



Teri L. " Atkinson" Alitz Obituary

Teresa Lorraine Teri Atkinson Alitz died Thursday, June 25, 2026, at home surrounded by her loved ones. A celebration of life service will be held Sunday, June 28, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the Pierschbacher Funeral Home in Chariton. Following the service the celebration for Teri will continue at the Community Building at Green Acres near Rathbun Lake. Memorials may be made in care of Teri's family and will be designated at a later date.

She was born on August 1, 1949, in Lawton, Oklahoma to Glenn and Sharon Atkinson. Teri was an Army brat raised in Oklahoma, Texas, and then Iowa, where she graduated from Boone High School.

Soon after graduating, during the Vietnam war, Teri and a friend decided to join the Army on the buddy program. When she informed her dad, a Colonel in the army, he said "No daughter of mine is joining the Army". So, without further discussion, she and her friend joined the Marine Corps. Unfortunately, her buddy failed the entrance exam. Teri went solo to the place that she always said 'tried to kill her' a.k.a. Paris Island.

After her time in the service, Teri met Tim in a bar and knew immediately that she was going to marry him. A year later she got her wish. Tim got his too and married the perfect woman for him. Anyone

who knows this couple would have to agree. They soon had two kids 11 months apart and began an adventurous 55 years of marriage. They moved numerous times from Iowa to Arizona to California to Washington and everywhere in between landing back in Iowa finally. Their unconventional lifestyle was purposeful in order to keep their family of four together as they moved wherever the work for Tim was. Teri could make any place into a comfortable beautiful home. In fact, decorating became a passion of hers. She was constantly redecorating and improving the cabin they built together at Lake Rathbun in 1989.

Throughout her life, Teri usually worked Service jobs never being afraid of hard work. After raising the kids and settling into the cabin at the lake she was ready to slow down and live her best life fishing with Tim, watching the sun rise, reading, getting regular spa treatments and spoiling her dogs. However, living her best life or even her best day became an impossibility in 2007 the day their son Ted died. Teri was not to be underestimated though. She never gave up. She wanted to but never stayed in bed, she kept going and she gave Tim and Chris and the grandkids all the love she had left even through her last 5 and a half years dealing with the roller coaster cancer brought to her life.

Teri will be missed by her husband Tim Alitz, her daughter Christina Jensen (husband, Brian Jensen, children Nick Lande and Chelsey of Bondurant Logan Lande and Emily of Macksburg, Christopher Jensen and Jennifer of Winterset, Brandon Jensen and Erin of West Des Moines). Grandson Ty Alitz of St Louis. Great Grandchildren Hunter, Alivia, Reese, Mason, Drake, Emma, Murphy, and Noah. She was preceded in death by her son, Ted, her brother Ted, and her parents.

In Teri's honor take time to watch the sunrise, sit down with a good book, or give your dog some extra love and think of her.