



Carolyn Mary Tafelski

August 18, 1943 - February 6, 2026

Carolyn, wife of Robert Tafelski passed away on February 6, 2026. She was born in Grand Forks, North Dakota along with 4 siblings, to Carl Sandell and Laura (Nuss) Sandell.

Carolyn's education included grade school and high school in her hometown. After graduation, she headed to complete her degree in nursing at St. Scholastica and the University of North Dakota. She accepted her first job as a nurse in the Yale, New Haven Hospital. It was in Hennepin County Hospital in Minneapolis where Carolyn's compassion alongside her skillset advanced her to the level of nurse director and supervisor. This is where she met Robert, her partner for life and they were married in 1972 and moved to Colorado. There they had 2 daughters, Lori (Hill) and Stacey (Money). Carolyn was offered numerous positions in the medical field but chose motherhood as her next step.

Traveling and participating in running, walking and triathlon races across the US and various other countries was something Carolyn was very proud of. You would find her side-by-side with family members and friends during these events. Friday garage sales were something she never missed along with her Friday night outings.

It was family and friends that truly defined Carolyn. Her caring nature, her

ability to help those that needed it the most and her listening ear was the core of her being. She was never without a smile or a kind word. Carolyn saw the bright side to everything and made those around her feel special.

Missing Carolyn are her sister, brother, husband, 2 daughters, 2 sons-in-law and 4 grandchildren. Her love of sunshine, margaritas and chocolate cake will bring us sweet memories as our Wife, Mom, Sister and Grandma will be missed.

A rosary will be held at St. Mary's Church located at 6853 S Prince St, Littleton, CO 80120 at 11am on March 26, 2026.

A Celebration of Life will follow at Chatfield Botanical Gardens located at 8500 W Deer Creek Canyon Rd, Littleton, CO 80128 in the Green Farm Barn on March 26, 2026, from 12pm-2pm.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made in her name to the ALS Foundation. <https://alsrockymountain.org/donate>

Previous Events

Rosary

MAR 26. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

St Mary's Catholic Church
6853 South Prince Street
Littleton, CO 80120

Celebration of Life

MAR 26. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms
8500 West Deer Creek Canyon Road
Littleton, CO 80128

Tribute Wall

BD

“ Carolyn and I met when we lived in the same apartment complex when we were single. We met the Superior WI guys and the shenanigans began. Lots of adventures and soon Carolyn married Bob. I married Tom and we were friends forever. She was a caring and kind person who always had time for others. I will miss her, but smile when I recall our memories.

Barbara Deans - February 12 at 02:24 PM

PT

“ Our sister-in-law, Carolyn, would light up the room with her beautiful smile and contagious laughter. She loved to share stories of their family’s travels and passion for running marathons, local races, and the various cultural experiences. Kind and caring for others definitely defined her character, which was evident not only in her nursing career, but every day life.

Our family enjoyed the special times together when she and Robert and their family traveled to Robert’s hometown Mellen, WI, and our family met up there, every 4th of July. The Colorado contingent would run the races, and our family would stand on the sidelines cheering them on. 😭. This is a memory stitched into our hearts with love. Carolyn ran her last race on February 6, 2026, battling ALS with dignity and faith 🙏.

Our visit last July with Carolyn and Robert, Lori’s and Stacey’s families, in Colorado, is etched in our minds. We witnessed the deep love in their family, and the courageous daily rigor Carolyn exhibited as she faced ALS; and still that smile on her face, especially when “Her Lyla” skateboarded over to see Gramma Carolyn! We celebrated granddaughter Ruby’s surprise birthday together. Carolyn was, rightly, a proud grandmother.

We remember Carolyn and Robert’s wedding, getting Robert’s parents out of Mellen all the way to Minneapolis. Memories are made of such events. Or when Lori was born, Uncle Mike was visiting them, and he said he knew Carolyn was going to have the baby that day because she was cleaning and picking up things and walking around, like he witnessed cows do having lived on farm (hahaha)! Oh the memories!!

Carolyn will be deeply missed. May she now be running into the loving arms of God. Rest in peace, dear sister-in-law. Love never fails; it’s eternal.

Our prayers of comfort for Robert and the entire family. 🙏❤️. We

love you all.

*Walt and Pam Tafelski
(Robert's brother and wife)*

Pam Tafelski - February 11 at 08:45 PM