April Marie Groen was born on November 29, 1974, in Luverne, MN, to James and Linda (Krahn) Hanson. She attended Luverne High School, where she played volleyball and excelled in track, earning a medal at the state track meet. Her passion for volleyball continued after high school, and she enjoyed playing recreational volleyball. After graduating in 1993, April attended Nettelton Career College in Sioux Falls, SD, and earned a degree in Travel Management.



April met her future husband, Darren Groen, while working at Fey Industries in Edgerton, MN. They later moved to Sioux Falls, SD, and then to Valley Springs, SD, in 2000. They were married on May 13, 2006, in Sioux Falls. April was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis "MS" in December 2006. April persevered through the challenges of MS while continuing to work for as long as she could. In 2013, as her MS progressed and she made the difficult decision to step away from her career, CCL Label treated April and Darren to a dream vacation to Alaska.

April had always wanted to live near a lake. In 2019, she and Darren built their home on Big Stone Lake near Wilmot, SD. They shared their home with their two dogs, Remi and Dexter, who were April's greatest companions. In recent years, April and Darren attended Zion Community Church in Wilmot. She enjoyed spending time doing the things she loved. During the winter, she went ice fishing with Darren and their friends. She was an avid race fan and spent summer Sundays at Huset's Speedway in Brandon, SD. For many years, she and Darren also attended the 410 Sprint Car Knoxville Nationals in Knoxville, IA. April also enjoyed boating, camping, and spending time with friends. As a result of her progressing MS, April moved into the Wilmot Care Center in August 2023.

April is survived by her husband, Darren Groen; father, James Hanson of Adrian, MN; mother, Linda Hanson of Luverne, MN; sister: Amy and Wayne Kruger and their children: Justine (Andrew) Miller, Courtney (Brian) Richters, and Sam Kruger; sister, Angie Hanson; great-nieces and great-nephews: Oaklyn Miller, Ivy Miller, Mayla Miller, Brooks Miller, and Gabriella Richters; father-in-law and mother-in-law: Marlyn and Faith Groen of Leota, MN; sister-in-law, Shari and Brad Wilson and their children: Trevor (Michaela Fischer) Wilson, Sheridan Wilson, and Payton Wilson; her lifelong best friend, Heidi Martius; former stepmother, Deb Hanson; stepsister, Dawn Cope; and stepbrother, Dennis Wilken.

She was preceded in death by her brother in infancy, Troy Hanson.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

April Marie Groen

WHO WAS BORN
November 29, 1974
Luverne, Minnesota

AND CALLED TO HER ETERNAL HOME
October 11, 2026
Wilmot, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE
Thursday, October 15, 2026 – 2:00 p.m.
Zion Community Church
Wilmot, South Dakota

OFFICIANT
K.C. Smith

MUSICIAN
Tara Anderson, Pianist & Vocalist

SPECIAL SONGS
"It Is Well with My Soul"
"10,000 Reasons"
"What a Day That Will Be"

ACTIVE CASKET BEARERS
Wayne Kruger | Brad Wilson | Matt Brouwer
Mike Westenberg | Craig VandenBrink | Eric VanderMaten

INTERMENT
Friday, October 16, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.
Leota Community Cemetery
Leota, Minnesota

OFFICIANT
Pastor Dorie Hall

APPRECIATION
April's family is grateful for your attendance at her services. Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the funeral service on Thursday, October 15, please join the family for a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Zion Community Church dining area. Following the graveside service on Friday, October 16, please join the family for a celebration of life at The Eagles at 312 West Harrison Street in Luverne, Minnesota.

Mundwiler Funeral Home – Milbank, South Dakota

Only A Prayer Away

About the place where now I live
There is so much to tell.
It is so calm and peaceful here.
God reigns supreme, and all is well.
I am with loved ones and with friends,
Who settled here some time ago.
And of the joys I with them share,
I'm sure you will be glad to know.
There is no sickness, grief or death
To mar the beauty of this place;
And light that's brighter than the sun
Shines from the blessed Master's face.
So do not grieve for me, my dears,
But rather when you kneel to pray,
Thank God for my arrival home,
Where free from pain I am today.
The time has come for me to close,
And there isn't much more I can say.
Except don't think of me as gone;
I'm only just a prayer away.

Please use this QR Code to view
April's online obituary and guestbook.

