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Wendy Lynne Ancefsky

June 29, 1963 - Nov. 16, 2026

With a spirit as untamed as the wolves she loved so fiercely, Wendy Lynne Ancefsky, 63, of Morganton, North Carolina, answered the final call of the wild on November 16, 2026. Finally running free, she was undoubtedly met at the Rainbow Bridge by every creature she ever sheltered—led by her beloved wolves, Apache, Timber, Caesar, Cheyenne, and Cherokee.

Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Wendy could never be lassoed to one place. Life carried her like the wind—from rancher days in Montana and Wyoming to farmhouse fun in Upstate New York, to sun-drenched days in Florida, before finally leading her home to the mountains of North Carolina. Through every mile, she lived with boundless grit and fierce devotion to her pack, often favoring the four-legged kind over the two-legged.

Nicknamed "the Alpha," Wendy lived on her own terms—boisterous, funny, and razor-sharp, you always heard her before you saw her. A true creature of the night, she could be found tending to her "critters" by headlamp in the pitch dark, or holding court in her porch rocker with the soft ember of a Marlboro Red glowing as Elton John, the Righteous Brothers, or ’90s country drifted through the mountain air.

Her home was her haven, and her heart was unmatched; the louder she got with you,

the deeper she loved you—a fierce affection her closest family proudly wore as a badge of honor. Though often a lone wolf, anyone let past her guard gained a protector for life—including the cherished pack she found over a decade ago at Mull’s Grove Baptist Church, filled with people who saved her life in so many ways.

On her final day, Wendy completed the sacred circle of life—taking her last breath in the arms of her only daughter, the very child whose first breath she had welcomed into the world almost 37 years before.

Left to carry her fire forward are that very daughter, Kasey Watkins (and her husband, Steven), and Wendy’s devoted husband, Don Richbourg. The youngest of five, she also leaves behind her mother, Anne Connor; her brothers, Stephen and Leo Ancefsky; her sisters, Cheryl Lee and Forest Eastwood; her chosen sister, Rose Andrew, and Wendy’s godchildren; as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m., Saturday, December 5, 2026 at Mull’s Grove Baptist Church and a celebration of her life will begin at 2 p.m. in the church.

Wendy had one golden rule when it came to parting ways: you never say goodbye. "We are always just supposed to say, 'See you later!'" she insisted, holding fast to the promise that no separation is ever truly permanent—whether for family, friends, or fur babies. So, until the day we hear that unmistakable voice echoing through the mountains again, we won't say goodbye to the Alpha. In true Wendy fashion, we’ll simply say: See you later.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

No tributes added yet.