

Jeretta L. Tauriella

November 1, 1948 - July 23, 2023

Jeretta Lynn (Cass) Tauriella was born November 1, 1948 in Norton, Kansas to Dean and Mary (Warner) Cass. Jeretta was raised in Beaver City, Nebraska where she was the second of five children. She graduated from Beaver City High School in 1967 and went on to attend Kearney State College (currently the University of Nebraska in Kearney). She graduated in 1971 with a Bachelor of Arts in Education.

She began teaching in Exeter Public Schools in 1971. While working her first high school dance, she was forced to remove a persistent party-crasher. The intruder's ploy to gain her attention worked as Jeretta and her future husband, John, had their first dance later that night. Even though she fell asleep on their first date at a drive-in movie, she fell in love and the two happily married on May 26, 1973. The marriage was blessed by two children – Jamie and Jena.

Jeretta loved to read and write. In high school she won top prize for her essay in a statewide competition. She won a week-long trip to Washington DC where she and a group attended the Congressional Breakfast and she was presented a cash prize by Senator Carl Curtis. Her love for writing also showed as she was the editor of her high school yearbook and part of the Exeter History Book Committee that published the 125-anniversary yearbook.

Jeretta was the library media specialist for the elementary and high school

libraries. She read nearly every book before it was put on the shelf. At different times in her career, Jeretta also taught English, Language Arts, Spanish and conducted the annual school play. She spent her entire teaching career at one school system. She retired in 2013 after 42 years of teaching at the Exeter and Exeter-Milligan Public Schools.

Jeretta also spent many years teaching Sunday School and conducting the Christmas play for elementary-aged children at the Exeter United Methodist Church where she was a member for 40 years. In her later years, even after her words were gone, she would still hum her favorite church hymns.

Jeretta was diagnosed with a rare disease called Corticobasal Degeneration. Symptoms began to develop in her late 50s and she received a diagnosis in her late 60s. Slowly over time, her movement, speech and memory deteriorated. However, she never lost her sense of humor (always laughing at John's jokes), her love for music (humming along the best she could while "dancing") and had no problem putting people in their place even without her words. As her abilities gradually deteriorated, John filled her voids by being her hands, feet, sight and speech. He tirelessly cared for her in their home until her final day.

Jeretta passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, July 23, 2023, at the age of 74, with her loved ones by her side.

Jeretta was preceded in death by her parents, parents-in-law Frank and Marjorie Tauriella, brother Larry Cass and brothers-in-law Larry Ruhl and Charlie Hansen.

She is survived by her husband John, children Jamie (and grandchildren Kinsie, Kaylee, Austin and Emily) and Jena (husband Jose and granddaughters Isabel, Elena and Alexis), siblings Jerry (wife Nancy), Lori (husband Jeff) and Alin; sisters-in-law Judy Cass, Nancy Ruhl and Judy Hansen; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Memorial Service for Jeretta was held on Friday, July 28, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at Exeter Methodist Community Church in Exeter, Nebraska. Pastor Murry Johnston and Kim Dunker presided over the Memorial Service.

Delores Bailey played an instrumental version of "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" as the processional. She also accompanied Alin Cass in the singing of "Amazing Grace" and "In The Garden." Special music was provided by John Tauriella who sang "If You Can See Me Now." The recorded selections "One More Day" and "I Will Always Love You" were also played during the Memorial Service.

A private Committal of Ashes will be held at a later date.

Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements and online condolences can be left at www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com

Memorials are suggested to the Exeter Public Library.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 27. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Farmer Funeral Home
305 South Burlington Avenue
Exeter, NE 68351
(402) 266-3621
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Family Present for Visitation

JUL 27. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Farmer Funeral Home
305 South Burlington Avenue
Exeter, NE 68351
(402) 266-3621
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

JUL 28. 11:00 AM (CT)

Exeter Methodist Community Church
319 E Seneca Street
Exeter, NE 68351

Tribute Wall

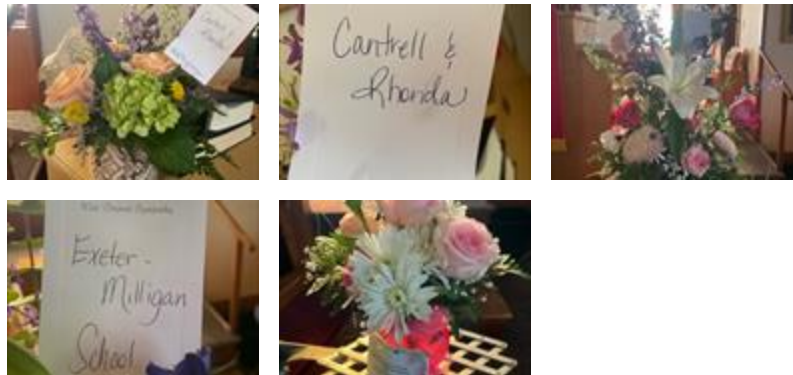
JK

“ *Jeretta was one of my very first clients working for Caring Friends I will forever keep her smile and her laughter as we watched Christmas Vacation together her drinking her Pepsi and eating her snack she and I shared many good visits together and she will forever be in my heart & God Bless John and her family*

Joanna Kuhns - July 30, 2023 at 10:01 PM



“ 46 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - July 28, 2023 at 02:55 PM

MT

“ *Jeretta was the media specialist when I began my first teaching job at Exeter Elementary School. She was always so friendly to the new teachers and helped us choose books for read alouds to our classes. She and John hosted many staff get togethers in their lovely home. She was never afraid to speak her mind! All who knew her liked and respected her. Many condolences to all of you .
Marion Rayburn Taylor*

Marion Taylor - July 27, 2023 at 09:11 PM

JV

“ *Jim Votipka lit a candle in memory of Jeretta Tauriella*



Jim Votipka - July 27, 2023 at 08:15 PM

JH

“ *I taught school in Exeter in the early 70's. Although I wasn't there long, I learned early-on that Jeretta was someone I could turn to for encouragement and support. And always a good laugh!*

I'll never forget the day, years later, that I ran into Jeretta at ShopKo in Lincoln. We had a great time catching-up. It was summer-time, and she was busy studying Spanish. "Spanish??" I asked. "Yes," she said. "I don't know a lick of Spanish, but I have to teach it this fall!!" We both laughed at how ridiculous that sounded. But Jeretta took it all in stride and wasn't fazed a bit! No complaints, no excuses. She'd do what had to be done.

I can't imagine anyone more dedicated to their craft.

Jean Larson Hulbert - July 27, 2023 at 05:05 PM

BJ

“ *Lovely Jaretta will always be remembered. We are so privileged to have known her throughout the years as our cousin John's sweetheart and wife. She presented grace throughout her life, and added to John's humor whenever possible. Though her earthly presence has departed, we agree with the family and rejoice that though God's promises, she is in our Lord's loving arms forever. Our love to everyone. Bonnie, George and families.*

Bonnie L Johnson - July 27, 2023 at 03:28 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of *Jeretta L. Tauriella*.



July 27, 2023 at 02:40 PM



“ *Bobbi H.* purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of *Jeretta L. Tauriella*.



Bobbi H. - July 27, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *Jeretta L. Tauriella*.



July 27, 2023 at 08:15 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of *Jeretta L. Tauriella*.



July 26, 2023 at 09:26 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of *Jeretta L. Tauriella*.

July 26, 2023 at 09:26 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Jeretta L. Tauriella*.



July 26, 2023 at 08:55 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of *Jeretta L. Tauriella*.



July 26, 2023 at 05:07 PM



“ *Jeretta was that teacher that no matter what was ready to help. Study hall in the library you knew she'd be right over if you asked for help on something. Jeretta was one of those teachers that touched my life in such a positive way memories of her always bring a smile. Thank you Jeretta for always being such a positive influence in my life.*

PaulaKaiserAsmus - July 26, 2023 at 05:03 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Jeretta L. Tauriella.*



July 26, 2023 at 03:44 PM



“ *Jaretta was the first of our many great neighbors in Exeter. She was Google search before there was Google! She found and shared all sorts of literature and media that helped me to be a better teacher and my students to be better students. I have many fond memories of her, her wry humor, and sparkling smile. I will continue to think of her every time I hear John's name on Husker radio! Robert Sweetland & family*

Robert Sweetland - July 26, 2023 at 03:33 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jeretta L. Tauriella.*



July 26, 2023 at 02:55 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Jeretta L. Tauriella.*



July 26, 2023 at 02:29 PM



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

July 26, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Jeretta L. Tauriella.



July 26, 2023 at 01:35 PM



“ Alin, Margo and I are so very sorry for your loss. We are sending love and prayers for comfort to you and your family. - Margo Zumwalt & Nancy Bean

Nancy Bean - July 26, 2023 at 09:24 AM



“ Patricia Hoffschneider purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Jeretta L. Tauriella.



Patricia Hoffschneider - July 26, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ Patricia Hoffschneider planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeretta L. Tauriella.

Patricia Hoffschneider - July 26, 2023 at 01:12 AM

PH

“Where do I begin....I was Secretary to the Superintendent and School Board when Jeretta was the Media Specialist at Exeter Public Schools. She was a beautiful human being inside and out! The years I was there was during the time when colored panty hose were popular and I loved color coordinating them with my outfits. Jeretta would stop down the office and say “OK, what color of hose do you have on today.” I loved it! I made John and Jeretta’s wedding cake. If I remember right, I think she requested Royal Icing mum’s instead of roses. John, Jamie, and Jena and all of your families, you have my deepest sympathy. Jeretta is now reading to all of those heavenly children. 🙏🙏🙏

Patricia Hoffschneider - July 26, 2023 at 01:03 AM

BF

“Bonnie and George Johnson and Families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Jeretta L. Tauriella.



Bonnie and George Johnson and Families - July 25, 2023 at 08:00 PM



“Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Jeretta L. Tauriella.



July 25, 2023 at 05:06 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Jeretta L. Tauriella.*



July 25, 2023 at 03:10 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jeretta L. Tauriella.*



July 25, 2023 at 02:46 PM



“ *The Vise Family purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Jeretta L. Tauriella.*



The Vise Family - July 25, 2023 at 10:46 AM



“ *The Vise Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeretta L. Tauriella.*

The Vise Family - July 25, 2023 at 10:46 AM

BM

“ *Brenda Motis lit a candle in memory of Jeretta Tauriella*



Brenda Motis - July 24, 2023 at 09:13 PM

KR

“ *I am so thankful that Jeretta is free of pain and suffering. She has broken free from the bondage of her disease and is worshipping Jesus at this very moment! And, I'd like to add, having a grand old time with my brother Ken. She was blessed to have such a loving and caring husband and family to the very end. I love you guys!*
Kathy Rouch

Kathryn Rouch - July 24, 2023 at 08:46 PM

RR

I'm so sorry for your loss ❤️🙏🙏 Prayers for your family.

Raschelle Ross - July 25, 2023 at 09:15 PM

RV

“ *Robert Votipka lit a candle in memory of Jeretta Tauriella*



Robert D. Votipka - July 24, 2023 at 07:44 PM

DE

“ I am so saddened to hear of Jeretta’s passing. For 5 years, she recommended read alouds to my students. They were always the best! She was a sponge with children’s literature. She also hosted my first child’s baby shower in their beautiful home. I still have the rocking horse music box that she gave me. Rest in peace, dear Jeretta. May you be surrounded in your heavenly home with all the books.

Deb Eidam

Deb Eidam - July 24, 2023 at 03:51 PM