



## Polly Anna Mattingly

July 18, 1929 - March 6, 2021

Polly passed away at the age of 91 in her Fullerton home of 67 years. She was born July 18, 1929, to James Murl Longnaker and Pauline Hallmann Longnaker. She grew up in Los Angeles where she graduated from George Washington High School in 1947 and attended LA City College and Chouinard Art Institute (now California Institute of the Arts). She loved to ride the LA streetcars and busses to school in her early days, as well as go to Santa Monica Beach with friends. She was proud to be a past honored queen of Job's Daughters in her early years.

Polly's family often vacationed at Bass Lake, CA. This is where she met her husband John, who grew up there. Bass Lake became a family favorite destination that continues with her surviving family. Polly and John had four children: Jim Ann (Richard), Steven (Angela) and Rich. John passed away at a young age, so Polly acted as both mother and father in raising them. Polly was known for her participation in PTA, Scouting and Dance productions with her children. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church, Fullerton for 60 years and past President of Fullerton Art Association. She went back to school, at the age of 47 graduated with a degree in Art from California State University, Fullerton while working for BI Technology. She retired from BI Technology after 20 years. Polly had many interests and talents that included: painting, sewing, and dress design, Classical music, and Southwest Culture and Arts. She loved to travel and camp out of her VW campervan in later years.

Polly was preceded in death by her husband John, brothers, James and Oliver, and parents. She is survived by her four children, seven grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, extended family, and many friends and neighbors.

Polly will be remembered for her extra caring and friendly nature, positive attitude, and many talents.

Memorial donations can be given in Polly's name to The National Parkinson's Foundation <http://www.parkinson.org> First Presbyterian Church, Fullerton Memorial Fund <http://www.fpcfullerton.org> or Cal State Fullerton College of the Arts <http://www.fullerton.edu/arts/>

# Comments

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Ann** - March 16 at 02:49 PM



“ Mom sketching in front of Grandparent's home , Bass Lake.

**Ann** - March 16 at 02:51 PM

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“ Polly Anna Mattingly has been in my life for the last 32 years. Firstly, when I first met Steve as a pen friend. We wrote for a year and I had a lively relationship over the phone and a very expensive telephone bill and we, Steve & I and Polly built a very good relationship. Steve and I decided I should come visit, so I bought my Mum Nancy and my Son Gareth who was 10 at the time. We stayed 6 weeks. My Mum stayed with my sister, while Gareth and I stayed at Mum Polly's Place. We left to go home and Steve and I corresponded over the next year, while Mum Polly and I had many lovely phone calls.

Steve came to New Zealand to visit February the following year, he then went back to USA Packed his stuff and came back to NZ and we married 14th March our anniversary being today. Both my parents witnessed our marriage. Not too long after, Mum Polly came to visit. We had a wonderful time travelling etc. She and I had the greatest time getting to know each other. Mum travelled to us a second time and Steve and I got her obsessed with chocolate "CRUNCHIE BARS", when she went home that time we found Crunchie wrappers under the bed and at the back of drawers. When my Mum passed away Polly became my other Mum, she gave me support, Love compassion and time to grieve. I Loved Mum Polly without reserve. Steve talked to her every Sunday he could over the past 12 months and I have listened in by speaker phone. I have heard her good days and not so good ones and praise the care and attention Jim and Rich have given to her. it has been a supreme sadness to me that I had not seen her since Steve's and my trip to Fullerton in 2011. But at least I had the opportunity to talk to her by surprising her with a call during the day. Mum Polly, I'm sorry that we did not get the chance to meet again, you have a special place in my heart and all the memories of you I hold very dear to me. God Bless you my Dear Mother, I'm so glad yours was a peaceful release. Love you with all my heart.

**Angela Joy Ester Mattingly** - March 13 at 07:41 PM



“ Yes. It was a blessing that Jim and Rich could take on the Hospice years after they retired . And it was a blessing that I had retired earlier, and was able to set up care and be there when necessary for the many years previous to Hospice. She got to stay in her home.

**Ann** - March 13 at 08:15 PM

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“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



**Ann** - March 13 at 11:44 AM



“ Love the old photos!

**Charleen** - March 15 at 05:53 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Ann** - March 11 at 06:24 PM



“ Polly loved her VW Campervan. This is Yosemite.

**Ann** - March 11 at 06:26 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Ann** - March 11 at 12:33 PM



“ Family all together in 2011

**Ann** - March 11 at 12:35 PM

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“ While her passing wasn't completely unexpected, my heart is completely broken. She and I were incredibly close and it's been hard to put into words exactly what her absence means.

She was such an inspiration to me. She was a resilient woman who raised four children by herself when my grandfather passed away suddenly. My dad, Jim, was her oldest child and he was only eight at the time. After her kids were up and out, she went back to college and earned her BA in Fine Art. I got her artistic gene and throughout the years we were able to share many projects together. Sometimes working side by side, admiring one another's style and creativity. She was adventurous and fiercely independent. Because of this, it was hard to see her body failing her as she aged. Her mind was always sharp and she fought hard to maintain her cherished independence as long as possible. Through it all she kept the most positive attitude... she could always find an up side to any situation. I hope I can carry that spirit into my own life.

When we found out we were moving to Italy, I was worried about how much it would upset her. I had to work up the courage to tell her, anticipating lots of tears. Instead, I was met with the most wonderful reaction. She gasped and her face broke into the brightest smile, "Oh, how wonderful! You're going to see the most incredible art!" The tears came later when it was actually time to say goodbye. Ours was 100% my hardest goodbye. We both knew that it was likely going to be our last hug. We held each other close and sobbed and sobbed for what felt like an eternity. We were very fortunate to have been able to see each other one more time when I came home for Johnny and Cassandra's wedding last October. I think we both considered that time a special bonus because we knew we had already said our final goodbyes. FaceTime made the distance feel shorter and we enjoyed regular visits until she could no longer participate.

She will be greatly missed by her family, her dear neighbors that she loved as if they were family and her loyal caretaker, Claudia, who was her best friend. Many of my own friends befriended G-ma through the years, as well, inviting her along to things, stopping by to visit her and always checking in on how she was doing. For that I am grateful. Each person brought color and joy to her life that she (and our family) appreciated more than you will know.

G-ma lived her whole life with intention. Her ultimate goal was to live in her beloved home forever and with much assistance in recent years, she was able to attain her goal. She lived a long, full life and passed away peacefully in her sleep... at home.

What more could any of us hope for?

I'll miss you forever G-ma.

Love, Laura Stevens



**Laura Stevens, Granddaughter** - March 10 at 03:46 PM



“ Oh tears. Beautiful , Laura. And now G'ma will live on with you forever. You were meant to be with her in those days, even though I wanted her with me. We both ended up being very blessed. Love you. Aunt Ann

**Ann** - March 10 at 04:20 PM



“ Beautiful thoughts from both of you. Thank you!            dad/bro Jim

**Jim** - March 11 at 01:21 AM



“ My other Mum, Polly Anna Mattingly came into my life in 1988-89, when her son Steven and I met as penfriends. That first year we talked on the phone and got to know each other really well, while Steven and I ran up a huge telephone bill.    The following year, I visited the USA    along with my Mum Nancy and my son Stanley. We stayed with Polly and were made very welcome in her home. I came to love her and admire her immensely, along with Steven. We spent about 6 weeks all up. We travelled home and before long Mum Polly came to visit in New Zealand. We travelled and got to spend much time together, where Steven and I got her addicted to "CRUNCHIE CHOC BARS, (Chocolate outside with honeycomb on the inside) many wrappers were found at the back of drawers and under the bed when she left. I saw her only one time after that when Steven and i came to Fullerton to bring our Grandson to introduce to Grandma Polly, only to be stopped at the last minute by his parents. I spent 9 days there and Steve stayed a month. Steve and I called Mum Polly every Sunday from here and on the odd occasion, I was able to call and we gossiped and laughed together. Mum Polly you have treated me like a daughter over the 30years I've known you and been married to Steve. My Mum passed away and Polly was there for me as my other mother and i loved you for the kind loving person you were. Now you are free to fly into the loving arms of the lord, Rest in Peace my Dearest Mum, God Bless your loving heart. Steven and I will always keep you in our memories and    hearts. Angela

**Angela Mattingly** - March 12 at 08:04 PM

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“ Polly was the Aunt who always remembered you. Ever anticipated Avon gifts at Christmas, lovely birthday cards, and always great conversation. Visits to her home always included chocolate chip pancakes and fantastic puzzle games. I have the best memories of Polly and am honored to have a few water colors she gifted me on my walls. Always the warm and friendly presence. Forever remembered. Thinking of you. Love and hugs to all of you! Beth Longnaker

**Beth Longnaker** - March 09 at 08:50 PM



“ Thank you for sharing your memories. I am so glad you lived those.

**Ann** - March 09 at 10:06 PM



“ Thank you cousin Beth!

**Jim** - March 11 at 01:25 AM

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“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Polly Anna Mattingly.



March 09 at 07:24 PM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Polly Anna Mattingly.



March 08 at 11:37 PM

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“ Darlene Batchelder lit a candle in memory of Polly Anna Mattingly



**Darlene Batchelder** - March 08 at 09:45 PM



“ My favorite Polly memories are of family gatherings where she was always a genial presence AND several trips she made with Rich, Ann and Darrell and I; One driving to Colorado, where my kids preferred her VW van because it was roomy. Another driving trip to Canada where we boarded the Rocky Mountaineer from Vancouver to Banf. Great conversations and beautiful scenery which Polly loved. I also appreciated the hand painted cards she often sent on special occasions. She did raise a caring and dedicated daughter. Kudos Polly!

**Darlene** - March 08 at 09:50 PM



“ Thank you Darene!

**Jim** - March 08 at 11:56 PM

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“ Dear Family Mattingly:

I became acquainted with your dear mother, when she visited her daughter, Ann, in Livermore, CA. Polly had such an endearing personality, genuine, interested in others, and a creative being. It was wonderful seeing the loving relationship she had with her Livermore family and having a chance to sit and converse over a cup of tea.

I am thankful that I had the pleasure of knowing this dear sweet woman.

Dori Mathers and Family

**Dori Mathers** - March 08 at 07:54 PM



“ Thanks Dori. Your kind words are much appreciated.

**Jim** - March 08 at 11:08 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Ann** - March 08 at 05:53 PM



“ Polly loved to paint and sketch at Bass Lake

**Ann** - March 08 at 05:56 PM



“ I remember this! Great pic choice, Ann.

**Jim** - March 08 at 11:10 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



**Ann** - March 08 at 01:46 PM



“ Age 21- Palos Verde and Age 2 - LA home

**Ann** - March 08 at 05:57 PM



“ Polly raised three children so well that they willingly shared in caring for you over the last 3-4 years as her health deteriorated. She was a vibrant woman, friendly, enjoyed a good conversation and was proud of her ability to work full time and raise three kids by herself. Condolences to the Jim, Rich, Ann and their families.

**Darrell Batchelder** - March 08 at 07:20 PM



“ There was a third son Steven whom I left out of my comments above. Polly raised four children.

**Darrell Batchelder** - March 08 at 07:26 PM



“ Our brother Steve lives in New Zealand. He was with mom helping her in many ways when the other 3 " flew the coup". No less appreciated.

**ann** - March 08 at 11:26 PM



“ Agreed! Steve "held down the fort" and was a huge help and tremendously loving son while the rest of us pursued life adventures in other zip codes. Similarly, youngest brother Rich spent many "off fire season" months doing the same for Mom, especially once Steve headed off to live in New Zealand in 1991. Maybe even more noteworthy was the commitment he made to her caregiving her last few years. Challenging time, but also quality time (and I'd expect nothing less from a hotshot firefighter!). Indeed, both of my brothers deserve huge attaboys for helping Mom live the quality life she did.

**Jim** - March 09 at 06:46 AM



“ And more of the best "Mom" pics, Ann. THANK YOU

**Jim** - March 09 at 06:49 AM

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“ My connection with Polly came through working with two of her sons, Jim and Rich. Both were among the finest firefighters and leaders in our business...the fact that Polly raised them on her own speaks volumes about the lady. On the several occasions that we got to be around Polly at her home she always treated us like we belonged. Our thoughts are with the Mattingly family. Jim Cook and Nina Walker

**Jim Cook** - March 08 at 11:55 AM



“ Thanks for the kind words Jim. Very nice! I know she appreciated that fact that we were working with real pros like you, Buck and others. She knew her boys were in good hands. As she now is.

**Jim** - March 08 at 11:20 PM

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“ Ann, while I only met your mom a few times, she was a dear sweet lady and I am truly sorry for your loss. I've heard so many wonderful stories about her. I know the memories will always be with you. May you take comfort in the love she instilled in you. If there's anything you need don't hesitate to ask. Lori Breen

**Lori Breen** - March 08 at 11:22 AM

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“ Hey JP, I'm sorry for your & your family's loss of your beloved Mother, Polly. I didn't know her, however, felt I did thru knowing you bc of our conversations. I was always happy to get your annual Xmas card with photos of Polly included & the highlighted events throughout the year. I also loved knowing how you & your brother shared your loving care for her in her final years May Polly Rest In Peace & may God keep you all in His good Graces through this difficult time. And may all hold living memories in your hearts forever. God Bless you all

**Laura Stockman (JP's Friend in FL)** - March 08 at 10:43 AM



“ Thanks Laura. Your words are truly appreciated.

**Jim** - March 08 at 11:22 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



**Ann** - March 08 at 01:09 AM



“ More great pics! Thanks Ann!

**Jim** - March 09 at 07:47 AM

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“ As I'm writing this childhood memories are flooding through my mind. Ann, Jim, Rich and Steve I love you and I'm sorry for the loss of your mom. Polly was always sweet and kind. I loved her paintings and how humble she was about how very talented she was. My mom adored Polly all of our lives and spoke of her often; her young spirit and tender heart. Most of my childhood memories were made as the Mattingly's next door neighbor. God bless you all. Wendy

**Wendy Rapp** - March 07 at 10:57 PM



“ How great to hear such heartwarming memories, Wendy. We really were blessed to have y'all as neighbors, too. Thank you!

**Jim** - March 08 at 11:26 PM



“ Thank you for sharing this, Wendy. Yes. Good times on Orchard/Jacaranda.

**Ann** - March 09 at 12:31 PM

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“ Polly was the undisputed matriarch of Jacaranda Place/ Orchard Ave. Her retirement party 24 years ago was the precursor to our annual July 4 Block Party. My family has fond memories of watching the fireworks for many years, from Polly's front lawn. She will be missed greatly.

**Laurie Nahrwold** - March 07 at 10:37 PM



“ Thank you Laurie. Great memories indeed!

**Jim** - March 08 at 11:28 PM

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“ The memories I have of growing up knowing Polly and the Mattingly family are very fond memories. Polly was a beautiful person inside and out and will be missed by all. May she rest in peace with the rest of the Jacaranda PI originals. God Bless her and her family. Much love from Donna Nieto-Hayden and family



**Donna Hayden-Nieto** - March 07 at 10:16 PM



“ Thank you Donna. Much appreciated!

**Jim** - March 08 at 11:30 PM

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“ Polly, It was always a joy to visit you because I knew you would make me smile !  
RIP You will be missed! God bless you and your wonderful family.  
Nurse Danny



**Danny Guerrero** - March 07 at 08:44 PM



“ We appreciated your loving care of our mom. Thank you Danny, and the entire Solidarity Team.

**ann** - March 08 at 11:33 PM



“ Thank you Danny. Ditto what Ann said. You've been a true blessing.

**Jim** - March 08 at 11:51 PM

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“ I knew Polly through her sons Rich & Jim. she was loved by those two, & very much loved them back. God bless them for the care they gave to her in her final years. I met Polly once, and impressed with her gentle grace. She was & is a special soul & she will be missed. RIP Mrs Mattingly. Dan Buckley

**dan buckley** - March 07 at 08:38 PM



“ Thanks for the kind words Buck. They're much appreciated.

**Jim** - March 08 at 11:05 PM

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“ Katie lit a candle in memory of Polly Anna Mattingly



**katie** - March 07 at 08:24 PM



“ Thank you Katie

**Jim** - March 08 at 11:04 PM