

Brenda Kay Berry

May 16, 1948 - October 27, 2018

Brenda Kay Berry, 70, Bolivar, died at her home Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018, of a strong but broken heart, complicated by vascular dementia and strokes. She was the “Brenda” of Brenda’s Café in Bolivar, a business she started in 1999 after buying out her twin brother from a café operated in the same downtown location. She continued to own the business, but retired from its operation in 2012, turning over most of those duties to her trusted and loyal sidekick, Trish Berry, and leaving the bookkeeping in the hands of her twin brother.

Survivors include her husband of 40 years, Dave, of the home; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Heath, Josh and wife Kim; five grandchildren, Hunter Dene, Katelyn Nicole, Benjamin Eric, Maxwell David, and Jace Douglas Berry, all of Bolivar; her twin brother Danny Ray Steinshouer and his wife Patty, also of Bolivar; and nieces, cousins and more.

She was a member of Slagle Missionary Baptist Church and was saved there at the age of 13. The family also has old roots with Sunset Missionary Baptist Church and new ones with Sentinel Missionary Baptist Church.

Brenda’s smile and friendly spirit served her well throughout a working career that began in Liberty when she was a high school freshman and continued at the famous Penguin in Bolivar, starting her sophomore year.

She would later become a secretary for Orval Davis Tire Company and then for Teters Floral Products. Later jobs were with Dean Liston, CPA, and 16 years with Dr. Lane Nutt, O.D., before eventually going into business for

herself, cooking for and serving countless old and new friends.

A previous business venture for Brenda and Dave included the three-year ownership of Bolivar Bowl and Fantasy Island Arcade in downtown Bolivar, from 1979 until 1982.

She was a working mother who still found time to be all things to her sons while they were going to school and playing all kinds of ball. Wherever they were playing, she was there, only seldom to the chagrin of officials and/or coaches.

Brenda was born in Springfield as a Polk County citizen to Lester and Veta June (Wells) Steinshouer and lived here most of her life. She was a 1966 graduate of Bolivar High School, but she attended elementary schools at Morrisville and Pleasant Hope.

She developed her smile and friendly spirit throughout her early years despite the tragic death of her father when she and her brother were only five years old. Lester was killed in September 1953 in a dynamite mishap while digging post holes on the family's farm near Sunset, southeast of Bolivar.

That tragedy forged an extra strong bond between the twins and their mother. A short second marriage for Veta eventually took the family to Wichita, Kan. and then to Liberty before returning to Bolivar. But Veta mostly raised the kids on her own, in large part with waitress jobs at many popular eateries in and around Bolivar.

Those included her son's establishments, Danny's Nifty Café and On Broadway Diner, and finally Brenda's Café. In between, she also completed a career with Teters Floral Products.

Veta made most of the clothes for the twins in their childhood, including the dress and suit worn to their father's funeral.

Among the earliest public appearances for the infant twins was for the extremely hot July 5 dedication of the Simon Bolivar statue presented to Bolivar by the nation of Venezuela, featuring the president of that nation and President Harry S Truman.

Veta's painful death to bone cancer in 2004 was a second tragedy, one from

which Brenda never fully recovered. Hence, the broken heart as a contributing cause of death. Her own terminal issues set in while at her mother's bedside, denying her grandchildren the full opportunity to enjoy the same bond of time her sons had enjoyed with her mother into their adulthood.

Despite the depression, strokes and dementia, her faith was firm in the belief of an eventual happy family reunion.

Visitation is at Butler Funeral Home from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 31.

Services are there at 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 1, 2018, with Bro. Mike Bruce presiding. Burial is at Slagle Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are recommended to either Slagle Cemetery, CMH Hospice, Alzheimer's Association, Missouri Press Foundation, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Cemetery Details

Slagle Cemetery

S 142nd Rd
Morrisville, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **31**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar
407 E. Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
(417) 326-5233
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

NOV **1**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar
407 E. Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
(417) 326-5233
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Brenda Kay Berry*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Brenda Kay Berry*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Maria Talbot lit a candle in memory of Brenda Kay Berry*



Maria Talbot - November 07, 2018 at 12:26 AM



“ *I never got acquainted with Brenda until Heath came to Mount Zion. Truly a nice caring lady. Verna and I extend to you and yours our deepest care and sympathy.*

Dean and Verna

Dean Winfiel - November 06, 2018 at 01:22 PM

LV

“ Our deepest condolences to all of Brenda's family. I have such wonderful memories of our time together, working at Teter's, playing softball (many years ago), hanging out at Veda's, and cruising around Bolivar. She was such a light and joyous spirit and a positive inspiration to all around her. She will be sorely missed. Sending prayers to the family at this very difficult time. Linda (Hampton) and Denny Vanderbilt



Linda Vanderbilt - November 02, 2018 at 08:19 AM

MB

“ Dave, I have thought of you often and the challenging years you have endured. Brenda always had a beautiful smile and so fun to be around starting in high school. All of us have missed the beautiful Brenda and how confusing and unsettled for her. Bless you, Danny, Patty , kids and grandkids for missing out on years of making good memories. I hope peace is now Brenda's and all of the family and the many friends. God Bless

Marilyn Brooks - November 01, 2018 at 12:50 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Brenda Kay Berry.



October 31, 2018 at 04:37 PM

JC

“ Justin, Kristy, Peyton, Claire, Paul & Shirley Cofer purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Brenda Kay Berry.



Justin, Kristy, Peyton, Claire, Paul & Shirley Cofer - October 31, 2018 at 01:49 PM

BS

“ Betty Jean Steinshouer purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Brenda Kay Berry.

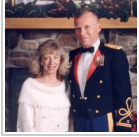


Betty Jean Steinshouer - October 31, 2018 at 06:17 AM

CV

“ so very sad about Brenda, always kind, and giving to everyone she met. I felt very lucky being her employee and friend. wishing comfort to Dave, boys Danny & patty. and her little buddy Hunter. Connie Vance

connie vance - October 30, 2018 at 04:50 PM



“ So very sorry to hear this news. Brenda and I were friends as children in the Sunset community and I loved seeing her in the café after my husband and I returned to this area. I remember the tragic day of her father's accident. when we were small children. I will always remember her Mother Veta's wonderful pies. Special people. Special memories.



Christine Thiessen - October 29, 2018 at 09:41 PM

DW

“ We are so sorry for the lost of the wife and friend that you once knew. We know it has been a long and hard time that you have had to endure. Our love and prayers go out to you.....Don and Jeannie Warden

Don & Jeannie Warden - October 29, 2018 at 08:33 PM

LS

“ We do not have words to express our sympathy for the loss of your dear one. I will never forget the first time I saw Danny Ray and Brenda Kay as small children! They were so adorable. Dear Brenda gave so much of herself to everyone around her and in her life. Brenda was such a wonderful "people person"- much like her parents. Please try to remember that God knew just when to relieve Brenda of all her cares and suffering. Surely our loss is heaven's gain. Each of you are in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless each of you.

Lloyd and Donna Steinshouer

Lloyd Steinshouer - October 29, 2018 at 05:41 PM

TC

“ *The Wells, Claudia, Kevin, Deb, Kurtis, April purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Brenda Kay Berry.*



The Wells, Claudia, Kevin, Deb, Kurtis, April - October 29, 2018
at 02:27 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Brenda Kay Berry.*



October 29, 2018 at 12:22 AM

DW

“ *Farewell to a beautiful Lady I was privileged to know for 40 years. She was funny, classy and very genuine. A pleasure to be around. Loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She will be greatly missed. Prayers for comfort and peace for Dave and family.*

Daryl G Watkins - October 28, 2018 at 10:34 PM

DW

“ *Daryl G Watkins lit a candle in memory of Brenda Kay Berry*



Daryl G Watkins - October 28, 2018 at 10:24 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brenda Kay Berry.*



October 28, 2018 at 09:21 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss. Prayers for the family.*

Dan & Judy Carman - October 28, 2018 at 08:37 PM



“ *Dave, and family,
We are sending our heart-felt condolences to all of you, after the passing of your family matriarch. We think of you and your family often, especially reminiscing about Hunter and our boys, Jackson and Kort, playing basketball and making good friendships in Bolivar and Polk County that will hopefully last a lifetime. I'm sure it's been a challenging time for all of you these last few years, and particularly for Brenda.
Wishing you all the best in this sad and difficult time,
Paul Breshears and family
jpaulbreshears@gmail.com*

Paul & Meg Breshears - October 28, 2018 at 07:57 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Brenda Kay Berry.*



October 28, 2018 at 07:24 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Brenda Kay Berry.* ”



October 28, 2018 at 06:44 PM