



Kathleen Louise Perch

February 4, 1949 - May 10, 2026

Kathleen Louise Perch, lovingly known as Kathy, passed away peacefully on May 10, 2026, at the age of 77.

Born Kathleen Louise Antonino on February 4, 1949, in Van Nuys, California, Kathy was the beloved daughter of John Batista Antonino and Margaret "Mickie" Frank Antonino. The oldest of three children, she spent her childhood in Bakersfield, California, alongside her sister, Barbara, and brother, Chuck. Kathy graduated from Garces Memorial High School and later attended Fresno State University.

On April 3, 1970, Kathy married the love of her life, Basil Jivon Perch. Together, they built a beautiful life filled with love, laughter, family, and unwavering devotion for more than 52 years until Basil's passing on December 12, 2022.

Kathy's greatest joy in life was her family. Kathy was a loving and devoted mother to Tiffany Wainwright (Daniel), Dedi Somavia (Bryan), and BJ Perch (Megan). She dedicated many years to being a loving stay-at-home mother, raising her three children with endless creativity and unconditional love. Kathy loved spending time with her children and grandchildren, creating memories, taking them on special outings, and enjoying cherished Sunday family dinners.

She was an incredibly proud and adoring grandmother to her ten cherished grandchildren: Mitchell, Nicholas, Ashley, Sydney, Jacob, Shelby, BJ, Alex, Tyler, and Kylie. Nana, as her grandchildren affectionately called her, treasured every moment with them, and they were truly the light of her life.

Kathy had a remarkable creative spirit and was a gifted artist. She loved drawing, sewing, and crafting. In the 1980s, alongside her dear friends Sandy Brown and Diane Rose, she co-founded a home-based craft business called All Thumbs. Together, they created handcrafted treasures that became beloved by many throughout the Visalia community.

In 1986, Kathy returned to Fresno State to follow her passion for education, earning her bachelor's degree and teaching credential before beginning a meaningful and rewarding second chapter as an educator. While teaching, Kathy earned her master's degree in education.

Kathy proudly served as a teacher with Visalia Unified School District at Mineral King Elementary School from November 18, 1991, until her retirement on June 5, 2008. She taught both kindergarten and fifth grade, pouring her heart, energy, and time into every student who entered her classroom. Kathy found her true calling in education. Teaching was where she found her place and truly shone. Kathy was an extraordinary teacher who believed deeply in the power of education and in making every child feel seen, encouraged, and capable. She touched the lives of countless students throughout her career, and the impact of her kindness, patience, and dedication will be remembered for generations. During her years at Mineral King, she also formed cherished lifelong friendships with fellow staff members.

In 1993, Kathy and Basil founded BJ Perch Construction, building not only a successful family business but another meaningful chapter of their life together. Even while teaching full-time, Kathy spent countless evenings

helping support the business alongside Basil. After retiring from education, she joined BJ Perch Construction on a more full-time basis, working side by side with her husband until her retirement in 2021. Retirement simply allowed her to step fully into her favorite role, being a full-time Nana.

Her creativity became one of the greatest gifts she shared with her family. Kathy created Halloween costumes, sewed dresses, and helped make dress-up days fun and exciting with her endless creativity. In addition, Nana spent countless hours helping her grandchildren with school projects, arts and crafts, and elaborate creations. The beloved second-grade Oak Grove storybook pumpkins remain some of the family's most treasured memories.

Kathy's giving spirit extended beyond her family and career. She was a proud member of Las Madrinas Guild, an organization dedicated to raising funds in support of Valley Children's Hospital and the children and families it serves throughout the Central Valley.

Kathy embraced life's simple joys. She was a devoted Disney and Mickey Mouse fan, a love that happily spread to many of her grandchildren. She also had a special talent for finding the perfect treasure, and those who knew her knew you could often find her happily browsing the aisles of TJ Maxx, Marshalls, or HomeGoods.

Kathy's warmth, beautiful smile, and generous spirit will be deeply missed by all of her family and friends.

Kathy is preceded in death by her parents, John Batista Antonino and Margaret "Mickie" Frank Antonino; and her loving husband Basil Jivon Perch.

She is survived by her children, grandchildren, sister Barbara Daniels (Ellis), brother Chuck Antonino, extended family, dear friends, former students, and

all those fortunate enough to know and love her.

Though her passing leaves an immeasurable void, her family finds comfort in knowing she is reunited with her beloved husband, Basil.

Kathleen Louise Perch leaves behind a beautiful legacy of love, creativity, service, and devotion. She will be deeply missed, forever loved, and always remembered.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Tribute Wall

SR

“ *Such a graceful and elegant lady! Her graciousness is embedded in my heart.*

Rest in Peace dear Kathy.

Sharon Riddington

sharon Riddington - May 22 at 03:51 PM

MS

“ *I had the privilege of working side by side with Kathy for many of her first years at Mineral King School. The wisdom and maturity she possessed coming into the profession having raised three incredible children with Basil provided her with the confidence and ability to be an amazing teacher right in the beginning. She was able to reach and provide for the neediest of students both socially and intellectually, to those high achievers who needed challenges to soar even higher.*

Kathy was a team builder and cheerleader in any group situation whether it was at a grade level, year round track, or Master's Degree cohort group. She was sensitive to the needs of others and their personal well-being. She had a great sense of humor that continued to pop up even in her final years.

Her contributions to this earthly life were many. Having witnessed her impact in this one area of her incredible life, I realize how lucky I was in crossing her path.

May her memory be a blessing.

Myron Sheklian

Myron Sheklian - May 21 at 02:35 PM

MS

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Myron Sheklian

Myron Sheklian - May 21 at 10:16 AM

RS

“ I am Ruthie Spinks I worked with Kathy when living at Shannon Ranch quail Park I am a Carepartner I enjoy working with Kathy making sure she eat her Dinner and laughing with her I miss Kathy very much.

Ruthie Spinks - May 20 at 07:50 PM