



Brenda Lee Snyder

January 16, 1957 - August 25, 2025

Brenda Lee (Minthorn) Snyder, born January 16th 1957 in Lockwood Hospital in Petoskey MI, passed away on August 25th, 2025, at the age of 68, surrounded by her loving family. After a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer, Brenda entered into eternal rest. Her life was a testament to resilience, service, and love, guided by her love of family and deep faith as a practicing United Methodist member.

Brenda grew up in Fife Lake, Michigan, where she developed a strong sense of community and purpose. She graduated from Kalkaska High School in 1975 as valedictorian. Her determination to care for others led her first into a career as an occupational therapist. While raising three children, she returned to school to pursue her dream of becoming a physician—welcoming two more children during her medical training and residency.

Brenda went on to work as an emergency room doctor for over 20 years before retiring. Her career reflected not only her skill and dedication but also her deep compassion for people in their most vulnerable moments.

Outside of work, Brenda poured her heart into her family. She loved organizing camping trips that took her loved ones from the rugged coasts of Maine to the sunny deserts of Southern California, from the forests of the Pacific Northwest to the shores of Florida. Her greatest joy was creating spaces where family could come together—especially during holidays, when she was known for her festive decorations, her warmth as a hostess, and her ability to make every gathering memorable. She also delighted in baking,

filling her kitchen with the smell of cookies she decorated with her children and grandchildren, and crafting birthday cakes that ranged from family favorites to elaborate creations with shapes ranging from race cars to giraffes. Brenda's love of music was another strong current in her life. She played piano and guitar, filled her home with song and laughter, and never passed up an opportunity to dance. These passions, coupled with her faith, shaped the joy she shared with those around her.

Brenda was preceded in death by her parents, Elmer Minthorn and Marjorie (Allen) Minthorn. She is survived by her devoted husband, Thomas Snyder; her brother, Don Minthorn; her sister, Cheryl Minthorn; her children and their spouses: Jesse Snyder, Trisha Smrecak, Benjamin Snyder, Jill (Bogart) Snyder, Katherine (Snyder) Firman, Scott Firman, Nathan Snyder, and Carl Snyder; and her six beloved grandchildren, who were the light of her later years, Cavin Snyder, Keenan Snyder, Riley Firman, Lillian Firman, Roan Snyder, Nell Snyder.

A funeral service will be held at Kalkaska Funeral Home, 152 S. Cedar St., Kalkaska, MI 49646, on Saturday September 6th, visitation is at 9:00 am and the service starts at 11:00 am. Following the service, friends and family are invited to gather downstairs at the funeral home for a meal and fellowship in honor of Brenda's memory.

Brenda faithfully supported the Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation; those who feel moved to do so may donate in her name at <https://give.myotonic.org/campaign/622795/donate> or by following the QR code below. You can also donate by sending a check made out to "Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation" and mailing it to the address listed below. Additionally, if you would like to donate flowers, donations may be made by going to the Kalkaska Funeral Homes web page or contacting a local florist.

Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation
663 Thirteenth Street, Suite 100
Oakland, CA 94612

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 6. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S. Cedar
Kalkaska, MI 49646
(231) 258-3346

Memorial Service

SEP 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S. Cedar
Kalkaska, MI 49646
(231) 258-3346

Tribute Wall

TA

“ Tom, I just stumbled across a link that made me aware of her passing. I am so sorry for you and your family. I worked many years with Brenda when she was in TC. She always worked nights and I remember many times coming in to take the next shift and she was busy doing her charts for many hours after her shift was over. She cared so much for her patients she gave them her undivided attention, while they were in her department, and paid the price by having to stay over to finish the paper work. Not uncommonly falling asleep in the corner for a while before she would set out to drive home. She was a wonderful colleague and an even better person who really loved her family.

Tim Archer - February 19 at 08:12 PM

JC

“ Jo Crossett lit a candle in memory of Brenda Snyder



Jo Crossett - October 29, 2025 at 07:04 PM

JN

“ 50 years ago, I was a nervous freshman at WMU and was admitted to the OT program. I thanked God and WMU admissions for matching me with a perfect roommate! Brenda Minthorn! Little did I realize that we got thrown together in a dorm room because we were non-smokers! 😊

Brenda was in the same program and from a small town. We shared our values of faith and family. We also shared countless, priceless moments and memories of joy and heartbreak for 50 years.

We quickly grew to love each other and our families. Rest in peace, my very dear friend. 💔



Joyce Fluegge Nienhuis - September 16, 2025 at 07:11 PM



“ Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Brenda Lee Snyder.



September 05, 2025 at 11:25 AM

LM

“ Love, Joyce, Mike, David, & Megan purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Brenda Lee Snyder.



Love, Joyce, Mike, David, & Megan - September 05, 2025 at 06:56 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Brenda Lee Snyder.*



September 04, 2025 at 07:54 PM



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

September 04, 2025 at 07:54 PM



“ *George Huffman and Pete Cvetanovski purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Brenda Lee Snyder.*



George Huffman and Pete Cvetanovski - September 04, 2025 at 05:32 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brenda Lee Snyder.*



September 04, 2025 at 01:22 PM

LF

“ Love, Jennifer Russeau and Family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Brenda Lee Snyder.



Love, Jennifer Russeau and Family - September 03, 2025 at 01:46 AM

LF

“ Love, Jennifer Russeau and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brenda Lee Snyder.

Love, Jennifer Russeau and Family - September 03, 2025 at 01:46 AM

JF

“ Jill’s California and Virginia family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Brenda Lee Snyder.



Jill’s California and Virginia family - September 02, 2025 at 01:21 PM

JD

“ Josh, Chris and Devin purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Brenda Lee Snyder.



Josh, Chris and Devin - September 02, 2025 at 07:03 AM

ME

“ My condolences to the family on the loss of your be loved Brenda. A fun memory of Brenda that 50 years later still makes me smile. Brenda was part of a double date to our senior prom. She was hemming her dress in the backseat all the way to the venue. In the end a little masking tape finished the job. She of course looked great!

Melissa - August 31, 2025 at 04:50 PM



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

August 31, 2025 at 02:25 PM

AL

“ Thoughts and prayers for family. I worked in the ER with Brenda for many years. Always kind, caring, and soft spoken. R.I.P.

Alan - August 30, 2025 at 07:33 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Brenda Lee Snyder.



August 29, 2025 at 12:21 PM

MF

“ Mackenzie F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brenda Lee Snyder.

Mackenzie F. - August 29, 2025 at 11:40 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Brenda Lee Snyder.*



August 28, 2025 at 12:40 PM



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

August 28, 2025 at 12:40 PM



“ *Jo crossett lit a candle in memory of Brenda Snyder*



Jo crossett - August 28, 2025 at 08:32 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brenda Lee Snyder.*



August 27, 2025 at 06:40 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Brenda Lee Snyder.*



August 27, 2025 at 11:36 AM



“ *Deborah Newell lit a candle in memory of Brenda Snyder*



Deborah Newell - August 27, 2025 at 07:36 AM