

Acknowledgements

We are appreciative and deeply grateful for every prayer, call, visit, assistance, and expression of love extended to Brenda during her hospitalization and passing. Your love, compassion, and support have been a source of comfort and strength as we celebrate a life so beautifully lived. May God bless each of you abundantly for the kindness you have shown our family. Though the pain of losing Brenda is overwhelming, we find comfort in the precious memories she leaves behind and the peace of knowing she is now breathing freely in the loving arms of our Heavenly Father.

With heartfelt appreciation and love,

The Family

Psalm 23

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou are with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:

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Memorial Programs lovingly prepared by Deb's Creative Services

In Loving Memory of

Brenda Kaye Barnes



SUNRISE:
August 28, 1955

SUNSET:
September 28, 2026

























When Great Trees Fall

By Maya Angelou

When great trees fall, rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down in tall grasses,
and even elephants lumber after safety.

When great trees fall in forests,
small things recoil into silence,
their senses eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die, the air around us becomes
light, rare, sterile. We breathe, briefly.
Our eyes, briefly, see with a hurtful clarity.
Our memory, suddenly sharpened,
examines, gnaws on kind words unsaid,
promised walks never taken.

Great souls die and our reality, bound to
them, takes leave of us.
Our souls, dependent upon their nurture,
now shrink, wizened.
Our minds, formed and informed by their
radiance, fall away.
We are not so much maddened
as reduced to the unutterable ignorance
of dark, cold caves.

And when great souls die, after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always irregularly.
Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us.
They existed. They existed.
We can be. Be and be better.
For they existed.





















To our Gigi,

We love you so much and thank you for being such a huge part of our lives. Though you lived miles away, you always came to visit us for Christmas and our birthdays and we're thankful for all the memories we created together. Your gentle spirit and loving presence brought lots of comfort, joy and warmth to our lives. We know our parents will forever be grateful for your support as they navigated learning about our autism diagnoses. You were involved every step of the way and always provided support and encouragement. Thank you for treating us with patience, kindness and unconditional love. Though you are no longer with us you will always be in our hearts and that brings us so much comfort.

Gigi, we will always love you and cherish the time we had together.

Love,
Miles & Levi

Obituary

On a beautiful, sun-drenched Sunday, August 28, 1955, a shining star was born. Brenda Kaye Halford Barnes was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. She was the fifth child of Nathaniel and Ruby Terry Halford.

As a child, Brenda was feisty yet sweet, full of energy, and naturally social. She was intelligent, determined, focused, and strong-willed. She enjoyed spending time with friends, making donuts, sewing beautiful outfits, and braiding her sisters' hair. Her vibrant personality, strength, creativity, and spirited nature were evident from an early age.

Brenda confessed a hope in Christ at an early age at Greater Ward Chapel AME Church in Pine Bluff. She was an active member in the youth program. In 1994, she joined St. Mark United Methodist Church where she participated in Bible Study, Women's Ministry, and volunteered at various community give back events.

In 1973, Brenda graduated from Dollarway High School, where she excelled in academics and was a member of the business club. She attended Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, where she obtained a Bachelor Degree in Accounting with a minor in Business Administration. During the summer, she gained valuable work experience as an intern at IBM in Chicago. Brenda began her professional journey in Accounting at Beechcraft Aviation in Wichita, KS. She later joined Pizza Hut Corporate as an Internal Auditor. She retired from Accenture after serving as Payroll Tax Lead traveling to various clients around the states.

Brenda married in 1980, and to that union they were blessed with a beautiful and beloved daughter, Brittany, in 1983. Brenda soon discovered that being a mother brought her a love, joy, and fulfillment beyond anything she had ever imagined. She took great pride in being a devoted and involved mother, always making sure Brittany had opportunities to learn, grow, and explore her interests. She was even more excited when Brittany and Kurt welcomed both Miles and Levi into the world. Brenda never missed birthdays, Christmas, or "just because" visits with her babies. Brenda loved her grandbabies more than words could ever express. They were a special joy in her life, and her love for them knew no bounds.

In her spare time, Brenda enjoyed getting together with her girlfriends, traveling, and weekly lunches with her longtime friends. Brenda shared a nearly 50-year friendship with Denise and Velma, whose love and devotion were evident throughout her illness. They lovingly cared for her, often visiting daily to provide comfort, companionship, and support. Their unwavering presence was a true testament to a friendship that stood the test of time and was rooted in love, loyalty, and genuine care.

In the early morning hours of September 28, 2026, Brenda peacefully entered into her eternal rest having fought the good fight, finished her race, and kept the faith, as beautifully expressed in 2 Timothy 4:7. Her earthly journey has ended, but her faith, love, and legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her. Awaiting her in eternal rest are her father and mother, Nathaniel and Ruby Halford, her eldest and youngest brother, Nathaniel Jr. and Sterling (Ricky), and niece, Yolanda.

She leaves to mourn her passing, her beloved daughter, Brittany and her husband, Kurt; two grandsons, Miles and Levi; four sisters, Bettye, Jean, Diane, and Bridgette (Leo); nieces and nephews: Ann, Pam, Jermaine, Sonya, Tracey, LaToya, Michael, Corlette, Corey, Courtney, Kiersten, and Kameryn; and a host of cousins, and friends. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing and loving her.

Celebration of Life

Saturday – October 17, 2026 at 10:00 am

Saint Mark United Methodist Church
1525 N. Lorraine, Wichita, Kansas 67214

Officiating: Senior Pastor, Dr. Victor McCullough



Order of Worship

Processional ..... Pastors and Family
Words of Grace ..... Dr. V. McCullough
Greeting ..... Pulpit
Invocation ..... Pulpit
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 ..... LaToya Bland
Romans 8:34-39 ..... Corlette Gibson
Musical Selection ..... St. Mark UMC Soloist, Kim McLaurian
Acknowledgment/Obituary ..... Leo Rasberry
Poem: *"When Great Trees Fall"* by Maya Angelou..... Read by Jermaine Roseman
Time of Remembrance ..... Denise Hightower, Velma Thompson, Barbara Fletcher and Bridgette Rasberry with daughters Kiersten & Kameryn
Video Tribute ..... "Honoring the Life of Brenda Kaye Barnes"
Musical Selection ..... St. Mark UMC Soloist, Kim McLaurian
The Eulogy ..... Minister Linda Sims
Words of Comfort ..... Rev. Nancy McCullough
Musical Selection ..... St. Mark UMC Soloist, Kim McLaurian
The Committal ..... Pastor, Dr. V. McCullough
The Recessional ..... Pastors and Family
Flower Bearers ..... Tracy Bland & Corey Halford