



## Ms. Lynn M. Johnson

November 15, 1953 - December 26, 2025

My mother, Lynn Martine Johnson, died at the age of 72 on December 26, 2025 in her Berkshire home, with her dog Layla by her side. She was born on November 15, 1953 in New York; daughter to Alexander & Gloria Johnson and sister to Allyson. Lynn attended Oberlin College where she received a Bachelor of Music degree from the Conservatory of Music with a minor in Russian in May of 1975, and then played two summers in Tanglewood with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1976 and 1977, where she had the opportunity to play under one of her greatest inspirations, conductor Leonard Bernstein.

She went on to become a professional symphony musician performing as a violist with the San Diego Symphony, San Diego Opera and professional symphony orchestras in Ohio and Alabama. She was also a labor negotiator and organizer for the American Federation of Musicians for nearly 10 years, negotiating collective-bargaining agreements for professional symphony musicians across the United States and Canada, as well as administering complex union contracts and writing articles for trade publications. For the AFM she traveled around much of this country, living on the road through hot summers without air conditioning and her cairn terrier Boogie riding co-pilot. She was devoted to the union and went wherever musicians needed her sharp wit and detail-oriented mind to help them with their struggles, fighting for reasonable pay and fair working conditions.

Later on in life, she obtained a paralegal certificate in civil litigation, with honors, from the University of San Diego in 1995, and became a senior paralegal at Gordon & Rees starting in 1997, where she won the distinguished paralegal of the year award there in 2007. She continued to use her legal knowledge at Berkshire Health Systems in Pittsfield Massachusetts, where she worked as a paralegal aiding the medical profession and was appreciated there, as always, for her hard work, sense of humor, and charismatic nature, until she retired in 2017.

Lynn Johnson was a force of nature and caring friend with an uncanny knack for inspiring those around her, making lifelong connections throughout her many career paths that she honored until the end of her life. She excelled at everything she did and achieved greatness wherever she put her mind to it. She leaves a great absence in her wake and she will be missed.

A celebration of life will be held for her at her sister's home in Jersey City on May 3, 2026. Please contact Allyson at [allysonthesplicer@icloud.com](mailto:allysonthesplicer@icloud.com) for exact time and location if you are able to attend

# Tribute Wall

NA

“ Lynn was a friend of many years, starting when we worked together in San Diego. She was such a smart and interesting person, always fun to be around. I'm sorry she's gone too soon. Love to her son, David, and the rest of her family.

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**Nancy Agres** - May 01 at 07:14 PM

DM

“ I first met Lynn in the late 1980s when she came to Colorado Springs to help with the Colorado Springs Symphony negotiations. We kept in touch over the years, and crossed paths many times at various AFM conferences and conventions.

*She was a great friend and colleague and she made a meaningful impact wherever she went. She fought with intense determination for everything that was important to her.*

*She is missed!*

*Diane Merrill, Colorado Springs, CO*

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**Diane Merrill** - May 01 at 06:32 PM

DM

“ I first met Lynn in the late 1980s when she came to Colorado Springs to help with the Colorado Springs Symphony negotiations. We kept in touch over the years, and crossed paths many times at various AFM conferences and conventions. She was a great friend and colleague. She made a meaningful impact wherever she went. She was a determined fighter for all that was important to her, and she took that intensity to the battle with her illness as well! She is missed!

*Diane Merrill, Colorado Springs, CO*

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**Diane Merrill** - April 28 at 06:17 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ms. Lynn M. Johnson.

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April 27 at 11:18 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Lynn M. Johnson.



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April 27 at 11:18 AM

AI

“ As fellow musicians involved in the support of others in the context of orchestral labor negotiations, my wife Diane Merrill and I had the privilege of working with & and calling Lynn our friend for nearly 40 years! I will always remember sharing a mutual love of baseball when our two favorite teams respectively her Red Sox and my Yankees would play one another. From a long distance we'd often text each other during nationally televised games commenting on plays real time. Lynn's courage and strength demonstrated while navigating her illness was an inspiration. She is missed by those of us who knew her.

*Alan Isaacson - Colorado Springs, CO*

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**Alan Isaacson** - April 23 at 09:40 PM