Kathy (Jankowski) Pochinski

May 26, 1955 – June 16, 2024



Kathy J. Pochinski, age 69, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota died Sunday, June 16, 2024 at Avantara Norton Care Facility, surrounded by her family. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, friend, and advocate for the deaf community. A Memorial Service will be 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 2 at George Boom Funeral Home & On-Site Crematory in Sioux Falls. Visitation will be 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 1 at the funeral home in Sioux Falls.

Born on May 26, 1955, in Gowrie, IA, Kathy's life was marked by her vibrant and unwavering spirit. Kathy grew up in Iowa and graduated from Prairie Community High School in 1973. She spent time after high school traveling with friends and family and had wonderful memories of summers on Trout Lake Island in Ontario, Canada. She made her life in Sioux Falls, SD.



Kathy's career began as an overnight houseparent at the South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD). Through self-study, classes, and hands-on practice, she honed her skills as both an interpreter and an advocate. Her dedication and passion made her highly respected within the deaf community.

Kathy embarked on a new chapter by founding her own interpreting business, Phase II. She provided crucial interpretation services in legal, medical, and educational settings. Her tireless efforts bridged communication gaps and empowered those she served.



Kathy's wit and humor were legendary. Her wild and wicked smart sense of humor brightened countless lives. She was equally famous for hosting unforgettable Halloween parties, where creativity and laughter flowed freely, and a rubber butt or two was donned.

Her love for word find puzzle books was matched only by her appetite for biscuits and gravy or an occasional trip to Taco John's. Kathy's heart overflowed with compassion for dogs, especially her best pal, Webster.

Kathy leaves behind a legacy of love. She was preceded in death by her parents, Daniel Pochinski and Veronica (Taylor) Vinchattle; her sisters, Cindy Pochinski and Diane (Harlan) Anderson; her brother, Danny Pochinski; and her daughter, Brighter Skies Freeman.

Honored to have shared in her life are her son, Elliott Freeman, and her daughters, Faron (Thomas) Lais and Krista Jankowski. She will also be missed by her sisters, Brenda Rowe and JeanAnn (Don) Freeman; her grandsons, Gabriel, Konner, and Cody; the rest of her family, and her many, many friends.



Kathy Joline Pochinski's light will continue to shine through the lives she touched and those that miss her stand as a testament to her enduring impact. Her advocacy, humor, and unwavering love will be remembered by all who knew her. Rest in peace, dear Kathy.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Kathy's memory to the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) (https://www.nad.org/make-a-donation/) or to the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society (https://www.sfhumanesociety.com/) - two causes close to Kathy's heart.

NOTE: Kathy worked at S.D. School for the Deaf as a dormitory houseparent for 16 years, she was known and loved by many students.