



Jennifer Brincks

February 5, 1955 - July 25, 2025

Jennifer Brincks passed away on Friday, July 25, 2025, after battling ovarian cancer.

Funeral Services will be 10:30 a.m., Saturday, August 16, 2025 at Carroll First Church in Carroll. Private family burial will be in the Carroll City Cemetery.

A visitation will be held from 9-10:15 a.m. on Saturday, August 16, 2025 at the church prior to the funeral service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left at the church for a later designation.

Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll and online condolences may be left for Jennifer's family at www.sharpfuneral.com.

Born on February 5, 1955, and raised in Carroll, Iowa, Jennifer lived with her grandmother, Oma, until the age of five. During this time, they developed a very special bond. Jennifer continued to visit Oma every weekend until sixth grade, and their magnetic relationship endured until Oma's passing in 1983. Jennifer was the youngest of the three Balk sisters—Monica, Sylvia, and Jennifer—each born within three years of one another.

She graduated from Kuemper Catholic High School with the class of 1973 and pursued higher education at Texas Woman's University alongside her sister Sylvia. Jennifer studied photography and dance for one semester before returning to Carroll.

True to her adventurous and curious spirit, Jennifer held a variety of jobs while raising her children. These roles ranged from working at her father's photo shop, Balk and Son, to positions at General Electric, the Carroll Rec Center, and as a teller at Carroll County State Bank. Eventually, she discovered her true calling—teaching.

Jennifer became a non-traditional student while pregnant with her youngest daughter, Rachel. After obtaining her teaching license, she taught kindergarten at Mt. Carmel for six years, where she discovered a deep passion for special education. This passion led her to earn five separate endorsements in the field.

With these endorsements and her intuitive, vibrant personality, Jennifer made a lasting impact by spearheading multi-sensory, differentiated resource rooms at three Kuemper Catholic School buildings under the guidance of Mary Dobson—a first for Carroll.

Her teaching career spanned 31 years, including time at Fairview and Carroll Middle School. Throughout and beyond her teaching years, countless parents shared stories of how Jennifer had positively impacted their children's lives. Her individualized lesson plans reflected her belief in each student's uniqueness. She had a rare gift for seeing the world—and its people—through a rich and beautiful lens, finding harmony within chaos.

Jennifer constantly developed creative, student-centered ideas that challenged learners while nurturing their strengths. From cultivating a vegetable and flower garden to organizing numerous field trips, she built

joyful, thriving classroom communities—often sprinkled with a touch of mischief for good measure.

Jennifer married her high school sweetheart, Darwin Brincks, on April 7, 1978, at St. Lawrence Parish. During their 46 years together, they raised three children and were blessed with five grandchildren whom Jennifer adored and lovingly spoiled. When not with her grandchildren, Jennifer and Darwin enjoyed traveling, attending concerts, and tackling new projects together. Her favorite trip was to Alaska in 2018, where they took a private flight over Mount Denali—a memory she cherished deeply.

Jennifer's vibrant personality was unforgettable. Her wit and humor brought light to even life's messiest moments. She had a rare ability to uplift those around her simply by being present.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Franziska Balk; her in-laws, Delbert and Delora Brincks; and her sister, Monica Balk Moen.

She is survived by her husband, Darwin; her children: Joseph Brincks (Angie), Alex Brincks (Emmy), and Rachel Werkmeister (Dakota); her sister, Sylvia Hanks; and her siblings-in-law: Dean Brincks (Barb), Dorothy Geister (Gary), and Donna Monson (Murray). Her cherished grandchildren are Olivia, Remington, and Emery Brincks, and Ellis and Sloane Werkmeister. She is also survived by her niece, Morgan Hanks (Sean); great-niece Asa and great-nephew Esca Buckley-Hanks; and her beloved companion, Miss Eddie.

Tribute Wall

DB

“ Our deepest sympathies Darwin and family. Jennifer was a beautiful person. Prayers and peace to all of you.
Alan and Diane Brincks

Diane Brincks - August 16, 2025 at 09:27 AM

RH

“ I had the privilege of spending time with Jennifer and Darwin and extended family on two separate visits to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. A good time was had by all as Jennifer's joy and laughter added to the memories. She was such a hoot and will be sorely missed. I also cherish a short video of Jennifer and Sylvia playing a dice game called Qwixx 😊

Rich Hurlbut - August 14, 2025 at 05:22 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jennifer Brincks.



August 13, 2025 at 11:47 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Jennifer Brincks.



August 04, 2025 at 12:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jennifer Brincks.

August 04, 2025 at 12:29 PM



“ God be with you Darwin and family.

Charlotte Boeck - July 30, 2025 at 12:46 PM



“ Many good memories with Jennifer as we worked several years together. Always had time to talk even later on down the years. Had some mutual kiddos we both enjoyed. Will miss you lady!!!! Pat Staples

Pat Staples - July 29, 2025 at 09:59 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jennifer Brincks.



July 29, 2025 at 03:34 PM



“ So sorry to hear of the passing of your wife and mother. She was always a bright and bubbly person. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Jeff and Julie Pruitt

Julie Pruitt - July 29, 2025 at 11:57 AM

MM

“ Thoughts and Prayers to your family from the McGowan’s...



Michael McGowan - July 28, 2025 at 03:45 PM



“ Connie Ankenbauer lit a candle in memory of Jennifer Brincks



Connie Ankenbauer - July 28, 2025 at 02:29 PM



Jennifer was such a bright and colorful spirit! Sending prayers!

Connie Ankenbauer - July 28, 2025 at 02:30 PM

BH

Jennifer had such a loving way with the students she worked with... I was honored to be her colleague. She fought her battle with cancer with such courage and dignity. Our sympathies to all of you. Mark and Barb Hoffman

Barb Hoffman - July 29, 2025 at 09:24 AM

SZ

“ Sheryl Zimmerman lit a candle in memory of Jennifer Brincks



Sheryl Zimmerman - July 28, 2025 at 10:21 AM

SZ

So very sorry for your loss Darwin and family. May your memories comfort during this time.

Sheryl Zimmerman - July 28, 2025 at 10:22 AM



“ Jennifer was such a wonderful person to talk to and a great neighbor. My thoughts and prayers to you and your family. Bivona’s

Jill Bivona - July 27, 2025 at 08:18 PM

VC

“ Vicki Clasen lit a candle in memory of Jennifer Brincks



Vicki Clasen - July 27, 2025 at 08:41 AM

CS

“ Darwin and family, So very sorry for your loss! She was a beautiful woman inside and out.



Cindy Sporrer - July 26, 2025 at 10:02 PM

KP

“ Kristi Pudenz lit a candle in memory of Jennifer Brincks



Kristi Pudenz - July 26, 2025 at 07:57 PM

JH

“ Jennifer was a light in this world. She will be missed. Hugs to you all.

Jeanne Hammen - July 26, 2025 at 05:08 PM

BM

“ Sorry to hear this, she was always so nice to me when we were growing up, sorry for your loss! Remember to find happiness to honor her, as she would love you all to have happy lives!!!

Bryan Mack - July 26, 2025 at 04:58 PM

KJ

“ Kristi Schuler Jorgensen lit a candle in memory of Jennifer Brincks



Kristi Schuler Jorgensen - July 26, 2025 at 04:45 PM

KJ

“ Kristi Schuler Jorgensen lit a candle in memory of Jennifer Brincks



Kristi Schuler Jorgensen - July 26, 2025 at 04:43 PM

CS

“ *My Deepest Sympathy to Darwin and all of their family. May she Rest in the Peace of the Lord. Carleen Schwieso*



Carleen Schwieso - July 26, 2025 at 04:21 PM

VD

“ *Sympathy Darwin and Sylvia*



Vickie Duff - July 26, 2025 at 03:30 PM

SS

“ *My sympathy to Jennifer's family. Jen always talked so lovingly about all of you. I had the privilege to work with Jennifer at school. She worked with special Ed. students. She had a unique way of connecting with her students. Her love of education was contagious. She was a gift to us all. Shirley Snyder*

Shirley Snyder - July 26, 2025 at 11:41 AM

ZG

“ *Jennifer was a gift to all. She was truly a person we all strive to be and will be missed by many. She same her sister are playing again* 💔



Zeline Gappa - July 26, 2025 at 10:07 AM

LB

“ Jennifer may you RIP! 🙏💜👼



Linda Bluml - July 25, 2025 at 09:57 PM

BJ

you were a shining light in the world Jenny! I hope you are now pain free and at peace.

bobby j jett - July 29, 2025 at 07:47 PM

KB

“ Kim Boeckman lit a candle in memory of Jennifer Brincks



Kim Boeckman - July 25, 2025 at 08:06 PM

DQ

“ She was a wonderful dance student of mine when I 1st opened the Carroll Dance Studio-she was only 4 years younger!!💕💕💕💕 I was 20 and she was 16!! Lotsa good memories!!

Deb Quandt - July 25, 2025 at 06:53 PM