




## Brenda L. Kern

May 12, 1959 - June 14, 2008

Kern, Brenda L. age 49 of Novi, June 14, 2008. Loving wife of Richard. Devoted mother of Kristen. Beloved daughter of George and the late Alice Kupchinsky. Dear sister of Lynn Schick. Dear aunt of Thomas Schick. Visitation Tuesday 6-9 PM and Wednesday 1-4 and 6-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 West Ann Arbor Road (3  miles W of I-275) Plymouth. In state Thursday 10 AM until the 11 AM funeral service at NorthRidge Church, 49555 North Territorial (at Ridge Rd) Plymouth. Interment Glen Eden Memorial Park. Memorial contributions may be made to Bible Study Fellowship International, 19001 Huebner Road, San Antonio, Texas 78258-4019, or to Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, 4100 John R, Detroit MI 48201-9945. To view obituary and share memories, please visit [vermeulenfuneralhome.com](http://vermeulenfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Brenda L. Kern*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *I remember Brenda from a school dance in 1972 at South Junior High School in Anaheim, CA. We were both 13 years old and in seventh grade. We danced 9 out of 11 dances that night. She asked me to dance with her friend Mary for the other two dances so that her friend wouldn't be a wall flower that night. I played trombone in the school marching band and Brenda was a baton twirler.*

**Fred Dachenhausen** - June 06, 2016 at 07:12 PM



“ *Rich and Kristen,  
I just wanted to add to this amazing collection of testimonies. As we all know, Jesus was truly alive in Brenda and her joy was unmistakably authentic. I am grateful to have known her and to have been encouraged by her. The faithfulness of your family, even seeing it from a distance now, continues to bless me and help me want to keep running the race.*

**Brian Trost** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

LI

“ I am the sister of Terri Miller. Brenda and Terri shared a relationship as close as sisters. She often spoke of Brenda and truly enjoyed her friendship.

*It began twenty years ago when Brenda reached out to Terri to lend a helping hand. This act of kindness materialized into a life long friendship. I am grateful to Brenda for giving my sister much joy.*

*My thoughts are with your family. May your heart be comforted that the world was a better place now that Brenda touched it.*

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**Lori DeSchryver - Star, Idaho** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

KT

“ Lynne, Thomas, and family members, you have my deepest sympathy at the loss of your loved one. My prayers are with you.

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**Kathy Treadway** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

CF

“ The first time I ever meet Brenda, it was to ask her to type a flyer for me. I was involved in Art Smart and my typing skills were Zero!

*Brenda opened the door to her lovely home with a great big smile! She was so pretty I thought i was looking at an angel.*

*Latter I found out that my first impression was correct.xoxoxox*

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**Claire Fryatt** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

BJ

“ Dear Lynne, Thomas, Rich, Kristen, and George,  
We have read about Brenda's brave struggle and her strong faith which has supported and comforted her and her family.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you as you mourn Brenda's passing. We know that Brenda will be a guardian angel to those she left behind.

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**Barb & Bob Johnson** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

DD

“ Rich and Kristen, Dave and I were adult guest at Young Life Camp one year and a young man was speaking to a small group. His words have stayed with me. He said as Christians we should live our life in a way that strangers should come up to us and DEMAND to know where our hope and joy come from. Christ should be so obvious in us that others desire to know it. Brenda lived her life just this way. Anyone who met or knew her, wanted the glorifying power of Christ that lived in her. We love you and will miss our friend.

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**Dave & Cindi Doster** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

HE

“ Brenda came into our lives when Kristen and Kiley were in 3 year old preschool together. The memories to follow are numerous and always include Brenda's contagious smile and loving heart. Dance competitions, pom activities, church, the unforgettable cruise, Young Life, and BSF would never have been the same without Brenda. Through these memories and many more Brenda will always live in our hearts. Her spirit was always one of love, compassion, and care for others and leaving her own needs in the hands of the Lord. Rich and Kristen may you find strength, peace, and comfort knowing that your amazing wife and mother rests in the warm embrace of her Lord and Savior.

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**Hub and Carol Elfring** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

RM

“ My Dear Brenda,  
Your radiant smile was the gateway into and out from your soul. You have always been so approachable. I left your company always at peace. Recently, your battle spoke to me of true courage in faith. May your journey now be blissful in the embrace of God our Father.

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**Ray Maffezzoli** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

RL

“ I'm so grateful the Lord brought Brenda into my life. I will cherish Brenda's smile, enthusiasm for life and most of all her love for Christ that she shared so graciously during Bible Study. Although our times together were few, I felt like she was my sister as she taught me about God's love just by being herself. A perfect example Of how Christ wants all of us to love and care for one another, "Well done, good and faithful servant". I will never forget you, dear sister, a treasured influence throughout my walk with Christ.  
Rich, thank you for communicating your prayer needs so eloquently with us during this past year. Kristen, may your Mom's spirit live on in your heart. I will keep you both in my prayers.

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**Robbi LeRoy** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

MT

“ I will always remember Brenda for her beautiful smile and loving encouragement. Even when she was ill, she would express concern for others. She was and always will be an example of a loving and faithful servant of the Lord.

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**Marcia Thompson** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

LC

“ Rich and Kristen - Brenda you are my best friend and spiritual leader. I will always believe because of you.

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**Leslie Condon** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

JL

“ We knew Brenda when she worked with us at the Bertsch Co. in Livonia back in the mid 90's. Her smile and great sunny personality was always the hi-lite of my day. I send the condolences of the former Bertsch Co. employees and myself to her family. May she rest in peace.

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**Jim Leininger** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

PZ

“ Brenda, was a part of our Tuesday evening Bible study during 2006/07. She was a woman of insight and prayer. I count it a privilege to have known her.

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**Pat Ziegler** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

MN

“ I don't know where to start on what Brenda meant to us. Her faith was second to none. She certainly inspired us in our walk with Christ over the years. We will certainly miss her smile, her love for family & friends, Dinners, Red Wing and Tiger games. We are so lucky to have another Angel watching over us. Brenda we love you and we will someday meet again and share some wonderful moments!

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**Mike & Pam Neville** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

KR

“ It was so nice to meet your family and I share in your sorrow for Brenda.

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**Kathy Roberts** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

DF

“ Dear Rich and Kristin, I am one of so many who loved working with Brenda at BSF. She and I worked together with the kids and I just loved to watch her teach. Her face was always absolute joy when she taught the story or led the hymn time! She will be so desperately missed. I know I can look forward to heaven knowing that she is there waiting for us all. You are both in my prayers. See you at Home, Dearest Friend!

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**DeeAnn Feick** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

RF

“ Kristen, Doug called me from up North to tell me about your mother. I am so sorry! You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. I know your heart is breaking and there is nothing but memories that can fill it. God bless you!!  
Ray Family

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**Ray Family** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

RA

“ My deepest condolences to Rich, Kristen, and Brenda's family. My only knowledge of Brenda has been through Joyce Kern, Rich's Mom. Joyce and I are volunteer gardeners at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, in NJ. May all of you receive strength through this difficult time, and reflect on the joyous times, in years past, that you shared with Brenda. May her short life continue to live through your lives, as you go forward, in the Lord's name. I only wish I HAD known her.

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**Rick Anderson** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

DY

“ Rich, Kristen, George, Lynne & Thomas, What a priviledge to go before the Throne of Grace with Brenda these past few years, offering sacrifice of praise, thanksgiving and our petitions for our church, and each other. It has been an honor to have her as a sister in Christ, a friend, and a prayer partner. She will forever be in our hearts, and the Kern family will be in our prayers. All our love and our sympathy. Sisters in Christ - Prayer Team #16

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**Dawn Young** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

CD

“ Dear Rich & Kristen:  
There are no words to express how saddened I am by your loss~it is truly a loss for all who knew Brenda. She made this world a better place. I have such fond memories of the years we were Girl Scout leaders together. Brenda was the best darned leader that ever was! Our girls were so blessed by her creativity, her energy and her love for each of them, and I was blessed by her friendship. I will always cherish the memories of our times together. Her unwavering faith was a testimony to all and will continue to resonate in all the lives she touched. "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2Cor16-18

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**Cindy Dotson** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

KL

“ Rich and Kristen,  
Chris and I were so shocked to hear of Brenda's death. She was such a wonderful woman. You were the best of neighbors and friends. Though time and distance has separated us, our good times and memories are always with us. May all the wonderful memories you shared comfort you at this most difficult time. Our love and prayers to you both.

Love,

Chris and Karen Landacre

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**Karen & Chris Landacre** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

MW

“ I am heartbroken for your family at the loss of Brenda, but I am grateful that God took her home and away from her suffering. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family right now Lynne. May God bring you peace in the knowledge that your Mom has someone to keep her company up in Heaven.

Love,  
Monica

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**Monica Wolf** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

JC

“ Dear Rich and Kristen,  
God sent me the most wonderful friend in Brenda. Her faith and constant optimism, and courage were inspirational. I know she has gone home to be with the Lord but she will be deeply missed. Blessed are they that mourn.

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**joan cheng** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

JR

“ *Rich & Kristen -*

*What a fabulous wife & mom you had! What a fabulous friend we have had! Brenda was love personified. Brenda & I were shopping when I got the call that Jim had been in a motorcycle accident. We left immediately and when we got in the car, Brenda drove & prayed. She took me to the hospital and stayed there until family came. Any time I tried to thank her, she would say, "It was no big deal." That was Brenda, wasn't it? A servant's heart. We will miss her but the thought of going to Heaven, already an exciting prospect, is now even more exciting knowing we will see Brenda there. (Although Jim is missing the opportunity for us to go on a bike ride together, and to give Brenda the promised ride in the little convertible!)*

*See you at home, Precious Friend.*

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**Jim & Sue Robinson** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

BS

“ *Please accept my deepest sympathy as you mourn the loss of Brenda. I have been privileged to know of Brenda's courage, strength, determination and faith through Lynne. I hope that your individual pain that each of you are struggling with will be lessened by the loving memories of your life together. May God bless each of you as you continue your life journey.*

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**Betty Silva** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

DB

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Brenda and Rich thirteen months ago through Lori Gosur, my favorite cousin. Brenda's picture is still taped to my office wall above my computer. Her smile reminded me to continue to pray for her throughout the day over these many, many months. Sometimes... if we are very lucky, we have the opportunity to be someone's hero... Rich was Brenda's hero and fierce advocate. He can put his face to the sunshine and know that he gave her so very much... God will bless every single thing he did to love her, protect her, carry her and lighten her load. And Rich also gave us all a gift ~ his detailed and intimate communication of their brave journey together. Thank you Rich for sharing so that we all (hundreds of us) could lift you each up to God on the wings of our prayers. Our prayers were answered, not here as we wanted, but in heaven. Brenda is forever healed. This I know for sure, heaven will be a sweeter place; because Brenda waits to be reunited for eternity with Rich, her precious Kristin and the many, many people she loved. Time takes all but memories... until we meet again.

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**Debora Baxter** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

DG

“ Rich, we remember a couple of years ago when we went to the "Mercy Me" concert together, one of our favorite songs they sang was "I Can Only Imagine." Well, now Brenda doesn't have to imagine, she KNOWS, as does our precious Jonathan. Praise be to God! No words can ever express the tremendous effect Brenda has had on our lives. We know that as she was embracing Jesus He was whispering in her ear, "Well done good and faithful servant." Our love to you and Kristen,  
Debbie and Jim Galloway

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**Debbie and Jim Galloway** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

TL

“ Brenda was the first person who extended her friendship to me when we moved to Novi 19 years ago. I have always been grateful to her for that and for all she added to my life as a friend. I will miss her very much. Rich and Kristen, I extend my deepest sympathy. May the Father's abiding love see you through this difficult time and may Brenda live forever in our memories.

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**Terry Lunn** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

TF

“ To all Brenda's family members. I am a friend of Lynne's and I have been allowed to follow your family's journey. Be courageous as Brenda was. Her journey has carried her home.

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**Toni Francis** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

JB

“ I can't say that there are many people who have helped shape me and who have had as much influence on me as Brenda had. From the day I met her at age 15, through high school, 3 years of living together in college, sharing stories about schools, jobs, marriage and child rearing, she was a friend who although far away geographically, was never far from my heart. How lucky I am to have had such a gift in my life. Her infectious smile and laughter brightened the day of everyone around her. Thank you Mr. Kupchinsky for moving to Chatham so I could meet your daughter. Thank you Lynn, for sharing your sister when we were younger; Rich your girlfriend and then wife as we grew up and learned about life; and Kristen, your mother. She lives on, young, beautiful and vivacious, in my heart. My prayers are with all of you.

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**Janet Bortnick** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

TR

“ *Brenda's beautiful smile and positive personality was an inspiration to me when I needed it. My heart goes out to you, Rich & Kristen. I am sure that Brenda has left you and yours with memories and love to last your lifetime until you are all reunited once more. Peace & Love, Terry & Family*

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**Terry Rodrigues-Blinkenberg** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

CB

“ *Lynne, Thomas and family, it is with deepest sincerity that we send condolence. May the strength of faith, family and friends help guide you through this difficult time. Our thoughts will be with you.*

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**Craig & Bonnie Bigelow** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

DW

“ *I'm so very sorry for your untimely loss. With deepest sympathies to Lynne, Thomas and the family.*

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**Deb Wright** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

MK

“ *I always loved Brenda's smile! And her sweet spirit still resonates with us all ~ even as she is joyously in the presence of our Lord and Savior! I am sure her consistent testimony for God will continue to have ripple effects on those whose path she crossed in her life as well as in these last several months. We will continue to lift you up in prayer!*

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**Melanie Kitchen** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

LG

“ Rich & Kristen, George, Lynne & Thomas, Brenda has touched my life so deeply and has been such a Godly example of who we are to be in Christ. Her sweet spirit will illuminate our hearts forever. You are all in my prayers. God Bless you. Love, Lori Gosur

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**Lori Gosur** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM

JM

“ Brenda was my BSF Leader during 2005-06 and we just had an instant connection. I always loved her phone calls that began "Oh hi, Joan!" She was always there to encourage me, even bringing me over her famous Manicotti (and now that I have the recipe I have taken that meal to others). Shopping, going out to lunch....it was just nice to spend time with her. Even in the face of her illness she showed no fear, being more concerned about me and my family. I'm sad to not be able to see my friend here on earth anymore but yet I'm happy for her because she truly was looking forward to being with Jesus. The way she lived her life was an example for my life. I am so thankful that God put Brenda in my life. Philipians 4:14--"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

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**Joan Meyers** - December 12, 2014 at 10:24 AM