

If there's anyone who wholeheartedly embodied the term "never met a stranger," it was Margaret Caldwell Conroy (known to all as Tee). Lover of storytelling, wicked humor, and striking up conversations in the oddest moments, she probably chatted you up at the grocery store, on an airplane, or at a workout class, her warm, vaguely Southern accent charming you and pulling you out of your shell.

On September 9th, 2024, Tee passed away peacefully at Dignitas, a Swiss organization dedicated to honoring dignity and agency at the end of life. After a lifelong and (to many in her life) invisible struggle with mental illness, she found comfort in her final moments in the company of close family and friends.

Tee was born October 11th, 1953 to Marjorie and Dr Jim Caldwell, growing up on Lookout Mountain, GA where she was continually surrounded by "way too many cousins." She was a clever middle child, with two older sisters and a younger brother who gave her many opportunities for mischief. Graduate of Girls Preparatory School (GPS) in Chattanooga, TN, Tee initially enrolled at Duke University and later completed her studies in accounting at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. During this time she met and married her then husband, and the two of them embarked upon two shared businesses while also starting a family.

Tee's turning point in life came in midlife when her mental health took a significant decline, kicking off a multi-decades long journey filled with treatments, doctors, and medications. This journey took her to new cities including Philadelphia, which became her second home. Through it all, Tee's determination, grit, and zest for life kept her grounded and allowed her to be an advocate for her own health and treatment path.

After moving to Asheville, Tee loved volunteering at Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM), going on long walks with her dog Cricket in her Montford neighborhood, getting down at YMCA Zumba classes, and turning her home into a Mahjong parlor for teaching and playing with friends.

Tee is survived by her siblings Kathy Patten (Bryan Patten), Marge Anderson (Jim Anderson), and Jimmy Caldwell (Lizzie Caldwell) along with her three children, Will Conroy (Betsy Conroy), Iz Conroy (Marc Cannon), and Katy Conroy (Dot the dog), and five grandchildren.

A celebration of her life will be held at St. Marks Lutheran Church of Asheville on Saturday, September 14th at 11 am ET. In lieu of flowers, Tee has requested donations in her honor be made to ABCCM, an organization very dear to her, that gave her purpose and a close community in her final years.