

Eagle, ID - JoEllen Spaulding Bunton, 72, passed away at her home in Eagle, ID on Tuesday, July 6, surrounded by her loving family and close friends following a brave battle with endometrial cancer.

JoEllen was born in Lansing, MI in 1948. She spent her early years in Modesto, CA and Alexandria, VA. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia in 1970 and immediately joined the CIA working in the Langley, VA headquarters and on overseas postings that included Paris, Athens, and Frankfurt. In 1987, JoEllen met Gerald "Jerry" Bunton, a fellow Agency colleague who became the love of her life. They married in 1988, living and traveling extensively both at home and abroad during their careers and after retiring from the Agency.

Following Jerry's passing, JoEllen made her home in Eagle where she fell in love with the scenic foothills and adopted a close-knit circle of friends. JoEllen loved her family, friends, and pets. She was an expert gardener and cook. She gave generously of her time and supported causes near to her heart including: Family Advocate Program in Boise, Humane Society of Idaho, the Idaho Food Bank, The Peregrine Fund and Days for Girls, Boise.

JoEllen is survived by her step-daughter Cory Fatello and husband Ralph Fatello of Hampton, NH; granddaughter Gabrielle LaBreck, husband Brent LaBreck and great granddaughters Avery, Brylee and Reighlynn of Dover, NH; grandson Max Fatello of Hampton, NH; granddaughter Noelle Rizzo and her husband Peter Rizzo of Hampton, NH; Sister Michol Tallent and her husband Steve Salvo of Palm Desert, CA; niece Barbara Kathleen Craig and husband Steve Craig of Murietta, CA and grandnieces Sarah and Kaitlyn Tyler; brother Thomas Spaulding and his wife Katie Spaulding of Sacramento CA; and nieces Katherine Turner Spaulding and husband Douglas Dike of Redmond, WA; and Leslie Burke Spaulding, husband Henry Felix Milner and grandniece Margaret Sigrid Milner of Washington, DC.

JoEllen was predeceased by her husband Gerald Bunton; her father Thomas Martin Spaulding; her mother Phyllis Roberts, and stepfather Sam Roberts.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Idaho Humane Society, or one of her other favorite charities.