

Cynthia “Cindy” J. Wilkens, 74, passed away peacefully on September 2, 2026, at Sanford Chamberlain Care Center.

Cindy was born on July 26, 1952, in Hawarden, Iowa, to Myren and Beverley Anderson. She grew up with her two sisters on a farm near Alcester, South Dakota. It was there that she developed her compassion for animals and made many cherished memories with her family.

After graduating from Alcester High School in 1970, Cindy attended and graduated from Northwest Iowa Vocational School. She married Jim Wilkens in 1972 and moved to Chamberlain, where they made their home and welcomed two children, Brian and Shelly. As a family, they shared a love of the outdoors and created many lasting memories together.

Cindy worked at Skogmo’s department store in downtown Chamberlain before opening an in-home daycare. She treasured the years she spent caring for children and formed many long-lasting friendships along the way.

Life presented Cindy with many challenges. Following a decline in her health and the end of her marriage, she lived outside the Chamberlain area for several years before returning to the Sanford Chamberlain Care Center.

Cindy was a creative person who expressed herself through art, crafts, and drawing. Sharing her artwork with others brought her great happiness. She also loved singing and listening to music. Cindy was known for her kindness and strong faith.

She especially enjoyed visits from family and friends, the compassionate animals at the care center, and, most of all, her children and grandchildren.

Cindy is survived by her son, Brian (Valerie) Wilkens of Madison, South Dakota; her daughter, Shelly (Gary) Goodman of Chamberlain; her grandchildren, Jade, Danika, Deegan, and Grace; her sisters, Brenda (Charlie) Ericson of Alcester and Renee (Scott) Olson of Corsica, South Dakota; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Myren and Beverley Anderson, and other loved ones who welcomed her into eternal life.

Cindy leaves behind many family members and friends who loved



In Loving Memory of

Cynthia J. Wilkens

July 26, 1952 ~ September 2, 2026

Celebration of Life Service

Trinity Lutheran Church, Chamberlain, SD

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Officiating

Rev. Paula Canby

Interment

Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Alcester, SD

At A Later Date



In Loving Memory Of
Cynthia J. "Cindy" Wilkens

1952 ~ 2026