



In Loving Memory...

LYNN C. FINLEY

February 12, 1964—October 6, 2013

**A heart of Gold stopped beating,
Two shining eyes at rest.
God broke our hearts to prove,
He only takes the best.**

Lynn Coleen Finley, a beloved and wonderful friend to many, passed away on October 6, 2013 after a long illness. Lynn was a resident of Albuquerque, NM for 15 years. Lynn was born and raised in Chicago, IL and was the youngest of six siblings. In December 1998, Lynn's Mother, Lynn and her sister, Ann Finley moved to Albuquerque. In 1992 Lynn acquired her first Golden Retriever from a breeder in Rockford, IL. Lynn named her Golden; Branden. Sue Mayborn was the breeder of Branden and she taught obedience classes. Lynn enrolled in some of Sue's classes with Branden and that was it; she was hooked on training and Golden Retrievers. She really got into it and loved it. Lynn earned an AKC Companion Dog (CD) and a Canadian (CD) on Branden. In June 1999, Lynn acquired her second Golden; Star. In early 2000, Lynn joined (SDOC) Sandia Dog Obedience Club and (RGVGRC) Rio Grande Valley Golden Retriever Club. Lynn was an active member in both clubs. If the clubs had an event planned, Lynn was always the first there to help set up and pitch in wherever she could. You could always count on Lynn! With SDOC, Lynn taught Basic Novice Obedience Classes and served as an Obedience Judge at fun matches. Lynn consistently volunteered to conduct the SDOC Friday night obedience run throughs which provided handlers and their dogs the opportunity to practice in a simulated trial ring. Lynn also served frequently as an Obedience Judge at the New Mexico German Shepherd Club fun matches. Lynn was an Obedience Judge for the Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) and had judged some local ASCA Obedience Trials. With RGVGRC, Lynn was a beloved friend to all. Lynn had served as a Director on the Board for many years. She also helped in organizing fun matches, set up, judging, whatever was necessary to get the job done. Lynn, on many occasions assisted in Golden Retriever Rescue. She fostered a number of rescue dogs and helped with transportation of rescue Golden Retrievers to the vet and other places. The Golden Club could always count on Lynn and she has left a big void... In June 2005, Lynn acquired her third Golden; Justin. She earned an AKC Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) with Justin and she had been working towards earning a Utility Dog Title (UD) with him. Lynn also earned an AKC Utility Dog (UD) Title with Star. In February 2013, Lynn acquired her fourth Golden; Skyler. She was very proud of this puppy and was looking forward to working in Obedience and Agility with Skyler. But, unfortunately Lynn fell sick on June 8, 2013 which was the beginning of a two month hospital stay. Lynn being of a strong willed Irish descent never complained and continued to demonstrate an iron will and staggering courage like you have never seen. While in the ICU for many weeks she fought back all obstacles in her way, taking small steps daily until she was able to go home on August 16, 2013. Then on September 13, 2013, Lynn was taken back to the hospital where she stayed until her passing on October 6, 2013. Lynn had fought a long and hard battle and she had demonstrated the true strength of the human spirit and had clung to life in the face of multiple challenges. But these set of challenges, proved to be too much. She made a peaceful and dignified transition. Lynn was a modest, gentle, sensitive, kind and loving person. In addition to Lynn's love of dogs, she enjoyed movies, sharing time with friends, and watching all kinds of sports; especially football. Lynn was a true friend! She will be greatly missed by everyone who knew and loved her, especially by all who knew her in the dog community. If you knew Lynn, I know she touched each of you in a special way...

Lynn, we celebrate your life and the unselfish way you gave of yourself. Thank you for all you did for SDOC and RGVGRC. We will miss you and your memory will always be in our hearts.

"Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure."