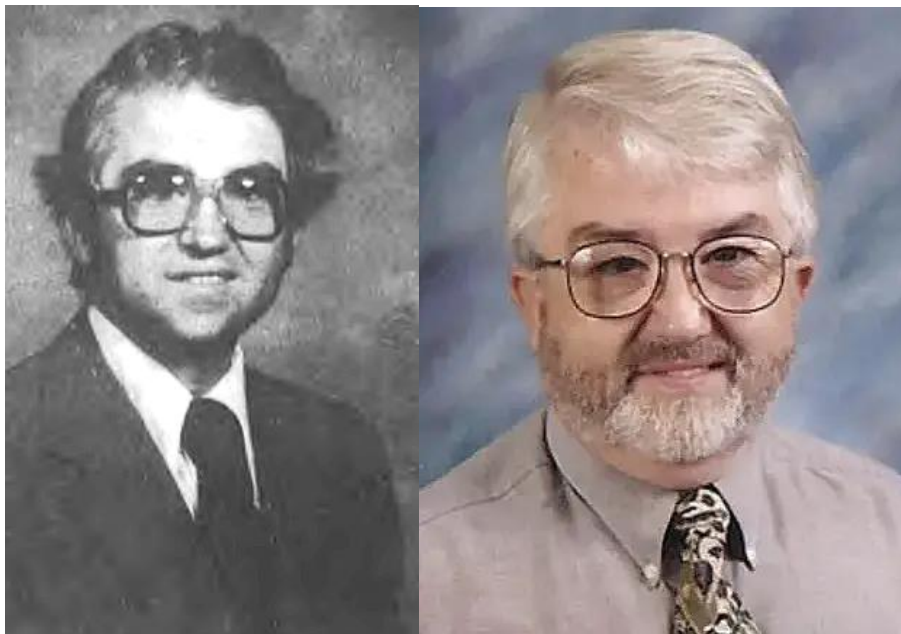




Jerry L. Siders
June 10, 1942 – August 30, 2026
Former Teacher at NSD

Jerry Siders, 84, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on August 30, 2026, in Longmont, Colorado. He was born on June 10, 1942, in Webster City, Iowa, to Marion and Retha Siders. Jerry attended the Iowa School for the Deaf and later Gallaudet University. One of his proudest achievements was earning his master's degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. On December 18, 1965, he married the love of his life, Bonnie Luedtke. Together, they made their home in Omaha, Nebraska, where they built a life filled with family, service, travel, and a deep commitment to the Deaf community. Jerry dedicated much of his career to teaching at both the Nebraska School for the Deaf and the Iowa School for the Deaf. His passion for education and advocacy earned him the honor of Nebraska Teacher of the Year in 1978. He was also inducted into the Iowa School for the Deaf Hall of Fame.

Throughout his life, Jerry was a tireless advocate for the Deaf community. He served in numerous roles with the Nebraska Association of the Deaf, the National Association of the Deaf, the Iowa Association of the Deaf, and the Nebraska Commission for the Hearing Impaired. He worked diligently to promote compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and to ensure greater accessibility, equality, and opportunities for Deaf individuals. After retiring from teaching, Jerry remained active and continued to give back to his community. He volunteered at the Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum, where he enjoyed helping restore historic aircraft. He and Bonnie shared a love of travel and had the opportunity to visit many different places together. Jerry spent many hours gathering deaf news, history, and events as Editor of the Sign Language News, where he often shared his fun sense of humor by telling jokes. Jerry was an avid lifelong stamp collector and took great pride in his collection. He enjoyed watching many sporting events and was a true Husker Football fan. Above all, however, family was at the center of his life. He cherished time spent with his family and friends and especially loved being "Bumpa" to his 8 grandchildren.

Later in life, Jerry and Bonnie moved to Longmont, Colorado, where he enjoyed retirement and especially loved the beauty of the mountains.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Bonnie Siders; his three children, Rick Siders, Doug (Karen) Siders and Kris (Kyle) Koenig; and his eight grandchildren, Haley, Sophia, Olivia, Madeline and Abigail Koenig; Brian and Adrian Siders; and Tyler Brown. He is also survived by many other relatives and dear friends who will miss him deeply. He was preceded in death by his parents, Marion and Retha Siders; his sister Joanne McCullough; his brother Don Siders; and his favorite dog Sparky.

Jerry will be remembered for his dedication to education, his lifelong advocacy for the Deaf community, his love of family, his adventurous spirit, and the kindness and determination he shared with those around him. His legacy will live on through the many lives he touched through his teaching and the difference he made for generations of Deaf individuals.

Visitation will be held Friday, September 11, 2026, from 10-11 AM at Forest Lawn Funeral Home. Funeral service will begin at 11 AM. Burial will take place at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

