

Linda Ellsworth Mulkey

May 31, 1960 ~ May 25, 2022

Linda Ellsworth Mulkey, 61, loving daughter, wife, mother, dog mom, sister, aunt, and friend, passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with cancer in her home with her beloved golden retriever Alvin by her side the entire time. Linda was born on May 31, 1960, in Salt Lake City, UT, to Sara Hall and Elman K. Ellsworth. Linda graduated from East High School in 1978. Linda had a successful career in real estate and managed The Salt Lake Running Company in Foothill Village. She married Thomas L. Mulkey. On June 20, 1989, Linda and Tom welcomed their beautiful daughter Lauren Elizabeth Mulkey into the world. Being Lauren's mother was her greatest honor, and she loved being a mother. It meant everything in this world to her. Tom and Linda later divorced but remained good friends, and Linda always spoke about him with the highest admiration and love. She then met and married her best friend and love of her life Curtis Wesley Lipke, an avid skier, and dog lover originally from Buffalo, New York. Linda always said how fortunate she was to have not one but two wonderful, amazing husbands who meant the world to her.

Linda was always active and loved to run, hike, and bike. However, her biggest passion was skiing. She was always happiest being on the slopes. She loved skiing Solitude and Snowbird and could be found there on a regular basis. She also loved to travel.

Sadly, on March 18, 2007, her beautiful Lauren's life was cut short due to a car accident involving another driver texting and driving. Linda then became an advocate to raise awareness of the dangers of texting and driving. She spoke at schools and had billboards throughout the valley with Lauren's photo and the message "Save a life, hang up before you drive." She even appeared on the Dr. Phil show to share Lauren's story. Then in 2009 Curt was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer, though he never stopped fighting and lived his life to the fullest. In 2010 Linda was diagnosed with kidney failure. Seeing Curt's strength and courage helped her through her journey with kidney failure and later through her own battle with cancer. On August 3, 2012, Curt lost his courageous battle with cancer. That following October, Linda received the generous, heartfelt gift of a kidney from her niece and best friend, Lisa Wilkinson Evans. Linda made a

speedy recovery following the transplant and even gained a sweet tooth and new love for Diet Coke, which came from Lisa.

Linda experienced so much heartbreak and tragedy in her life, and though it was her story, she didn't let it define her. Instead, her strength and courage to keep fighting through all of it were what truly defined her and made her the remarkable person she was.

Linda had this superpower of leaving a lasting, remarkable impact on every person she ever met, even if it was brief. She had the biggest heart of anyone we've ever met. She was kind, caring, compassionate, loving, witty, and one of the strongest people. She loved entertaining and would pull out all the stops. Regardless of who you were, she wanted everyone to feel at home when they were in her house. It's hard even to describe her amazing generosity, spirit, love, and laughter.

Linda is survived by her sisters Susan (Skip) Daynes and Patricia DeRose, Brother In-Law Richard Torney, her nieces and nephews, who she adored beyond words and had a special relationship with each one, and even their children and grandchildren, her many wonderful, amazing friends who she loved and cherished dearly, and of course her beloved golden retriever Alvin. She is preceded in death by her daughter Lauren Elizabeth Mulkey, husband Curtis Wesley Lipke, ex-husband Thomas L. Mulkey, her parents Elman and Sara Ellsworth, her twin sister Laurie Ellsworth Torney, nephew Michael Torney, and her beloved dogs Gus, Sage, Andy, and Sally.

The family would like to offer our heartfelt gratitude to the entire team of doctors, nurses, and staff at Huntsman Cancer Institute, the excellent hospice team, her phenomenal caregivers who remained tirelessly by her side, as well as the incredible outpour of love from the many, many people who loved and adored Linda.

The world will never be the same without you, but it is a far better place for having you in it.

A celebration of life open house will be held on Monday June 20, 2022, from 4:00-8:00 pm at Eggs in The City at 2795 South 2300 East in Millcreek.
In lieu of flowers, Linda's final wish is that donations be sent to Westminster College designated for the "Lauren Elizabeth Mulkey Scholarship Fund," established in her beautiful daughter's memory to support students with their educational careers.

Hold your loved ones close and always tell them how much they mean to you, and please never text and drive!