



## Gwendolyn Ann Combs

August 21, 1947 - October 29, 2024

Gwendolyn Ann Combs, 77, passed away peacefully on October 29, 2024. She was born on August 21, 1947, in Portland, Oregon, to Carl and Helen Staley. Gwen's early years were spent in Idaho, where her father, a logger, moved the family as he worked throughout the region. She graduated from Post Falls High School in 1967 before pursuing her higher education at Pacific Lutheran University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in music.

Gwen married Richard Combs on April 3, 1993, in Yakima, Washington, and the couple shared many cherished years together. Gwen was a dedicated elementary music teacher, teaching in schools across Moses Lake, Washington, Quincy, Washington, Tillamook, Oregon, and Yakima, Washington, where she touched countless young lives with her love of music. Her career, however, was cut short when she was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Gwen retired early to focus on her health, but her passion for music and teaching remained with her throughout her life.

Gwen is preceded in death by her parents, Carl and Helen Staley.

She is survived by her loving husband, Richard Combs, her daughter, Annaka A. Smith of Seattle, Washington. She leaves behind her stepsons, Richard Thomas Combs (Barbara), Steven Gregory Combs (Daschel), and Patrick William Combs (Tamara), along with their families: Richard's daughter Rosie, Steven's children Avonlea and Samantha, and Patrick's children Anthony and Corey. Gwen is also survived by her sister Pam Bartlett (Charlie) of Spokane, Washington, two nieces and four great-grandchildren.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff at Faith Larkin, whose compassionate care over the last four years provided comfort and support to Gwen and her family during her illness.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Parkinson's disease research or a music education fund of your choice, in honor of Gwen's lifelong love of music.

# Tribute Wall

MI

“ I have so many sweet and funny memories with Gwen. I will forever cherish being able to take her swimming. Gwen loved shopping One of my favorite memories is her dressing up while we were shipping 🐝 , she loved chocolate, and singing and we could talk for hours about her childhood and growing up and her performance at Carnegie Hall, I can't forget how she loved dressing up and taking cute pictures of her beloved honeybee! Gwen used to tell me how blessed she was that I was in her life but the truth is I was the one who was blessed. Forever missing our laughs and hugs. RIP Gwen Love you so big forever.



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misty - May 05, 2025 at 10:56 PM

MP

“ Mary M Perry lit a candle in memory of Gwendolyn Combs



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Mary M Perry - November 06, 2024 at 11:03 PM