



Cheryl D. Amato

August 24, 1943 - May 22, 2026

Cheryl (Miller) Amato, 82, passed away May 22, 2026 after a short illness, leaving behind a legacy defined by curiosity, compassion, and a deep love for the natural world.

Born August 24, 1943, in North Adams, Massachusetts, she was the daughter of Samuel and Elinor (Brown) Miller. She was raised in the Drury section of Florida, Massachusetts.

Her love of the outdoors began early. As a child, she cherished her summers at Camp Howe 4-H camp, where she made lifelong friends and created memories she carried with her always. A lifelong outdoors enthusiast, Cheryl found joy wherever sky met earth. She spent countless hours hiking wooded trails, kayaking quiet waters, riding horseback, and wandering riverbeds in search of rocks and gemstones that caught her eye. Some of her happiest days were spent exploring the backroads of Franklin and Berkshire counties, guided by her favorite question: “I wonder where this goes.” She was often found exploring a road map, one of dozens she collected over the course of years of enjoying her favorite past time.

Cheryl’s love for animals—especially dogs and horses—was a defining part of her life. A devoted supporter of her local animal shelter, in her adult years she adopted many older dogs over the years, each one welcomed into a home filled with patience, affection, and unwavering care. Each was a cherished companion for as long as they were with her.

She spent 25 years working for General Electric as a self-taught expert in

electrical wiring and mechanics. She worked on several of this nation's most important and sophisticated weapons systems as a time when few women were "on the line." After a 25-year career at GE, she retired...but not really. Then in her 50s, Cheryl embraced a bold new chapter in her life. She obtained her CDL and went on to enjoy a rewarding second career as a cross-country tractor-trailer driver, traveling the nation's highways with the same sense of adventure that shaped her life.

After her professional work life transitioned to a truly retired life, she continued to enjoy her passion for the outdoors. She was an avid gardener and even spent a time as an amateur beekeeper. She lived in Pittsfield and Williamstown before settling in Adams. Every August, Cheryl could be found at the Cummington Fair, enjoying the 4-H barns, the community dinner, and the ox draw sharing this yearly tradition with her daughter and grandchildren. At home, in the quiet with her canine companions, Cheryl enjoyed working on crossword puzzles, savoring the challenge and satisfaction of each completed grid.

Cheryl is survived by her daughter Molly (Amato) McCulloch and her husband Mark, of Altamonte Springs, Florida; her granddaughter Allyson of Adams and her partner Jeff Connolly of New Hampshire; her grandson Ian of Altamonte Springs, Florida; her granddaughter Maggie (McCulloch) Welch and her husband Wes of East Longmeadow, Massachusetts; her great-grandchildren Marley and Sophie; her brother Douglas Miller and his partner Paula, of Drury; her sister Susan Miller and her husband Larry, of North Adams; and many nieces and nephews.

A private remembrance with family will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to honor Cheryl's giving, generous spirit are asked to send donations in her name to the Berkshire Humane Society, 214 Barker Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201. Cheryl will be remembered for her independent spirit, her generosity, and the way she embraced life with open arms and an open heart. Her presence will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. To leave a message for Cheryl's family, please go online to www.paciorekf

uneral.com

Tribute Wall

CM

“ I am saddened to learn of Cheryl's passing. I would bump into her at random places through the years and we would always take a few minutes to chat. She was a huge personality and seemed timeless. She will be missed by all. May your memories make you smile. RIP beautiful lady.

Cindi (Butterfield) McLain - 6 hours ago

DB

“ Molly and family,
I am deeply saddened to hear of your tremendous loss. Your mother was a gift to us all. When my mother died suddenly, your mother was a saving grace in my life. We picked strawberries together (I think she ate more than she put in the bucket!!) and she brought laughter to my days. She wallpapered a room for me when my new husband and I relocated from our short-lived home on the Canadian border back to Adams to help my family after my mother's untimely death. She was the ray of sunshine when little shone through. It was 36 years before I would see her again. She came to my brother's memorial. Although I did not recognize her at first, a closer look at her twinkling eyes and the sound of her voice immediately gave her away. She was such a special lady. One I will never forget and will always feel truly blessed to have known. Rest in peace, sweet lady. And thank you for being there when you were needed most. ❤️

Deborah (Butterfield) Brewer - May 28 at 08:21 PM



“ Molly, and family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Your mom was such a beautiful person with a huge heart and great sense of humor. I remember her standing in our living room, looking at all my mom's plants, and naming what they were. Cracked me up when she identified a Marijuana plant hidden amongst the plants. I think my brother slipped it in there. My mom's face was red, and Cheryl just cracked up laughing. May your memories help heal this void. Much love. Patti Phillips

Patti Phillips - May 28 at 08:08 PM