

Marsha Vae Goeken

October 10, 1958 – January 10, 2023

Marsha Vae Goeken, age 64, of North Hollywood, CA, passed away on January 10, 2023, at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center, Burbank, CA.

Marsha Vae had been facing a series of health challenges the past few weeks that overwhelmed her body. Vae died peacefully with dearest friends nearby and comforted in knowing she was a beloved Child of God continuing her eternal life with God as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Visitation with a prayer service and Marsha's memorial service at Zion Lutheran Church in Scotland, SD was planned on January 27/28, 2023. However, it was postponed due to inclement weather. The inurnment will be at Ebenezer Cemetery, Scotland.

Marsha was born to Donald and LaVerne Goeken on October 10, 1958. She was baptized into the Lutheran Faith at Kaylor SD, and thereafter as she grew in years, a Christian education was provided for her through the Heartland EPHPHATHA Ministries where she continued learning in Lutheran teachings, until she made public affirmation of her baptism at East Side Lutheran in Sioux Falls, SD.





Marsha attended and graduated from the South Dakota School for the Deaf in Sioux Falls, SD in 1977, and thereafter continued her education at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. She was president of the Psi Theta Cast of Alpha Psi Omega (National Theatre Honor Society) and a Phi Kappa Zeta sister.

There she entered a competition and won The Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Award held at the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival, which brought about her graduating with a B.A. degree in Theatre in 1982. She then became employed at the Fairmount Theatre of the Deaf in Cleveland, Ohio, which is a traveling theatre company that gave her opportunities to perform throughout the USA, plus other parts of the world, such as, Japan, Jordan and Czechoslovakia.

In 1986 her desire and love for theatre work took her to North Hollywood California, where she became one of the original members of the Deaf West Theatre Company and partook in many of their great productions. Aside from theatre, Marsha worked in television and films, such as CBS Beauty and the Beast, FOX's 9-1-1, No Ordinary Hero: The SuperDeafy Movie, and Jack and the Beanstalk, as well as others. Another desire of hers came about in 2020, which was doing a Super Bowl Commercial for Turbo Tax. As a devoted member of the Deaf Community, Marsha's services included working for the Self Actualization Institute for the Deaf, plus several others that were always for the betterment for deaf culture.



John Maucere Facebook

She was a devoted member of St Matthew's Lutheran Church in North Hollywood, where she coordinated Sharing Hands Deaf Ministry at St. Matt's, teaching ASL classes, as well as, volunteering for the NoHo Home Alliances Drop-In Services for an unhoused ministry, making sure those in need were well fed and clothed. Marsha had a passion for being within the company of her friends and caring for many of their children. She was adored throughout her communities of CA and SD.



Facebook by Jevon Whetter

Vae leaves behind her dear mother Laverne Goeken, many cherished cousins, and other family members living in South Dakota. Vae is remembered by the many, many friends she made at St. Matt's and in the Deaf community in LA, especially through Deaf West theater and Vae's other acting initiatives.

Marsha was preceded in death by her father Donald Goeken, and her paternal and maternal grandparents. She is survived by her loving mother, LaVerne Goeken, and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

A memorial service also was held for her in California on February 11, 2023, at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, North Hollywood.