

# ***Goldstock remembers...***



***2024-2025***

## *The Rainbow Bridge*

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here,  
that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge.

There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they  
can run and play together.

There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are  
warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor;  
those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as  
we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by.

The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing;  
they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly  
stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; His eager  
body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the  
green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally  
meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again.  
Happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved  
head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long  
gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

*Recently attributed to Edna Clyne-Rekhy*

# *The Candle Ceremony*

## *Preamble*

Tonight, we are united, as one family, in the warmth and glow of the candles, and we send our feelings of love and compassion around the world to those who are not able to be here with us, recognizing that each person involved is an individual who must grieve and heal in his own way and in his own time.

This will be a quiet time of reflection and meditation to bring us to a place of peace and closure through the uniting of kindred spirits represented by the glow of the candles and by the peace and love in our hearts and souls.

## **We Gather Together to Remember**

Tonight, we join hands, hearts and souls, both here and across the lands, as one large, extended family, to pray for our sick and dying pets and to pay tribute to our pets who have gone ahead to Rainbow Bridge.

Someday, we will meet them again with tears, hugs and kisses as we walk together for eternity.

Until that blessed day, we honor these precious souls and remember them with the warm glow of flickering candles, sending a message of love, light, healing and the faith to believe in miracles.

## *Prayer*

Creator of all living things, we ask that as we light these candles tonight, the healing warmth of love will flow into the brokenhearted who are tending to their ailing and dying pets.

Give to them Your strength and comfort.

We also pray that the soft Golden glow of light will part the clouds of grief and sorrow to surround our pets waiting for us to join them at Rainbow Bridge.

May excitement reign supreme as wagging tails and ecstatic hearts feel our gentle touch once again.

May they know the gratitude we hold in our hearts for their faithfulness and gift of unconditional love as they are forever remembered.

We are temporarily separated for only a short while. The Golden cord that connects us through time and space can never be broken.

Amen.



### ***Candle One***

We light this first Candle for everyone's personal pet(s) at Rainbow Bridge, reciting together:

I will not look back, for there is sorrow;  
I will not look for today, for there is longing; I will look  
forward, for there is our tomorrow.

### ***A Prayer When a Beloved Pet Dies***

You were a good friend. We understood each other.  
I still keep thinking you'll be there waiting for me  
when I open the door. The house is empty without you. I  
miss you more than others could ever understand.

I thank you for being my companion in times of joy and  
my comfort in times of pain. I was fortunate to have you  
in my life, and I know your life with me was a happy one.

I will remember you with joy and a smile.



## ***CANDLE TWO***

*We light this second Candle for all of the pets  
of our Golden List Family who have died in the past year.  
We remember...*

<b><u>PET</u></b>	<b><u>FAMILY</u></b>	<b><u>BRIDGE</u></b>
Ralphie	Charlotte Grossarth	3/18/2024
Ziggy	Deborah Fudin Radowitz & family	2/2024
Remy	John & Jody Hamilton	8/25/2024
Gunny	the Papineau family	9/20/2024
BB	Karen Coulter	9/27/2024
Sophia	Petra Eberlein	10/4/2024
Ginger	Jeanne Urna & Lino Legrottaglie	10/8/2024
Cari	Winnie Clark	10/9/2024
Charlie	Steve & Stephanie O'Byrne	10/9/2024
Millie	Kate Schwarting	11/19/2024
Jackie	Jim Torpey, Jr	11/23/2024
Dirty Harry	Debbie Catalano	12/9/2024
Amber	Bill Hagen	12/26/2024
Katie	Mary Williams	1/4/2025
Tehya	Karen Coulter	1/6/2025
Sprout	Mary Williams	1/23/2025
Wally	Kate Schwarting	1/29/2025
Truffle	Katie Dyer	2/27/2025

Clark	Karen Coulter	3/7/2025
Maris	the Boullion family	3/23/2025
Beckett	Allan & Lynn Birney	3/28/2025
Nala	the Spalding family	4/1/2025
Stewie	Judy Popso & Roberta Cerra	4/7/2025
Bella	Christine & John Kent	4/11/2025
Zoey	Ruth Rivero Human	4/15/2025
Fiona	Deborah Fudin Radowitz & family	4/26/2025
Kelly	the Shackelman/Ruch/Crystle family	5/13/2025
JT	Barb & John Ready	5/13/2025
Rondo	Janet & Bill Hansen	5/24/2025
Dart	Dave & Spring Overbeck	6/20/2025
Lily	Chris Garcia & Pat	7/7/2025
Kaylee	Donna Possenti	7/9/2025
Wings	Phyllis Broderick	7/15/2025
Maybellene	Gayle Haak	7/22/2025
Sassy	Deb Haggerty	7/26/2025
Chloe	Mary Williams & Susan DeDyn	7/29/2025
Kirby	Diane Hilperts	8/4/2025
Taz	Doug & Becky Brown	8/4/2025
Ivy	Mary Williams	8/7/2025
Bo	Anne Marie Kelly	2025

## *Our Grief is a Holy Thing*

Our grief is a holy thing. It is that proof that another life touched ours in a profound way. It is the mark of love, the mark of connection, and the mark of a life well lived.

We will mourn, we will cry, we will miss. Time will move on and we may not hurt like we hurt now, but then a thought or a bit of music or a smell, will remind us, and it will all come back. Those moments, too, are holy: they're reminders of that connection that will never fully go away. It's important to hold on to that connection, because it is through those memories that our loved one stays with us. In our memories, that love and connection stay alive, and with it, a part of our loved one.

We shared some of those memories today. Hold on to those memories, tell the stories that make you smile, the stories that make you laugh, share the memories with people who knew them and people who didn't. May they remind you of the beauty of his life, of her passion and her connection to us. And may it bring you peace on this day.

*~Tracie Barrett-Wesler*

I miss you. I am lonely without you. I am devastated that you were taken from me. I am angry that you had to suffer so. It was hard to see you in your torment and pain. But that's not how I will remember you. I will always remember you full of life and warmth and kindness. I will remember the laughter and the love.

I will remember the precious time we shared. I will remember your vitality and your grace.

Your death has left a gaping hole in my life, but as hard as it is to be without you, I take comfort in the knowledge that you are at last at peace and free of pain.



### *Candle Three*

We light this third candle for all of those pets in our families that are sick and injured. We pray that they may become well and whole again, free from pain.

### *The Reading of the Special Needs List*

#### **PET**

#### **FAMILY**

#### **NEED**

Hannah	the Kettle family	pre-diabetes
Leena	the Kettle family	idiopathic vestibular disease
Linus	Mary Williams	lumbosacral stenosis syndrome
Sissy	Pam Skowronek	Cushings disease, seizures
Mabel	Susan Murtha	spinal disease, dementia



### ***Candle Four***

We light this fourth candle for all those animals who are lost, homeless, neglected, abused, and in need of our help and rescuing. We pray for those who are lost, homeless, neglected and abused; we pray that they will find their way home, be adopted into a real home, and be forever free from the agonies of neglect and abuse.

We especially pray tonight for all the dogs in puppy mills and for all the animals displaced by human conflict and natural disasters around the world.

May this candle represent the hope of us all that we may see the beginning of a new era where all animal shelters and pounds are “no kill” facilities.

### ***Golden Rescue Tribute***

To those who dig  
In the dark trenches of pain For Golden Rescue

I salute you all, your work and your tears are both  
Our burdens to bear.

~ *Suzanne Bria*



### *Candle Five*

We light this fifth candle in honor of all those persons around the world who give of themselves, their time, talent, and treasures, to rescue, foster and adopt lost, strays, sick, injured and endangered animals. We pray that these persons will have the strength to continue their work, and we are grateful and thankful for their dedication.

The glow from this candle represents our resolve to continue the support of their efforts and to advocate for all of the domesticated and wild animals that are being harmed but are unable to speak for themselves.

It is through our united voices that their pleas will be heard.



## ***Candle Six***

We light this sixth candle to remember all our human family and friends who have in died this past year, and we join with their loving families in celebration of their lives.

May the glow of this candle be a testimony to their contributions in our lives and that their memories will not be forgotten. May they all abide in your peace and love.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Remembered By</b>	<b>Date</b>
Rose Casperino	Lois & Peter Amador	8/28/2024
Elaine Bookbinder	Judi & Bernie Fishman	8/2024
Martha Kettle	Ralph & Mary Kettle	1 1/4/2024
Richard Grossarth	Charlotte Grossarth	2/5/2024
Solomon Fishman	Bernie & Judi Fishman	1/5/2025
Shirley Jane McPherson	Shirley & Bob Coelho & family	1/5/2025
Keith Fortin	Pam & Greg Skowronek	1/21/2025
John J Ready III	Barbara Ready	2/16/2025
Nora C. Greco	Anne Marie Kelly	3/7/2025
John McPherson III	Shirley & Bob Coelho & family	5/20/2025
Michael Michau	Scott Sloan & Mary Williams	6/18/2025
William J Haas, Jr	the Haas & Catalano families	6/20/2025
Marilyn Douglas	Sherrie Douglas & Mary Williams	6/26/2025
Barbara Jean Leary	Ruth Rivero Human	6/29/2025
Kathy Carbone	everyone who met her	7/23/2025
Karen Norton	Dana Norton & family	7/25/2025
Anthony J Esgro, Sr	Mike & Nancy Esgro	7/27/2025

*I know for certain that we never lose the people we love,  
even to death. They continue to participate in every act,  
thought, and decision we make. Their love makes an  
indelible imprint in our memories.*

*We find comfort in knowing our lives have been enriched  
by having shared their love.*

*~Leo Buscaglia*

### ***Always With My Heart***

*As we watch the time go by  
We know someday we will part.*

*I can't touch you with my hand,  
But I'll hold you always with my heart.*

*~ Janie Wormsbecker*



### *Candle Seven*

We light this seventh candle to remember all our human family and friends who are currently ill or injured and in need of our special prayers and support. May they all be restored to health and wholeness. May the glow from this candle send them the strength they require and be a reminder to them of our caring.

#### *The Reading of the Human Special Needs List*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Caring Expressed By</i>	<i>Special Need</i>
Judy Neipert	Gayle Haak	open heart surgery
Joann James	Gayle Haak	open heart surgery
Cathy Omodio	Beth McCool	pancreatic cancer
Janice Donan	WTW Class of '67	ovarian cancer
Mike McCudden	WTW Class of '67	pancreatic cancer
Bob Withers	WTW Class of '67	leukemia
Ray Hylton	WTW Class of '67	bladder cancer
Anita Guerin	WTW Class of '67	breast cancer
Gavin Settle	WTW Class of '67	leukemia



### *Candle Eight*

We light this eighth candle tonight in honor of all of our Golden friends who are unable to be here with us tonight.

As we light this candle while they are lighting their candles, wherever we are, may the light from these candles join in a glow that affirms the bond that binds us together in minds and spirits.

While we may not always be able to be together at any one time, we are always bound to one another through the lighting of this special candle.

As our lights shine brightly through the galaxy, may our angels at Rainbow Bridge smile upon us and know that for a brief moment, we have put aside worldly differences and bond as one.

*Blest be the tie that bonds*

*Our hearts in Golden love*

*A fellowship of kindred minds*

*Is like to that above*



### *Candle Nine*

We light this ninth and final candle tonight as a beacon in remembrance of those who have lost their lives because of acts of senseless violence and for those who served in the aftermath.

We especially pay tribute to the dozens of search and rescue and therapy Golden Retrievers, and to their handlers, who gave so unselfishly of themselves in service to community and country.

Let this candle also remind us of the many working disciplines in which Golden Retrievers continue to serve humankind with great distinction

### *Closing*

I have sent you on a journey to a land free from pain, Not  
because I did not love you,  
But because I loved you too much  
To force you to stay.

### *Moment of Silence*

“Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.”  
Love, light, and healing to all. Amen



### *Individual Lighting of Candles*

This evening, each of you can light a candle  
as a memorial to your loved one.

The candles being lit tonight.  
Cast a soft and welcome flame.  
And draw our loved ones to the light  
As we call to them by name

Imagine spirits taking flight;  
For a moment our souls entwine.  
Say not, "Good Night,"  
but in some Brighter Time  
Bid them all, "Good Morning,"

We hope that this Candle Ceremony has brought you the healing  
and closure you have been searching for, and that you will pass  
this on to the next person who is grieving.

*I am missing a dog.*

When I place the breakfast bowls  
in their places each morning,  
I am missing a dog.  
When I count heads as they wait at the door  
to go out or come in,  
I am missing a dog.  
In the yard, while they run and fetch,  
I subconsciously count,  
and I am always missing a dog.

No amount of looking on beds or couches, behind closed doors  
or outside of the fence will bring him to my sight.  
I may call his name, but he will not come,  
I rattle the biscuit bag to no avail.

When I dream, I see his big brown eyes, waiting for breakfast,  
willing me to let him in or out the door, pleading for cheese.  
I see his flash of red fur, white face, blonde tail  
flying to fetch the ball,  
joyous in his return to me for more, more, more.  
When my eyes open, his sweet, pleading eyes are gone.

I believe, no matter how many may live here,  
I will forever be missing a dog.

*~ Carolyn Zagami*

To experience love is to have had a golden retriever. . . .

*To Those Whom I love and Those Who Love Me*

When I am gone, release me, let me go.  
I have so many things to see and do,  
You mustn't tie yourself to me with too many tears,

But be thankful we had so many good years.

I gave you my love, and you can only guess  
How much you've given me in happiness  
I thank you for the love that you have shown,  
But now it is time I traveled on alone.

So grieve for me a while, if grieve you must, Then let your grief  
be comforted by trust. It is only for a while that we must part, So  
treasure the memories within your heart.

I won't be far away for life goes on.  
And if you need me, call, and I will come.

Though you can't see or touch me, I will be near. And if you  
listen with your heart, you'll hear,  
All my love around you, soft and clear.

And then, when you come this way alone,  
I'll greet you with a smile and a "Welcome Home!"

*~ Anonymous*

## *When a Dog Dies*

Although the sky was a dazzling shade of blue and the sun was shining as it always does, a gray cloud hovered above and our sunshine was taken away.

The heavens were blessed with another angel.

When a dog dies, a cloud turns into an angel and flies up to tell God to put another flower on a pillow.

A bird flies the message back to the world and sings a silent prayer that makes the rain cry.

Dogs disappear, but they never really go away – they just send a wink up to heaven.

Their spirits put the sun to bed, wake up the grass, and spin the Earth in dizzy circles.

Sometimes you can see them dancing in a cloud when they are supposed to be sleeping.

They paint the rainbows and sunsets and make the waves splash and tug at the tide.

They toss shooting stars and listen to wishes.

And when they sing wind-songs, they whisper to us, “Don’t miss me too much. The view is nice and I’m doing just fine.”

*~ Adapted from Final Journey by Elizabeth Parker*

There is a cycle of love and death that shapes the lives of those  
who choose to travel in the company of animals.

It is a cycle unlike any other.

To those who have never lived through its turnings.

and walked its rocky path,

Our willingness to give our hearts with full knowledge that they  
will be broken seems incomprehensible.

Only we know how small a price we pay for what we receive;  
our grief, no matter how powerful it may be, is an insufficient  
measure of the joy we have been given.

*~ Suzanne Clothier*

Do not stand at my grave and weep,

I am not there - I do not sleep.

I am the thousand winds that blow,

I am the diamond glints in snow,

I am the sunlight on ripened grain,

I am the gentle autumn rain.

As you awake with morning's hush

I am the swift-up-flinging rush

Of quiet birds in circling flight.

Do not stand at my grave and cry,

I am not there - I did not die.

*~ Mary Frye*

## *I'm Free*

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free; I'm following the path laid out for me. I answered when I heard that call; I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day;  
To bark, to love, to work or play. Tasks left undone must stay that way; I found my peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void; Then fill it with remembered joy. A bond we shared, a laugh, a kiss; Ah, yes, these things I, too shall miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow;  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much.  
Good runs, good times, and your beloved touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief; Don't lengthen it with undue grief. Lift up your heart and share with me; God wanted me now; He set me free.

### *I loved you best*

So this is where we part, My Friend, and you'll run on, around  
the bend, gone from sight, but not from mind, new pleasures  
there you'll surely find.

I will go on, I'll find the strength, life measures quality, not its  
length. One long embrace before you leave, share one last look,  
before I grieve.

There are others, that much is true, but they be they, and they  
aren't you. And I, fair, impartial, or so I thought, will remember  
well all you've taught.

Your place I'll hold, you will be missed, the fur I stroked, the  
nose I kissed. And as you journey to your final rest, take with  
you this...I loved you best.

~ *Jim Willis*

### *The Last Battle*

If it should be that I grow frail and weak And pain should keep  
me from my sleep, Then will you do what must be done, For this  
– the last battle-- can't be won.

You will be sad; I understand,  
But don't let grief then stay your hand, For on this day, more  
than the rest, Your love and friendship must stand the test.

We have had so many happy years,

You wouldn't want me to suffer so. When the time comes,  
please, let me go. Take me to where to my needs they'll attend,

Only, stay with me till the end, And hold me firm, and speak to  
me Until my eyes no longer see.

I know in time you will agree

It is a kindness you do to me.

Although my tail its last has waved, From pain and suffering I  
have been saved. Don't grieve that it must be you

Who has to decide this thing to do;

We've been so close –we two—these years, Don't let your heart  
hold any tears.

~ *Author Unknown*

### *A Spirit Rises*

A Spirit Rises Soaring from death  
Chasing the Stars Not needing to rest

A Spirit Rises New Heights to Attain  
Free from Entrapment Free from all Pain

A Spirit Rises Wounding the Part  
That once was Beating, Breaking a Heart

A Spirit Rises Taking off on its own  
Leaving a shell That once was its Home

Touch Your Memories Holding Them Dear  
For you Never Know What future is Near.

*~Janie Wormsbecker*

### *The Sprite*

What sprightly spirit steals the wind So I can feel its breeze  
again? Then paints a rainbow for me to see  
Satisfied, he romps with glee.

A golden hair sent drifting by  
Revealed against the clear blue sky.  
And, oh, that sweet familiar sound as ghostly paws  
'cross fertile ground.

Ripples flow down sparkling stream,  
A shadow plays in sunlight's beam.  
Butterflies swarm in frenzied flight,  
Then gentle sighs announce the night.

Atop clouds reined with shooting stars  
A different place, yet never far.  
Riding free in worlds apart  
His memory heals a broken heart.

*~ Jody Hamilton*

## *The Star*

I have used the star three times in my life, and it has worked all three times. I used it when my parents died, and in July of 1996 when I lost my Golden Retriever, Tammy.

Part of the blood that flows through my body is Native American, and the Star was told to me years ago by a wise old lady. I have felt the pain firsthand of losing a Golden and feel I must share the Star with other Golden owners in their time of need.

When someone leaves this earth, they must take a very long and lonely journey - what I am going to tell you is how to find out if that journey was successful. You must have loved your dog when he was alive and upon his death feel as if your heart has been ripped from your body. The star will not work if it is a false gesture on your part. You must follow the steps exactly the way I will tell you to find that star.

Go into the night the first clear night you have in your area.

Go to a spot you and your dog used to go. Close your eyes and talk to your dog as if he is sitting right by your side, don't rush it, tears will flow like a giant river. All at once you will feel a very strange sensation - it will feel as if the dog is sitting right by your side. At that moment open your eyes and look to the sky, look all over, but mostly in the North-Northeast portion. All at once you will see the brightest and warmest star in the sky, it will be the one blinking. It will draw your attention to it. At that moment close your eyes, then open them again and if you see that star again it is your dog telling you that he has had a successful journey.

That star will stay in the same spot night after night until your grieving is over, then it will disappear - never to be seen by you again until you

have made that successful journey. When your journey is complete, you too will put your star in the sky.

*~ Doug Coulter 7/1996 All Rights Reserved*