



When you lived your life for others  
 and you loved *without condition*  
 When you made so many laugh and your  
*smile* won't be forgotten  
 When you left behind an empty place  
 that no one else can fill  
 When the friendships that you shared  
 long to be renewed  
 When you built your life on hope  
 and fulfilled it every day  
 The *footprints* that you left behind  
 will bring us face to face  
 So, *goodbye* is not forever,  
 You're only steps away.



# Vonne Tarnavsky

**Born to Roger and Lorraine Bourgois**  
 October 27, 1956 ~ Denver, Colorado

**Returned to Her Heavenly Father**  
 Saturday, March 21, 2026 ~ Minot, North Dakota

**Memorial Service**  
 Saturday, April 11, 2026 ~ 11:00 A.M.  
 First Lutheran Church  
 Watford City, North Dakota

**Officiating**  
 Minister Matthew Rolfson

**Eulogist**  
 Sheri Lien

**Scripture Readers**  
 Jill Bourgois      Anne Beard

**Music Selections**  
 "On Eagles Wings"  
 Kara Transtrom & Pamela Haugen

*Cello Solo* ~ Dr. Eric Anderson  
 "Old Rugged Cross"  
 Kara Transtrom & Pamela Haugen

*Cello Solo* ~ Dr. Eric Anderson

"Amazing Grace"  
 Congregational Song

**Arrangements By**  
 Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home  
 Watford City, North Dakota

# In Loving Memory Of



# Vonne Tarnavsky

October 27, 1956 - March 21, 2026



Vonne was born on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1956, to Lorraine Alice Bourgois and Roger Barlow Bourgois in Denver, Colorado. In early childhood at the family farm/ranch in Bismarck, ND, Vonne showed the first signs of one of her life's passions, always playing with toy tractors, riding her favorite cow "Brownie," and later falling in love with her horse, Sonny Rey, the first of many equine partners in the 4-H Horse club.

Vonne graduated from Bismarck High School and then briefly attended the University of Mary, where, following her time with the Bismarck High School Symphony, she continued to play the cello and discovered a new passion, aviation, through the University of Mary practicum program. She obtained her private pilot's license in Bismarck and, to pursue her love of flying, transferred to the University of North Dakota Aviation program, where she received a Bachelor of Business along with her Commercial, Instrument, and Flight Instructor credentials. She expected to have a career in aviation, but as life surprises happen, health issues made Vonne change directions. As the saying goes, she turned lemons into lemonade, joined her father in farming and ranching, and started working with Morgan horses.

It was at an ND Morgan Horse Association meeting that she met and later married the love of her life, Morris Tarnavsky. Vonne moved to join Morris at the ranch on the outskirts of the North Unit of the ND Badlands, where Gus Tarnavsky, their new son, joined the crew in 1991.

While ranching, Vonne supported family interests by actively helping or participating in the Archery club and competitions, Boy Scouts, Music, and First Lutheran Church. She loved gardening, cooking, and, as of late, quilting. Vonne was also a member of the ND Morgan Horse Association and served as a board member of the American Morgan Horse Association.



Vonne never let go of her interest in music, and as Gus flew the nest, she decided to actively participate in the music community by playing her Cello. She began a serious study of the Cello with Dr. Eric Anderson at Minot State University. Vonne played cello with many groups, including the Bismarck Symphony, Dakota Chamber Music, the ND Music Camp, and with her music home, the Minot Symphony Orchestra. Vonne played with the Minot Symphony for 14 years and served on the Minot Symphony Foundation. She viewed them as her second family.

Vonne received the greatest gift of her life last year when her grandchild, Alice Rae Tarnavsky, was born. She cherished her time with Gus, Jassmine, and Alice. As a wonderful treat, they would have breakfast together every Sunday morning and celebrate the week's activities.



Vonne is survived by her son Augustus Tarnavsky and his very special partner, Jassmine Knecht; her grandchild, Alice Rae Tarnavsky; her sister, Jill Bourgois; and her Avian best buds, Rocco and Wally.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Morris Tarnavsky; and parents, Roger and Lorraine Bourgois.