

Nebraska School for the Deaf Alumni Association



# HALL OF FAME

Inducted in 2026

CONGRATULATIONS

TO

PATTI REITZ

AND

LINSAY DARNALL, SR.

# PATTI REITZ- CLASS OF 1960



**Patti Reitz's** contributions to the Nebraska School for the Deaf (NSD) and the broader Deaf community in Nebraska are numerous and significant:

**Pioneering Educator at NSD:** Patti is the only alumna to return to NSD as an elementary-level teacher. For 26 years, she was the sole Deaf teacher in the elementary department, providing invaluable representation and a strong Deaf role model for generations of young students.

**Advocacy Through Education:** Expanding her educational reach beyond NSD, she became the only Deaf teacher hired by the Omaha Public School system to teach American Sign Language (ASL) courses at Burke High School. She also shared her expertise by teaching ASL courses at several colleges in the Omaha area.

**Exceptional Longevity and Dedication:** Her teaching career spanned an incredible 54 years in total, demonstrating a lifetime commitment to the education of both deaf and hearing students.

**Community Leadership:** Patti has held various leadership roles for both the Omaha Association of the Deaf (OAD) and the Nebraska Association of the Deaf (NAD), actively participating as a member, committee leader, and chairperson.

**Advocacy for Deaf Culture and Language:** Patti is deeply committed to preserving the language and social communities of Deaf individuals. Her loyalty to NSDAA members and her continuous support for the organization itself are testaments to this commitment.

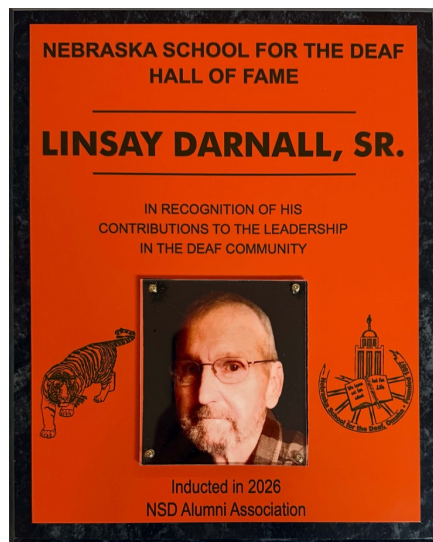
**Literary Contributions:** She authored the children's book "Pete the Purple Penguin," further contributing to deaf-friendly literature.

**Strong Educational Foundation:** Patti holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Gallaudet University and a Master of Arts degree from California State University, Northridge (CSUN), reflecting her pursuit of excellence in her field.

**Vibrant Community Engagement:** Beyond her professional roles, Patti is a passionate participant in deaf social events, fostering community connections at gatherings such as Deaf Midwest Women events, Nebraska football game gatherings, and Omaha Senior Citizens events.

**Concluding Statement:** Patti Reitz's career is defined by her commitment to breaking barriers and her tireless efforts to support and uplift the Deaf community. Her legacy is one of educational excellence, leadership, and heartfelt advocacy. She is truly deserving of recognition in the NSDAA Hall of Fame.

# LINSAY DARNALL, SR.- CLASS OF 1964



**Linsay Darnall, Sr.**, a loyal member of the deaf community and the Nebraska School for the Deaf (NSD) family, embodies the spirit of leadership, athletic excellence, and unwavering service that defines a Hall of Fame inductee.

**Athletic Prowess & Leadership:**

As the inaugural Key Club President at NSD during the 1963-64 academic year, Linsay set a precedent for student leadership.

His remarkable athleticism extended beyond NSD, with tryouts for the U.S. Men's Volleyball Team and all-star status playing for the MAAD Deaf Men's Volleyball Team, showcasing dedication and skill.

**Community Service & Dedication:**

Linsay's commitment to NSD continued through his brief but impactful tenure as a houseparent.

A loyal member and leader in OAD, NEaD, and NSDAA, he also served on the boards of these vital organizations, demonstrating profound loyalty and involvement.

His dedication culminated in helping to build the NSD Museum and serving as a Polk Van Driver, ensuring support for students.

**Entrepreneurship & Community Spirit:**

Beyond his institutional roles, Linsay established two successful businesses—a barber shop and a wood-making shop—reflecting his industrious nature.

Ultimately, Linsay Darnall, Sr.'s life is a testament to his deep love for his community, always active and integral to its success.

**Concluding Statement:**

His multifaceted contributions as a member, athlete, and entrepreneur make him truly deserving of recognition in the NSDAA Hall of Fame.

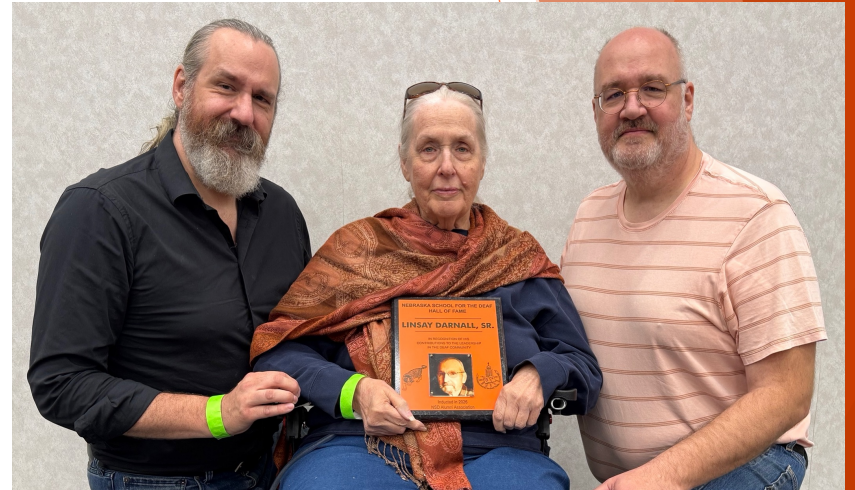
## Awards presented by NSDAA President Amy Willman



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Patti Reitz and her children

## Awards presented by NSDAA President Amy Willman



Son Linsay Darnall, Jr., Wife Kay Darnall,  
and Son Daniel Darnall

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



**Wishing Patti Reitz and  
Linsay Darnall, Sr.  
a HUGE congratulations  
once again on this  
well-deserved honor!  
Your dedication and  
contributions mean so  
much to our community.**

**NSDAA is so proud of both  
of you being alumni of  
NSD.**