

Gretchen Reising Cornell

December 3, 1946 ~ February 13, 2025

Gretchen Reising Cornell, a beloved mother, grandmother, educator, and Registered Nurse, passed away peacefully at her home in Herriman, Utah, on February 13, 2025. She was 78 years old.

Born on December 3, 1946, in Hays, Kansas, Gretchen dedicated her life to the service of others, both through her professional career in nursing and her unwavering love for her family. She was the devoted wife of Robert Peter Cornell, who preceded her in death on February 9, 1991. Together, they raised four children, instilling in them the values of compassion, perseverance, and lifelong learning.

Gretchen's passion for education led her to earn degrees from Fort Hays State University and the University of Illinois – Chicago, culminating in a PhD from the University of Missouri. She was a dedicated Registered Nurse and nurse educator for more than 40 years, shaping the future of healthcare through her work at Truman State University, Brigham Young University, Utah Valley University, and the University of Central Oklahoma.

Beyond her professional life, Gretchen found joy in painting, sewing, and, most of all, spending time with her cherished grandchildren. She leaves behind a legacy of kindness, wisdom, and generosity.

She is survived by her four children: Robert Cornell of Las Vegas, NV; Becky Campbell of Herriman, UT; William Cornell of Allen, TX; and David Cornell of Salt Lake City, UT. She is also survived by nine adored grandchildren who will forever hold her memory close to their hearts - Peter, Shelby, Andrew, Liam, Christian, Tessa, Lilly, Piper, and Ryker.

A small service will be held early this summer in Kirksville, Missouri, where she will be laid to rest alongside her beloved husband. In honor of Gretchen's lifelong dedication to nursing and education, the family requests that donations be made in her name to the nursing program at your local college or university, or to a charitable organization that is meaningful to you.

Her life was one of service, love, and learning. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.