



Mrs. Brenda Lenora Mullen

October 25, 1953 - July 16, 2023

On an autumn day in Detroit, October 25th, 1953, Dawson Eugene Smith and Olivia Bertha Archie were blessed with the arrival of Brenda Lenora Smith, the youngest of eleven siblings.

During her early childhood, Brenda was educated in the Detroit Public School system, attending high school first at Cass Technical High School before graduating from Kettering High School. She also attended Wayne State Community College part-time while working as a Sales Assistant at AAA Insurance. She made many friends at AAA and was highly regarded as both a worker and an organizer.

It was at Cass Tech in the spring of 1969 where she met her soon-to-be life-long husband, Marshall Anson Mullen. It was love at first sight, and they spent every moment they could together. Friends on both sides were amazed at how inseparable they were. They were married in August of 1974 in a small backyard ceremony that provided memories that would last forever.

In the summer of 1981, Brenda joined her husband on a bold adventure and traveled to the city of Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia. It was there that she gave birth to two of their three children, Richard and Tamara. Their third and youngest child, Christina, was born in Detroit.

There is an old saying that a "rolling stone gathers no moss." Well, Brenda

was always busy. She was an avid hobbyist and engaged in a wide variety of pursuits, including dressmaking, knitting, crocheting, jewelry-making, doll making, woodworking, and her all-time favorite - gardening.

She was heavily involved in her young children's activities, doing stints as a Children's Activity Center coordinator, Softball Coach, Girl Scout Leader for Tamara, and Brownies Scout Leader for Christina. She frequently led the girl scouts out on overnight desert camping trips. When I accompanied her on a camping trip one time as a helper, I spent the entire night in my tent looking for scorpions. When I told her in the morning about my sleepless night, she laughed. She knew the Saudi workers had thoroughly prepared the area to make sure nothing deadly was lurking around but had decided not to tell me about it. She had a sense of humor like that. You could also frequently find her on the sidelines cheering our son Richard on at Little League baseball games. Her love for her children was pure and unconditional, from the moment of their birth to her last breath.

She loved to travel and had the opportunity to see much of the world, including England, France, Italy, Amsterdam, Poland, Germany, Hong Kong, Singapore, Spain, Tokyo, Portugal, and others. But outside of the US, her favorite place was Abqaiq Saudi Arabia, where she also served as the Community Center Advisor. Brenda was often the first smiling face new arrivals would meet. She made a host of great friends in Saudi, friendships that still remain today.

After returning to the US, Brenda continued to be active, attending college to complete her undergraduate degree, obtaining her Real Estate License, and joining Brooks and Davis, one of the largest minority-owned Real Estate firms in Houston, and of course, being devoted to her children and babysitting those wonderful grandchildren.

From a very early age, Brenda was a devout Christian. She was a member of Greater Grace Temple in Detroit, her favorite place of worship, before moving overseas. Even while overseas, in the midst of possible danger, she managed to attend a small church gathering every week. After returning to the States, she continued to worship and remained active in the Church (The Bridge, Houston Tx) volunteering whenever she could. We woke every morning to the sound of christian music and she always believed her strong faith was one of the reasons our son Richard embraced religion and is a pastor at Cornerstone Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

It's hard not to see God's plan here. Before she departed, all three children and nine grandchildren had gathered for an annual visit at our home. It's a rare gathering that she so loved. We had time to bond, laugh, play games and enjoy meals together. In a family meeting, after finding out she had but a short time to live, she addressed our children Richard, Tamara, and Christina. One by one, she professed what a wonderful blessing they were, how proud she was of them, and her everlasting love. And then, God waited until Sunday morning to welcome her.

Although Brenda spent most of her adult life overseas and in Texas, she always considered Detroit home. Brenda has returned home now, mourned but forever loved by her husband Marshall, her three children, Richard, Tamara, and Christina, her nine grandchildren Landon, Leia, Sophia, Olivia, Micah, Jaeden, Amaya, Aaliya, and Aida, her four remaining siblings, Joan, Yvonne, Michael, and Allen, and many cousins, nephews, nieces, and a host of friends. We will mourn her loss and shed countless tears, but we can also rejoice that she will be reunited with those who have passed before her; her parents Dawson and Olivia, and her siblings Gloria, Len, Larry, Tommy, Donald, and Kip.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens

17840 Middlebelt Road
Livonia, MI 48152

Previous Events

Visitation

Sunday, Jul. **30**. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home
17600 Plymouth Road
Detroit, MI 48227
(313) 838-9770
info@pyefuneralhome.com

Family Hour

Monday, Jul. **31**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Greater Grace Temple
23500 W. 7 Mile Road
Detroit, MI 48219
(313) 543-6000

Celebration of Life

Monday, Jul. **31**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Greater Grace Temple
23500 W. 7 Mile Road
Detroit, MI 48219
(313) 543-6000

Tribute Wall

GS

“ *Brenda always had a smile on her face. .I will always miss her friendship.
Rest in Peace Brenda
My deepest condolences to Marshall and your family.*



Guelda Slade - July 31, 2023 at 10:31 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Brenda Lenora Mullen.*



July 30, 2023 at 10:36 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Brenda Lenora Mullen.*

July 30, 2023 at 03:32 PM

UF

“ love you Brenda and still shocked of you not being with us anymore. you were always there when I wanted to talk to someone. Always will remember our time together working on different hobbies like Ceramics, Macrame and stain glass. Happy memories of all of us meeting at Michelle's wedding in Austin last year I am so glad we met in May for Lunch in Austin, seeing you so cheerful and in good health. Love you and missing you so much. we pray for peace of your soul in your journey in the after life our condolences to Marshall and family.

Uma Fernandez - July 30, 2023 at 03:30 PM



Patricia
Vitello

“ *Dear Marshall,
We were so sorry to hear about the passing of your wife, Brenda. She was a wonderful woman and neighbor, and we will miss her dearly. We were always in awe of her beautiful garden, and we know that Travis Trail will not be the same without her.*

We remember her as a kind and generous soul who always had a smile on her face and we are so grateful to have known her. and She was always willing to help out, and she always made us feel welcome. We will never forget her warm hospitality, her delicious cooking at the holidays, and her contagious laugh.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. We know that no words can express the pain you are feeling, but we want you to know that we are here for you.

*With deepest sympathy,
Pat, Chuck Vitello and family*

P.S. We will be thinking of you, and we will raise a glass to Brenda in her honor.

Patricia Vitello - July 30, 2023 at 03:26 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Brenda Lenora Mullen.*



July 28, 2023 at 05:59 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Brenda Lenora Mullen.

July 28, 2023 at 05:59 PM



“ There will be a repast supper for family and close friends shortly after the cemetery service. The repast will be held in the Greater Grace Temple banquet hall.

mullenmarshall - July 28, 2023 at 04:16 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Mrs. Brenda Lenora Mullen.



July 28, 2023 at 03:18 PM



“ We remember our beloved cousin Brenda and her bright smile that would light up a room. While we are saddened by her departure, we are thankful for her kind words, support, and the stories she would share of our father Bristol Archie. Brenda, we pray you rest in peace. Also, sending love and prayers to Marshall and the entire family. With our deepest condolences, Jackie, Maria. Michael, Thomas, and Yvonne Archie.

Maria - July 27, 2023 at 11:57 PM

MA

“ *Maria A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Brenda Lenora Mullen.*

Maria A. - July 27, 2023 at 11:45 PM

WA

“ *Waymon, Tonya, Waymon III & Ariel purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Mrs. Brenda Lenora Mullen.*



Waymon, Tonya, Waymon III & Ariel - July 27, 2023 at 09:20 PM

SH

“ *I have hesitated addressing my thoughts because this is so enormously painful. Unfortunately we have no say so in this matter. For if we did we would not allow death to separate us. The shock is still lingering. This all happened too quickly. To the Mullen family I have not ceased to pray for you. I will continue to call your names before the Lord for strength, peace, comfort and guidance. Look to Jesus and allow Him to be your living Hope. This Hope tells us that we will see Brenda again. Our tomorrows will be a beautiful place. Praise God! Jesus is The Resurrection and The Life, those who believe in Him never die. Amen and Anen. As we all, one by one, step into this new life called heaven we will be neighbors and friends again. Death has not won. Eternal life is ours to have. See you later Bren. I know I will be able to find your mansion. It will be the one with the big beautiful flower garden out in front. (Big smile)*

Sonja Hall - July 27, 2023 at 08:07 AM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Brenda Lenora Mullen.*



July 24, 2023 at 08:54 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Brenda Lenora Mullen.

July 24, 2023 at 08:54 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Brenda Lenora Mullen.*



July 23, 2023 at 08:08 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Brenda Lenora Mullen.

July 23, 2023 at 08:08 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Brenda Lenora Mullen.*



July 23, 2023 at 11:58 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Brenda Lenora Mullen.



July 22, 2023 at 12:17 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Brenda Lenora Mullen.

July 22, 2023 at 12:17 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Family Gatherings



mullenmarshall - July 21, 2023 at 11:10 AM



A beautiful spirit! An earthly loss is a heavenly gain!!! Job well done, Brenda.

Anita Flanagan - July 21, 2023 at 01:59 PM

ME

*Marshall,
I am extremely saddened on hearing of Brenda's passing.
My deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family at this ever so difficult time.
I know for sure that many happy memories will bring you and the family together, giving you comfort in your loss.
Yours faithfully
MME(the Pharmacist who house sat her plants when the family were abroad from Abqaiq)*

Margie Mauretania Edwards - July 26, 2023 at 09:48 AM

MU

“ *Brenda, I will forever remember the spring of 1969 when I saw you and your friend Linda. You both were walking from the little convenience store down the street from Cass Technical High School. Donald White and I followed closely, daring each other to make a move. He had his eyes on Linda, and I had my eyes on you. Love at first sight is such a trite and overused phrase, but when you turned and smiled at me, that beautiful smile, my heart was yours.*

We've shared a life and a love for each other for over half a century. I witnessed your transformation from a teenager to a wife, from a wife to a mother, and then from a mother to a grandmother. Your love for our family, your strength in times of crisis, and the steadfastness of your faith have been amazing. Whatever the situation or crisis was, you always rose to the occasion.

Springtime does not last forever, and as in any marriage, we had our share of dust storms. Still, with love as a compass, we always found our way back to each other. The pain of your loss touches my very soul, and it is hard to imagine my life without you. Indeed, a part of me has left with you. But I am reminded that death is not an end, and one day we will find each other again. I will love you forever.

mullenmarshall - July 21, 2023 at 11:03 AM

RR

Our prayers are with you and the family remembering the great times we had growing up the Roberts family Ray and Ron

Raymond Roberts - July 21, 2023 at 07:39 PM

ME

*I was extremely saddened on hearing of Brenda's passing. My deepest sympathy goes out to the Mullens at this ever so difficult time.
The many treasured happy memories will bring you all together where you will find comfort in your loss.
Margie Edwards the Pharmacist who house sat the plants whenever the family were abroad.*

Margie Mauretania Edwards - July 28, 2023 at 10:11 AM

SH

Wow! What an amazing tribute to your precious wife. Praise God for a beautiful journey.

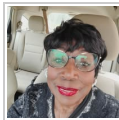


Sonja Hall - July 28, 2023 at 11:19 AM

UF

I know it will tough going on with your life without Brenda but you are strong and have your children and grandchildren to help and support you by being there for you during this difficult time.

Uma Fernandez - July 30, 2023 at 03:39 PM



Marshall, the love that you & Brenda experienced is felt in your tribute & memories of her. Thanks for sharing these special details about her life. She was truly very special and had a way of making others feel special. I will continue to pray for you and the family as well as occasionally check on you. Many blessings to you...Cousin Loretta

Loretta Archie - November 30, 2023 at 01:08 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Brenda Lenora Mullen.*



July 21, 2023 at 10:07 AM



“ *Rest in the bosom of our Lord my dearest friend and sister, Brenda. Thanks for everything and may the Lord comfort Marshall and the rest of your family.*

*Chika Norah Udezue
Bournemouth, England*

Chika Nirah Udezue - July 21, 2023 at 02:21 AM



“ *I couldn't have asked for a better mother. You are my favorite person, you are one of the kindest and best people that I know. I am so thankful for everything that you have given me and I could never ever forget you. Nobody loves me the way that you do. You are always lifting my spirits, teaching me things, making me laugh, making me feel loved and cared for. I love the relationship that we have and am so lucky to have you and have been very proud to call you my mother. You have nothing to apologize for or feel guilty about. You are the glue that keeps us together, you are my home, i love you so much mom. You have made a positive impact on me and so many others. Thank you so much just for being you. You don't have to worry about me mom, I know you will always be with me and I will carry you with me forever.*

Christina Mullen - July 20, 2023 at 04:16 PM

LA

Brenda, I know in my heart that your spirit is in the presence of the LORD. I am truly going to miss your earthly presence as I already do. We were not just first cousins but fiends & Christian sisters. I met you 60 years ago when I first moved to Detroit, you were always sweet & kind and kept the biggest smile with those beautiful eyes that talked. We reconnected when you returned from Saudi Arabia and stayed more in touch once you settled in Houston. I'm so glad that you loved your mom enough to attend our family reunions on her side and you and your family united with more family members. We all love you and you will forever be in my heart. I look forward to spending eternity with you. 😇💕

Loretta Archie - July 22, 2023 at 02:32 AM

JS

Brenda my heart is broken because you left us too soon but I know that God knows best, the first time I met you John brought me over to your house cause he wanted you to meet his wife and when we met we hit it off on a good start and you been my sister every since. I cherish the times we had together whether it was on the phone, text message or in person you've always been a person that would lift up everybody spirit when their feeling down I know that you helped me and checked on me every since your brother John died. It was so funny how at John's Funeral you had the whole church singing his favorite song (" He'll be coming around the mountain when he comes") that was hilarious to get the church to sing that song and you also said that you had a dream about John before his funeral and he asked you to come and go with him and you told him Noooooooo but I guess he wanted you to come and see how Glorious, Magnificent, and Wonderful Heaven really is. For you know that it's a place for God's prepared people and you knew that if you live right Heaven belongs to you and you did, you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior so I'm sad that you're gone from your earthly home but you have transition into your heavenly home where's there no more pain, sorrow, tears, disappointment, heartaches, headaches and suffering, but it's Joy, peace, love and happiness in the presence of God Almighty and His Angels. So tell John I said hello and I'll see you guys in Glory one day, I Love You. Amen!

Jackie Spears-Smith - July 22, 2023 at 04:47 PM

MP

“ Our heart felt condolences to the family and we pray Brenda’s soul to be at peace and god give strength to her loved ones to coop with this huge void.

*From Mukesh , Raxa , Sagar and Sidesh.
Lots of memories we share from baseball times*



mukesh Patel - July 20, 2023 at 12:28 PM

NM

“ Got to know Brenda in Saudi through Jasmine and Uma. Whenever we met there or in the US we always had great conversations and enjoyed the few times we met up. Very sorry to hear about her untimely passing. May God give you all the strength to bear this loss. It’s not easy but time will heal the pain by remembering all the memories spent together. If you have a memorial service in Katy do let me know.

Neena and Ashok Marwah

Neena Marwah - July 20, 2023 at 12:21 PM

YK

“ Dear Marshall and kids, please accept our condolences on the sad passing away of Brenda. May her soul rest in peace. May God give all of you the strength to cope with her loss. She is now in a better place, and will always walk beside you and guide you all from the Heavens above. Treasure all the memories as no one can ever take those away from you. Keep her smiling face always in your hearts.

Farouk and Yasmin Khory

Yasmin and Farouk Khory - July 20, 2023 at 11:34 AM

VD

“ We received the shocking and sad news of Brenda’s passing, such a vibrant and kind person, heavens are happy to welcome Brenda. Knew Brenda from DH, Saudi Arabia. Used to go to her for her professional facials and enjoyed getting to know her while enjoying her facials. Met Brenda couple of times for walks as well at the Abqaiq group parties. Was always so impressed and touched by her friendly personality. God called her too soon, however know for sure God needs her closer to him. Rest in Peace Brenda until we meet you in heavenly abode. You will be missed by all. Your sweet smile will always be imprinted in our hearts. Our heartfelt condolences to Marshal, children, grandchildren and family members. Pray for God’s comfort and strength during this difficult time. God bless.
Virginia, Wilfred D’Souza

Virginia D’Souza - July 20, 2023 at 11:32 AM

EU

Sad news of Brenda's death.. Brenda, I can't ever forget your smile and gentle ways in Abqaiq; nor your devotion to your family. But you've now gone the way of all flesh. May God comfort Marshall, Richard, Tamara, Christina and your whole family as we all mourn your loss, and may your soul rest in peace. Emmanuel Udezue, MD.

EMMANUEL UDEZUE - July 30, 2023 at 01:34 PM