



## Carolyn Pelto Tennyson

**November 27, 1943 - February 26, 2022**

Carolyn was born in San Francisco, CA, and grew up in San Anselmo before settling down in Petaluma. She was raised by her parents, Wally and Helen Pelto, alongside her brother, Ralph.

Carolyn met Bill Tennyson in a local grocery store. The two fell in love and their lives blended into one. Both with three children prior to meeting one another, Carolyn quickly took on the role of mother to six when she married Bill on December 9, 1978. Their marriage flourished into years of love and partnership.

Carolyn raised her children to become productive members of society. Having served on the Petaluma City School Board for 23 years, she knew the success of structure and expectations. She had a sixth sense for parenting and always said "I have eyes in the back of my head!" Beyond motherhood, she was a full-time Office Manager for her brother Ralph's company, Sun Iron Works, for 23 years. Carolyn was a diligent worker and balanced her responsibilities admirably.

Carolyn's lifelong hobby and joy was gardening. Her garden was a place where she found peace and tranquility. She proudly displayed her garden on home garden tours in Petaluma. She also enjoyed camping on the Eel River and at Lake Mendocino, traveling around the world and reading. As an avid reader, she always had a book in her hands.

Hospitality was one of Carolyn's greatest gifts. After she and Bill built their dream home in Petaluma in 1987, she hosted numerous dinner parties, two weddings, and countless family holidays. Carolyn was always generous with her time and energy. She was a phenomenal cook and many guests have said they had their best meals in her home. Her biggest priority in hosting was to welcome everyone. Family, friends, and church congregation members enjoyed Easter Sundays and Thanksgiving dinners at the Tennyson home. Carolyn never met a stranger; she befriended everyone she encountered. Carolyn's hospitality, quick wit and sense of humor will captivate memories for generations to come. She never failed to make someone smile.

Carolyn's strong spirit and stubborn determination empowered her to fight against cancer for over 15 years. Her hope and strength never faltered. Even on the most difficult days, Carolyn found something to be thankful for. Her positive outlook and will to fight were truly remarkable. She did not lose her battle to cancer. Rather, she

fought vigorously and gained 15 years of life and relationships with her family and friends. Carolyn emphasized the importance of family and always made it a priority. She passed down her core values of family, faith and hard work to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She will be missed dearly by her family and community.

Carolyn is survived by her husband Bill, brother Ralph, children Mark (Leanne) Dietlin, Rob (Pam) Tennyson, Bob (Lisa) Dietlin, Teresa (Rick) Bird, and Scott (Liya) Dietlin, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents and son Gary Tennyson.