

Tamara Melinda Mitchell Masters

May 31, 1959 ~ March 27, 2025

Tamara Melinda Mitchell Masters, age 65, of Sandy, Utah, passed away on March 27, 2025 after a two- year fight with pancreatic cancer.

Tamara was born on May 31, 1959 to William Jefferson Mitchell and NetaFae Atwood in Salem, Oregon.

She grew up in Salem and Beaverton with her loving parents, older sisters Debbie, Leta, and Lynnette, younger brother Bill, and younger sister Kimberly. As a young girl, she was full of energy, enjoying dancing, singing, whistling, and riding her bike. She would play with GI Joes and cars with her brother and eagerly follow around her older sisters. Some of her fondest childhood memories were at her grandparents' dairy barn, where she built hay forts, swung from ropes, and jumped into loose hay. At just six years old, she took on her first job, picking berries earning $5 per day—a task made fun through the “berry fights” with her siblings, followed by water fights at home. She valued her relationships with her kind and caring siblings throughout her life enjoying birthday lunches and regular messages and calls.

As she grew older, Tamara's passion for learning and creativity flourished. She had many hobbies and talents, including singing, and playing the piano, guitar, ukulele, and violin. She also enjoyed riding bikes, swimming, golfing, water skiing, alpine skiing, playing pickleball, drawing, reading, and spending time outdoors. More than anything, she loved sharing these joys with her husband, Mike and their growing family.

Tamara excelled professionally, earning a BS in Nursing, an MBA, and a PhD in Marketing. She thrived as a critical care nurse and passionately spoke of adrenaline sharpening her mind during a “good code.” In the business world, she worked first as an analyst then as a marketing director, where she enjoyed dissecting problems and developing solutions with her team. After earning her PhD at the age of 52 and transitioning to academia, she found deep fulfillment as a professor and researcher. Teaching and mentoring her students enriched her life, and she earned many rewards for her dedicated mentorship and academic contributions.

Tamara had a strong belief in Heavenly Father and Mother and the power of music to touch hearts. She was called as a primary “music lady” at age 16. She held many other callings in the Church and helped in many ways, but she felt her most fulfilling role was as a music lady (which she returned to many times). Through her loving instruction, she helped young hearts feel valued, loved, and strong. Tamara had a gift for understanding and responding to the needs of others.

Of all her accomplishments, Tamara considered being a wife and mother her most meaningful and, in her words, her “most favorite careers.” With her husband Mike, they raised four wonderful children— Danny (Amber), Matt (Bree), McKenzie (Troy), and Hope (Tyler)—teaching them to actively seek light, truth, and love. As grandma, or “Oma,” she loved playing, singing, swimming and chatting with Maxwell, Oliver, Emerald, Peridot, Ivy, Ethan, Opal,

Lola, Archie, Heath, Arlo, and Reggie. She expressed her love openly and creatively with her husband, children, and grandchildren.

Tamara filled the world with light through her kindness, empathy, and love. Her example of faith, service, and personal growth will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know her. “If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report, or praiseworthy, I seek after these things.”

Service Information:

A celebration of Tamara's life will be held on Saturday, April 12 from 11:00 A.M. to noon in the Pepperwood chapel located at 2195 E Pepperwood Dr, Sandy, UT 84092. All are welcome to attend the celebration service, with a social gathering to follow in the building.