

Tania Mae Larson Perkins
March 22, 1954 – June 13, 2020

Tania Mae Larson, 66, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, passed away on June 13, 2020, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with family at her side. A dedicated educator, she spent 23 years teaching at the South Dakota School for the Deaf, where many students and colleagues also knew her as Tania Perkins.



Tania was born on March 22, 1954, in Sioux Falls to Charles and Lois Larson. She grew up with her brother, Allan, and sister, Kris, in a family that valued kindness, adventure, and devotion to one another. Childhood camping and fishing trips to northern Minnesota inspired a lasting love of the outdoors. At age 13, she lost her father, a Sioux Falls fire captain, following injuries sustained in a fire in 1967.

An excellent student, Tania graduated from Lincoln High School and earned her teaching degree at Sioux Falls College. She later earned a master's degree with honors. She began her career at SDSD, building lasting friendships with students and fellow teachers during more than two decades of service.



Tania continued her work in education with students with special needs at John F. Kennedy Elementary School, finding creative ways to connect with and support them. Her 43-year career concluded with retirement from Memorial Middle School in 2019.

Above all, Tania treasured being a mother and grandmother. She shared lessons in kindness, compassion, good manners, and even a little sign language with her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed family activities, time with friends, live music, and travel, filling her retirement with the people she loved.

She was survived by her daughter, Emilie Persson (Todd); son, Kristofer "Kris" Perkins (Alejandra); mother, Lois Larson; five grandchildren, Laynie, Ellie, Charlie, Pierce, and Karter; brother, Allan Larson; sister, Kris Golden (Larry); niece, Darci Golden; nephew, Scott Golden; and many other relatives and close friends. She was preceded in death by her father, Charles E. Larson.

Funeral services were held on June 19, 2020, at George Boom Funeral Home & On-Site Crematory in Sioux Falls, with the Rev. Heidi Binstock officiating. Burial followed at Hills of Rest Cemetery. Pallbearers were Kristofer Perkins, Todd Persson, Larry Golden, Rod Anderson, Tom Devine, and Josh Vogel.

