

The Memorial Service

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 - 6:30 PM
Triumph Lutheran Brethren Church - West Campus
West Fargo, North Dakota

Officiating

Pastor Jay Price

Scripture Readings

Psalm 89:1

Psalm 116:15

Special Music

Wanting Memories - Cantus

Harvest Moon - Neil Young

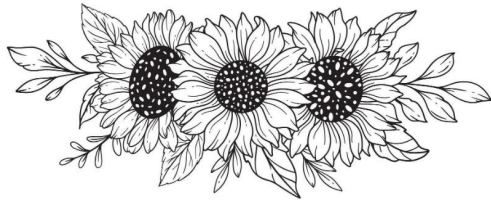
Because He Lives - Reba McEntire

Honorary Urn Bearers

The many caregivers, CNA's, and nurses
that cared for Brenda all these years

Final Place of Rest

Saturday, October 24, 2026 - 3:00 PM
Flaxton Cemetery
Flaxton, North Dakota



*The family of Brenda L. Olney thanks you for your presence
here today and for your many acts of kindness.
Following the Memorial Service please join the family for
refreshments.*





Brenda came into this world November 4, 1958, at the hospital in Kenmare, ND, and was born into eternal life Thursday September 24, 2026, completely healed and free of pain, weakness, and limitations. Her parents were Clair and Rebecca (Stensrud) Olney. Brenda enjoyed her early years on the family farm near the Canadian border, north of Kenmare. She graduated from high school in Flaxton, ND, in 1977 (go Raiders!) where she played basketball. After high school, Brenda attended Minot State College to

pursue a nursing degree. That changed when she married Jim Arnold and they began a family. During this time, they owned and operated Flaxton Super Valu where she established many good friends, working all aspects of the store while raising her family.

She moved to Bowbells, ND, with the three kids (Jennifer, Marshall and Reid) and worked at the Burke County Courthouse in the Register of Deeds office. One evening in the fall of 1986, she joined some friends for an evening out at the Lakeshore Supper Club, between Kenmare and Bowbells. Little did she know she sat on the unoccupied barstool of Tom Pence while he was away for a moment. Their friend, Kenny, introduced them. Even though Tom was known as “the funeral guy”, she did not let that bother her and their “walk of life” began.

Brenda returned to school in Fargo, ND, in 1990, with three young children in tow. As a single mom with three kids living in student housing, she persisted and achieved her Masters degree in Clinical Counseling in the spring of 1994, from NDSU. After passing her board exams, she opted to use her counseling skills with her family. She and Tom were married October 16, 1993, in Fargo. Getting Tom and the kids blended together was not difficult but it did have its challenges, which is where she utilized her counseling skills and common sense. Everyone survived and lived to tell about it with gratitude and amazement.

During these years, Brenda volunteered for several organizations including Hospice of the Red River Valley. She also served on the board of directors of Freedom Resource Center for Independent Living. She worked in the office of the church where they attended and she also worked from home, scheduling appointments for FM Driver Training. Brenda would tell you that her greatest accomplishment and that which she was most proud of was her family. Far from perfect, of course, but their relationships have stayed strong over the years.

Brenda overcame many obstacles but through it all, she (and Tom!) came to realize their paths were God’s plan for their lives and they were saved only by God’s grace and not by their overcoming obstacles and being “good people.” That peace sustained her and her family, especially these past few weeks.

Brenda’s family are her husband and best friend, Tom Pence; children, Jennifer (Derek) Hovland, Marshall Arnold, and Reid (Amanda) Arnold; grandchildren, Jayden (Easton Ebeling) Hovland, Drew Hovland, and Avie Undhjem; sister, Joyce Olney; brothers, Larry (Judy) Olney and Casey Olney; good friend and high school exchange student, Margarita Pavon; and of course, Molly the companion dog.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clair and Rebecca; step-mother, Marcia Olney; and two brothers, Victor and Russell.

Please consider memorials to an animal shelter or food pantry of your choice.

Brenda’s family would like to express gratitude to her caregiver’s at Sanford Hospice House for their kindness and compassion shown to her during these last few weeks.



“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.”

~1 Thessalonians 4:13