

Darlene Rae (Cowan) Johnson

December 20, 1954 - October 28, 2022

Darlene Rae Cowan was the daughter of Carl Raymond and Lois (Witherspoon) Cowan. She was born on Dec. 20, 1954, in Enterprise, Oregon, and passed away on Oct. 28, 2022, from ovarian cancer at Wallowa Memorial hospital in Enterprise, Oregon.



Darlene grew up in Wallowa, Oregon, and participated in many high school and 4-H activities. She played the piano, accordion, drums and lyre in the high school band. While in high school she won a trip to Washington D.C., with a speech titled "The 25th Anniversary of the United Nations." Her first summer job was working on a fire lookout tower. She enjoyed it so much she spent seven summers spotting fires for the USFS.

Darlene obtained a B.S. degree from Oregon State University in botany and plant pathology in 1983. She attended the Southwest School of Floral Design in Phoenix, Arizona, and became a certified florist in 1985. She was a floral designer for Plant City and the Prescott Flower Shop in Prescott, Arizona; owner and floral designer of Dar's Flower Works in Bend, Oregon; and floral designer for Forget Me Not Flowers in Enterprise, Oregon. She was the manager and floral designer for the Enterprise Flower Shop, and in 2004 became the shop's owner.

Darlene belonged to the Wallowa Methodist Church, GEMS, Wallowa Cemetery Board, a Sixth Degree member of the Hurricane Creek Grange, and the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce, serving for 20 years on the banquet committee.

Darlene is survived by her husband of 48 years, Kerry; her sister, Treva Crooks, and brother-in-law, Tom of Joseph, Oregon; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Karin Nix and Bart Mitchell of Wallowa, Oregon, Kristy Johnson of Umatilla, Oregon, and Karl Johnson and Guinevere of Bend, Oregon; niece, Sage Nix; nephew, Sterling Nix; and many cousins and many, many friends.

Darlene had a 35-year career as a florist. She enjoyed bringing happiness to people through her bouquets and was always annoyed when there were requests in obituaries for "donations in lieu of flowers." Therefore, in lieu of donations, please send flowers or donate locally to the Wallowa Public Library or 4-H program.

A celebration of her life will be held at the Assembly of God Church in Wallowa, Oregon, on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022, at 11 a.m. with Pastor Kay Garver officiating. Immediately following will be a potluck dinner at the church. Burial will be at the Bramlet Cemetery in Wallowa, Oregon, with the immediate family. Bollman Funeral Home is entrusted with the arrangements.