Laural Ann (Olson) Brasel

September 27, 1945 – January 3, 2025



Laural Ann Brasel (Olson), age 79, died peacefully with her family by her side on January 3, 2025. The daughter of Floyd and Viola Olson, Laural was born on September 27, 1945 in Clovis, California. She grew up imbued with a deep sense of kindness and an unwavering dedication to helping others. Laural's journey in education began in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, graduating from the South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD) in 1964. Following her graduation, she attended and graduated in 1969 from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC with a BS Degree in Home Economics. Her academic achievements were a prelude to what would become a remarkable career in deaf education.



On December 18, 1971, Laural was united in marriage to Ronnie Dean Brasel, marking the beginning of a loving partnership that would be blessed with three children: Kara, Heather, and Trevor. Laural's role as a mother was one she cherished deeply, nurturing her children with love, wisdom, and the joy of learning.



After living in George, Iowa for a few short months, Laural and Ronnie moved to Washington, DC where Laural began her passion as a Teacher. In 1974, Laural and her family moved back to Sioux Falls where she taught Home Economics at the South Dakota School for the Deaf. Her teaching journey continued in Maryland in 1981, when the family moved to Maryland and Laural taught at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf and the Gallaudet Day Care Center until 1986. Upon moving to Big Spring, Texas in 1986, Laural taught in the Food Service and Paraprofessional for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Programs at the South West Collegiate Institute for the Deaf (SWCID). Laural's dedication to her students was unwavering, and she was known for her ability to connect with everyone, recognizing their unique strengths and potential.

Laural's commitment to lifelong learning saw her earn a Master of Science Degree in Special Education from the University of Texas Permian Basin (UTPB) in 1995. She was then hired as a Deaf Education teacher in the Midland Independent School District (MISD) where she taught for more than 10 years. Laural also taught American Sign Language (ASL) at Midland College and in the MISD high schools. Altogether, Laural spent over 34 years doing what she loved - teaching and working in the field of deaf education.

Laural's warmth and generosity extended beyond the classroom. Known as Mom and Mimi to her family, she was always ready with a hug. She was kind-hearted and never hesitated to put the needs of others before her own. She loved animals and was quick to adopt rescue pets, all of which found comfort sitting in her lap (while picking up a bit of sign language at the same time). Mom/Mimi was active in her community, participating in the Police Academy and Deaf Senior Citizens where she volunteered her services at a variety of venues, furthering her commitment to service. She loved talking with her friends and family, especially via FaceTime and the like, and never forgot to send Happy Birthday videos.

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Grateful for having shared her life are her husband, Ronnie; three children, Kara Mondragon (Tony), Heather Davis (Jeremy), and Trevor Brasel (Kristi); six grandchildren, Makenzie Dyess (Beau) and Makayla Mondragon; Logan and Peyton McCrary; and Sydney and Lance Brasel. She is also survived by her brother, Dennis Olson (Jeanne) and numerous nieces and nephews. Laural was preceded in death by her father, Floyd Olson; her mother, Viola Olson; and her sister, Linda Olson.

Laural Ann Brasel's life was a beacon of hope and education, touching the hearts and minds of all who knew her. Her unwavering kindness, dedication to her family, and her profound impact on the deaf education community will be remembered and celebrated by all those fortunate enough to have been a part of her life. As we bid farewell to Laural, we take solace in the profound difference she made in this world, and the countless lives she enriched with her presence.

A Celebration of Life for Laural will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 10 AM in the Reflections Chapel – Rest Haven, followed by a light fellowship with friends and family in The Gathering – Rest Haven.

Laural had a profound love for animals, including rescue pets. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that donations be made in memory of Laural to the Rockwall Adoption Center (https://rockwalladoptions.com/donate/donation-form/).

View the Tribute Video of Laural

Link to Rest Haven Funeral

