Wendy Casperson

November 12, 1956 ~ October 31, 2023

Wendy Lou Casperson, age 66, returned to her heavenly home Tuesday, October 31, 2023 following a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Wendy was born November 12, 1956 in Richfield, Utah to Lois Caroline Westover Wegener and Wilfred Koenig Wegener.

Wendy's early years were spent in Richfield. When she was seven years old, her mother passed away. After her mother passed, she would have conversations with Jesus where he assured her everything would be all right. During her sixth grade year, her family moved to Gunnison, Utah. During her growing up years, she enjoyed school, friends and music. She was involved in several musicals throughout her school years. She also loved performing with her high school drill team. A great accomplishment for her was when she was awarded a Sterling Scholar for foreign language.

After graduating from Gunnison Valley High School in 1975, she attended Snow College, BYU Hawaii, and then graduated from BYU in 1979 with bachelor's degrees in both Early Childhood and Elementary Education. Later on, she earned a master's degree from Walden University in Reading and Literacy education.

On August 12, 1983, Wendy married John Casperson in the Salt Lake Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and together they raised four children. Wendy was devoted to her family. They always knew she would do anything for them.

Wendy taught for 39 years at different elementary schools in the Salt Lake area, with 26 of those years in 5th grade. She was a faculty advisor to Student Body Officers. She loved teaching them the importance of being an example to the rest of the students. She proudly implemented The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens into her curriculum. She has had many students thank her for the impact that book had on their young lives. She received many accolades during her career including three "Teacher of the Year" Awards. She also received the "KSL Teacher Feature Weekly" Award for which she was nominated by one of her students. For many years Wendy tutored students in reading and math during the evenings, often working 12 hour days. She helped many children including several in her neighborhood.

For 35 years she led early morning school choirs which delighted audiences with Christmas and other special musical programs, including the "Our Country Tis of Thee" program. She was always blessed to find incredible accompanists to assist her. The choirs performed at venues for the Sandy City "Turning on the Christmas lights", the 2002 Olympic Games and the Special Olympics.

Wendy performed in many musical and dramatic plays. She played the mayor's wife in the Music Man and stole the show. She sang with the Vernon Rose Chorale for several years and sang many solos in church and community settings. Some of her favorite numbers were Wind Beneath My Wings, Star of Bethlehem, Birthday of a King and A

Child’s Prayer. Twice she directed the Easter Cantada, “Savior of the World”. She was blessed to be able to do this this for a final time this past Easter after she had been diagnosed with cancer.

All her adult life, she served faithfully in music, teaching and leadership positions in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She especially enjoyed serving with her husband John for 6 years in the Salt Lake Inner City Mission. Later they again served as missionary companions directing the family history library in one of the Utah State Prison branches. As Young Women’s President, she developed a personal relationship with each of the girls and established a tradition of making sourdough waffles for each of them on Saturday mornings at her house.

Wendy found great joy in ministering to others and found ways daily to serve those around her. One way she served was by making hygiene kits and handing them out to homeless people.

Wendy was preparing to begin her fortieth year of teaching when she received her cancer diagnosis. Immediately following the diagnosis, she retired and spent months visiting family members and friends. She enjoyed special trips to Hawaii and the Polyneasian Cultural Center with her youngest son and husband. She traveled to NYC attending Wicked, MJ the Musical and 4 other plays with her daughter. Last year she danced with her two oldest sons at their weddings. She also went on outings to Thanksgiving Point with her grandchildren. And she did it all while undergoing chemotherapy. She felt blessed every morning for another day of life.

On September 24, 2022 about 400 people gathered in the Hillcrest High School auditorium for a “Celebration of the Life of Wendy Casperson”. Over 80 current and former students performed several Christmas songs reminiscent of the performances she directed for over three decades.

Wendy was preceded in death by her parents, Wilfred and Lois Wegener, her step-parents, Geoffry and Elaine Harris, her sisters Linda Jill and Sylvia June and her brother John Frederick.

She is survived by her husband John Casperson and by her children Bryant (Jessica) Casperson, Spencer (Johanna) Casperson, Hilary (Ben) Daniel, and Eric Casperson. Also surviving her are seven precious grandchildren and her siblings Rebecca Walker, Jeannie (Keith) Brewer, Bill (Lisa) Wegener, Jim (Jenny) Wegener and David (Teresa) Harris.

She will long be remembered for her bright smiles, warm hugs, sour dough waffle breakfasts, dedication to the Savior and His gospel, and her beautiful singing.

In lieu of flowers, Wendy's wishes were that donations be made to the Missionary Funds of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Funeral services for Wendy will be held at 11AM on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at the River View 5th Ward located at 12101 South 700 West in Draper, Utah. A viewing will be held on on Friday evening from 6-8 PM at Larkin Mortuary - Riverton, 3688 West 12600 South in Riverton Utah as well as prior to the funeral services at the ward beginning at 9:30AM. Interment will follow in the Larkin Sunset Gardens Cemetery in Sandy, Utah.

Funeral Services will be streamed via Zoom for those wishing to attend virtually. To watch the previously held services, please click the "Watch Services" link above.