a loving home.

Roianne is survived by her husband Tom; children Betsy (Dave), Kate (Kent), and Dan (Amy), and beloved grandchildren Emerson, Madeline, Jesse, Eleanor, and Chase.

Friends, family, and relatives are invited to a Celebration of Life to be held on Saturday, November 11, 2017, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, 65 South Kanawha St., Buckhannon, WV 26201. Immediately following this celebration will be a private memorial service for family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the Lewis-Upshur Animal Shelter, 10 Mud Lick Road, Buckhannon, WV 26201 or High Rocks Academy for Girls, 195 Thompson Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life gathering

NOV 11. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration  
65 S. Kanawha Street  
Buckhannon, WV 26201

# Tribute Wall

MR

“ To the Hackett family: My sincere sympathy and condolences in the passing of Roianne. I feel horrible that we were not aware and missed a more timely response. Roianne was an incredibly unique person that had a significant impact on many lives. She had a can do attitude and was quick with a witty comment when appropriate. Obviously loved and appreciated by the community she served. Many memories of Scouting, Lions and too few bicycle rides with her have become more precious with this sad news.

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**Mike Reese** - April 05, 2018 at 02:50 PM

MO

“ Roianne, Betsy, Katie, Daniel, and Tom

*so much good karma will come of this I'm certain. I hope you already begining to smile with wonder at what she brought to this world....that laugh! that's what I will remember.*

*And that voice that cackled with authority and whimsy, sometimes at the same time. I loved her ability to take charge but at the same time recognize those moments when she wouldn't have a clue....and yet her brain never stopped trying to come up with a solution.*

*Which she so often did! Creativity....god she was funny and clever. and intelligent.*

*please give the world more Rioanne's!!*

*Best to each of you. You are blessed.*

*Love,*

*The Oldakers*

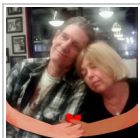
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**michael oldaker** - November 19, 2017 at 07:35 PM

DH

“ Farewell, my flamingo friend.

Dauna Hawkins - November 11, 2017 at 10:58 AM



“ Roianne was so special to our family, as shown in the beautiful thoughts expressed on here already. I knew her first as a fellow teacher at East Main Street and later as the teacher of my students at Central, my own children, and I'd their cousins. We took Spanish together in night school, although Mrs. Steed had warned Roianne that we were too old to learn it. (I was about 40) No one left any encounter with Roianne unchanged. She was such a great influence on so many, because she made that her life's business. Know that I will pray for all those who miss her most, every day for a long, long time. It's an honor to the relationship she built with you, so grieve but be ready to move on to the fullness of life she wanted for you too.

Julia Brady - November 11, 2017 at 10:44 AM

JB

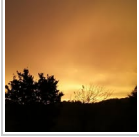
“ My time in Mrs Hackett's class as a kid was awesome. I have lots of fond memories of her. I still have old laminated newspapers and coins she gave out in exchange for writing papers. My condolences to her family and friends.

Jessica Burnside - November 10, 2017 at 07:17 PM

KP

“ Mrs. Hackett changed my my intermediate school experience and showed us a whole new way to learn, engage, and explore. I am so saddened to hear of her passing. Her vibrancy and laughter will live on in so many generations, in her family and all of her students!

Katie (Collins) Parker - November 10, 2017 at 11:55 AM



“ *Betsy and Emerson. We met Roianne only through you. She was a wonderful and fine lady. Her love and concern for you both was openly shown through any conversation we had with her. We were certainly sorry to hear of your loss. Much love and condolences to you both and to all the family. Emma Lue and Lem.*

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**Lem Marsh** - November 10, 2017 at 08:20 AM



“ *I was acquainted with Roianne through working in the school system. She always had a smile and pleasant word. It always made my day brighter! Joyce Jones*

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**Joyce Jones** - November 09, 2017 at 12:34 PM



“ *We loved having Roianne in our neighborhood. We shared a love of animals and appreciated her so much for what she did to help them. She and Tom came to our garage sale once and we enjoyed talking to them as she decided about buying a desk for their grandson. We could see how much she loved her family. We're so sorry about her illness and her passing. Our sympathies and best wishes to all the family. May God bless you with comfort and wonderful memories.*

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**Connie Roth** - November 09, 2017 at 11:17 AM



“ *Betsy, So very sorry to hear about your Mom. Thoughts and Prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time. Pam and Mark*



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**Pam** - November 09, 2017 at 09:02 AM



“ *Betsy sorry to hear about your mom*

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**Jan Crites** - November 08, 2017 at 09:19 AM



“ *We extend our condolences to the entire Hackett family in the loss of Roianne. She was an amazing woman whose spirit and love for life will live on in all those whose lives she touched. It was a privilege to have been a friend, co-worker, and fellow book club member. Our prayers will continue for your family. Always, Lynne and Phil Petrosky*

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**Lynne Petrosky** - November 08, 2017 at 08:23 AM



“ *Sincere condolences to the entire family. Roianne was such a special person that she was able to touch so many in so many ways.*

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**Jane Brady** - November 08, 2017 at 08:16 AM



“ *Mrs. Hackett was my gifted teacher when I was in elementary school, and she inspired curiosity and a love of learning in me that will last my entire life. She provided a place to explore, not just to be taught, and she had a positive impact on the lives of so many kids like me. I am sad to see her leave us, but I know that her spirit still lives in all of the students she inspired over the years.*

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**Sydney Hosfeld** - November 08, 2017 at 12:04 AM

DV

“ Roianne was a pleasure to know and work with. I am so saddened at your loss. Her smile and humor will always be remembered. Roianne was such a gift to us and one we took for granted. She will continue to be with us because she made us better people by knowing her. My sincere sympathy sent to your family.

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**Dorothy Valdez** - November 07, 2017 at 11:34 PM

CL

“ Lee and I send our condolences to Tom and the Hackett family. Roianne was a super teacher and an inspiration. I always knew she'd have ideas that would spark learning for kids. I am a better educator because her spirit made me think. A terrific soul has moved on, but those whom she touched will never forget.

*Carl and Lee Lashley*

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**Carl Lashley** - November 07, 2017 at 11:33 PM

CS

“ Well done dear woman....it was an honor to know you.  
Cindy and Jim Shaver

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**cindy shaver** - November 07, 2017 at 11:20 PM

JF

“ Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss...our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time.  
With deepest sympathy,  
Eric and Jennifer Fluke & Family

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**Jennifer Fluke** - November 07, 2017 at 10:13 PM

LA

“ Dan, Amy, and family,  
Please accept my condolences. Know that all  
of you will be in my thoughts and prayers as  
you face the coming days. Roianne was an  
inspiration to the teachers she worked with  
through the years as well to her students. Libby Abel



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**Libby Abel** - November 07, 2017 at 08:47 PM

KM

“ Dan & Amy, So sorry to hear about your mothers passing. Love and  
prayers to you and the rest of your family.  
Karen McClure and Family

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**Karen McClure** - November 07, 2017 at 07:52 PM

BR

“ I am sadden by my personal lost of a  
wonderful friend who taught me courage. My  
last visit was to make stir fry cabbage for  
Roianne. She made it a great experience.  
How did i know it made would be our last time  
together. I have many memories about butterfly releases. We  
tagged them and one made it al the way to Mexico. She was a very  
brave woman that in the end chose quality of life. The Lord will take  
great care of his faithful steward. My life has been greatly blessed by  
our friendship. Thank you Lord for taking care of my friend.



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**Bonne Riffle** - November 07, 2017 at 06:14 PM