



## Brenda Gene Knowles

October 11, 1956 - March 7, 2023

Brenda Gene Knowles, cherished mother, wife, sister, and friend, passed away on March 7th, 2023 at 66 in Durham, North Carolina.

Born October 11, 1956 in Quinwood, West Virginia to Gene and Romaine (McClung) Lipps, Brenda was the third of four children. At the age of three, she moved to Northern Virginia with her family, and it was there that she spent most of her life. She settled in Manassas, where she raised her two sons, Isaac (41) and Tim (37), with her husband of over 45 years, Ken. In June of 2022, Brenda and Ken moved to North Carolina to be closer to their son Isaac and his wife Falyn. The two had hoped to buy a home there and also travel the country with their beloved dog and constant companion, Dickens.

As a child, she loved to sing along to Mitch Miller and Burl Ives, and as an adult to contemporary Christian and 70s pop music. She was recognized for her melodious voice, and was often asked to sing solo or with her sister Betsy at her church, and later in duets with Ken on guitar.

Family was Brenda's highest priority. She stayed connected to her roots, frequently traveling back to West Virginia to visit relatives. She also enjoyed vacationing across the country with Ken, Tim, and Isaac. Christmas and Easter were her favorite times of year, as she loved to give (and receive) thoughtful gifts and spend time with her friends and family.

Fiercely independent, fair-minded, and compassionate, Brenda was a stalwart advocate for her family, friends, and members of her community. Driven by a deep calling to help others, she earned a Bachelor of Liberal Studies in Social Work from the University of Mary Washington, and later an MA in Adult Education from Central Michigan University. She dedicated herself to aiding those in need, working as a teacher's aide for handicapped children, and later as a social worker for several area non-profits and the City of Manassas. She approached her work with dedication, and her kindness and tough love improved the lives of many. She left her job in 2007 in order to care for her mother Romaine, and later her mother-in-law, Ann Knowles.

Brenda was preceded in death by her older siblings, Betsy and Bucky. She is survived by her husband Ken, sons Tim and Isaac, her sister Bonnie Holcomb, her niece Marty, her great-niece Abbie, and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews in Virginia and West Virginia. She is also survived by many dear friends, including her buddy, Pam, and her "amigas", Faith and Kaye.

Brenda will be laid to rest at Bright View cemetery in Warrenton, Virginia. A viewing will be held on Tuesday March 14th, 2023 at Pierce Funeral Home in Manassas from 7 to 9 PM. A memorial service will be held at Pierce Funeral Home at noon on the 15th, followed by burial. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to CASA CIS (<https://casacis.org/donate>) (Court Appointed Special Advocates, Children's Intervention Services) in Brenda's honor.

Brenda's memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her. She will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

# Cemetery Details

## Bright View Cemetery

8265 Lunsford Road  
Warrenton, VA 20186

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 14. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
pfh@piercefh.com  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

## Funeral Service

MAR 15. 12:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
pfh@piercefh.com  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pierce Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Brenda Gene Knowles*



---

**Pierce Funeral Home** - March 14, 2023 at 03:46 PM

DR

“ *Dear Mr. Knowles, Tim, and Isaac,*

*I'm sorry for your loss. I have fond memories of Mrs. Knowles from her years at Haydon. She was a big help to me and others, especially to you two-Tim and Isaac. May your family find comfort now and in the days ahead.*

*Mrs. Reynolds*

---

**Daisy Reynolds** - March 18, 2023 at 10:13 AM

CD

“ *Ken, I am so sorry for your great loss! Brenda sounds like such a warm, caring, wonderful wife, mother and friend with whom you had a full and happy life. May your heart heal with God's grace, time, and wonderful memories. May she rest in God's peace. I am glad I got to meet Brenda at our reunion.*

---

**Chris Karpinski Dardis** - March 15, 2023 at 06:51 PM

CL

“ Brenda and I shared over 40 years of memories - laughter, tears, weddings, funerals, secrets, broken dishes (I think a total of 6 glasses over one Thanksgiving), secrets, heartaches, recipes, and the list goes on. She loved like she laughed - loud and with gusto! She loved her family with all her heart and I know her entire family will miss her. I'm so sorry that we can't be there today. We send our sincere condolences to you all. We will always keep these memories close in our hearts. May God bless you and season your memories with HIS perfect peace and comfort.  
Love and prayers,  
Dennis and Cheryl

---

**Cheryl Lipps** - March 15, 2023 at 11:07 AM

JZ

“ Brenda is one of my earliest memories when moving to Manassas in 1974. She was a good friend and will be very much missed.

---

**Jack Zentmeyer** - March 15, 2023 at 08:45 AM

AL

“ Aaron & Leanne Larnerd purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Brenda Gene Knowles.



---

**Aaron & Leanne Larnerd** - March 14, 2023 at 05:14 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Brenda Gene Knowles.*



---

March 13, 2023 at 09:10 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Brenda Gene Knowles.*



---

March 13, 2023 at 08:33 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Brenda Gene Knowles.*



---

March 13, 2023 at 05:28 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Brenda Gene Knowles.*



---

March 13, 2023 at 04:53 PM

RC

“ Ken, it's hard to put into words how we feel right now, not only about everyone's loss of Brenda, but also about our thoughts for her family's future, especially you. The immediate future will be hard for you, but we truly believe that those who really knew Brenda will be there for you and that includes Dave and me. If there is anything you need, especially just an ear to listen, please don't hesitate to reach out. Brenda's spirit and enjoyment for life will always be with all of us and can help you as we all continue to remember Brenda in our own ways, and not only grieve our loss of her, but also celebrate her life. Robin and Dave



---

**Robin Clark** - March 13, 2023 at 03:48 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brenda Gene Knowles.



---

March 13, 2023 at 01:53 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Brenda Gene Knowles.



---

March 13, 2023 at 12:08 PM

DJ

“ Tim and Isaac,  
I am so sorry to learn of your mom's passing. Although I didn't know her well, I remember that she was a very friendly, sweet lady. I wish there was something I could say to make this better. You and your family are in my prayers during this sad time.

Dale (Potts) Jepson - March 13, 2023 at 08:06 AM

NM

Dear Ken, Isaac, and Tim, It has been my pleasure and privilege to be your next door neighbor as we had and raised our families side by side. I remember your mom being very kind, giving and what we in Michigan call a direct speaker, but most of all she was very happy and it was contagious! I remember many weekends the boys would tell me that they're making sandwiches and driving to DC to give them to the homeless. Her approach to Christianity was "hands on". Teaching by doing. What a wonderful way to teach your children! I remember her sending over a casserole and supporting me when one of our children was in a near fatal car crash in Alexandria. Bill and I were either in her room together or took turns. We slept in her room in a "Geri" chair" if we were lucky or on a regular chair or on the floor. Our daughter survived and moved to rehab in Charlottesville. She went back to work in the Coast Guard, retired, and now works as a teacher's aide in a private school which is across the street from her Old Town condo in Alexandria. She would not have survived without prayer! My other children are married or engaged to wonderful spouses. A lot of prayers have helped their children, careers, and outlooks. I know that you are missing her. Prayer can help you. She is in a better place and very happy! We will pray that we can join her someday.. She has been a model who has set the standard high and lived it! May God Bless you and keep you from harm! Love, Noreen McCafferty and family

Noreen McCafferty - March 13, 2023 at 03:18 PM

NM

Noreen McCafferty and family  
Comment above

Noreen McCafferty - March 13, 2023 at 03:19 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of Brenda Gene Knowles.



March 13, 2023 at 07:56 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Brenda Gene Knowles.



March 12, 2023 at 11:20 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Brenda Gene Knowles.



March 12, 2023 at 11:55 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness* was purchased for the family of Brenda Gene Knowles.



March 11, 2023 at 11:16 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Brenda Gene Knowles.



March 11, 2023 at 07:16 PM



“ The Three Amigas. Always and forever. Brenda, Kaye, & Faith

Faith McMichael - March 11, 2023 at 05:49 PM



The Three Amigas forever. ❤️❤️❤️

Kaye Taft - March 12, 2023 at 08:47 AM



I just learned of Brenda's passing. I had the good fortune of knowing Brenday from her teenage years going forward. She was a blessing and all those around her were blessed to know her. I cannot imagine the loss to Ken, Isaac and Tim and the rest of the family. I am sure she left a lifetime of memories for them. Ken, besides Jesus, you were the best thing that ever happened to Brenda. I have always been so happy that you both found each other. You and Brenda have always been a special couple. I pray God will give you strength. Kathy and I are here for you. We loved Brenda.

Ron Robbins - March 22, 2023 at 12:34 AM