



Brenda Herndon Edwards

October 27, 1947 - October 9, 2023

Brenda Carol Herndon Edwards, age 75, passed away peacefully on October 9, 2023, with family and lifetime friend by her side at Duke University Medical Center after a brief, but heroic battle with cancer.

Born October 27, 1947, to her late parents Everett Eugene and Bernice Naomi Carter Herndon, Brenda grew up and lived her entire life in the Swansonville community of Pittsylvania County. She attended Whitmell Farm Life School and graduated with the first class of Tunstall High School in 1965.

On December 5, 1964, she married the love of her life and high school sweetheart, Alonza “Lonnie” Lee Edwards and spent the next 55 years with him until his death in February 2020. There, they enjoyed cattle farming, hunting, fishing, gardening and canning.

After settling down a few hundred yards from her parents, they raised three boys – Charles “Charlie” Lee Edwards (Tina) of Providence, N.C.; Barry Lee Edwards (Holly) of Oro Valley, Ariz.; and Damon Lee Edwards (Amy) of Dry Fork, Va.

A determined woman her entire life, she opened and operated Brenda’s Cake Palace for more than 40 years, and provided joy to thousands of families through wedding and birthday cakes. While being a small business owner, she

was also employed by Pittsylvania County in pupil transportation for over 36 years. For a decade, she taught cake decorating classes at the J.C. Penney's in Piedmont Mall, sharing her artistic gift while serving as a representative of Wilton Industries.

Even though she was busy, Brenda still found time to complete a college education later in life and graduated from Danville Community College with an Associate's Degree in business. Additionally, as an avid volunteer in the community, she was the election coordinator for the Swansonville area for several decades. Brenda was of the Baptist faith and a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School, sang and directed the choir.

Brenda truly enjoyed spending time with family and friends. She held a passion for babysitting everyone's child, ensuring they completed their studies and teaching them how to bake. As a loving grandmother, or Nannie as she was affectionally called, she dropped anything at hand to be with her grandchildren Sadie Lee, Dawson Lee, Brayden Lee and Ally Skye.

As the family matriarch, she leaves behind three sisters – Nancy Walker (Charles); Pam Riggins (Jay); Naomi Gibson (Randy), and her best friend and care taker, Martha Crews. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews and very special friends.

The family will receive guests at the funeral home on October 15th, from 5 to 7 p.m., and other times at 11220 Mount Cross Road, Danville, Va.

A celebration of life will be held at Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel on October 16th, 2023, at 2 p.m. Interment will follow in Danville Memorial Gardens.

Donations can be provided to Duke Cancer Center, 20 Duke Medicine Circle, Durham, N.C. 27710.

The family thanks the Duke Medicine Pavilion West 8 for the care of Brenda.

Cemetery Details

Danville Memorial Gardens

510 Church Avenue
Danville, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel
5858 Riverside Drive
Danville, VA 24541
(434) 793-5511
info@wrenn-yeatts.com
<https://www.wrenn-yeatts.com>

Celebration Of Life

OCT **16**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel
5858 Riverside Drive
Danville, VA 24541
(434) 793-5511
info@wrenn-yeatts.com
<https://www.wrenn-yeatts.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Brenda Herndon Edwards*



Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes - October 11, 2023 at 09:42 AM

RD

Rest on sweet lady.

Rev. Dr. Mary L. Davis - October 11, 2023 at 04:04 PM

SK

I'm sorry I just seen where heaven gained a Angel, I know how hard this going to be Charlie and you guys. Brenda taught me to decorate cakes and candy we were friends for year I loved working with her she was precious and she loved her boy so much she was very proud of the men you have become I'm sorry for your loss she with Lonnie now my prayer are with you all 🙏🙏🙏🥲

sandra keatts - October 12, 2023 at 09:01 PM

PS

“ *I am sorry to learn of Brenda's passing. My sincere condolences to the family.*

Phyllis (Turner) Scrogam - October 17, 2023 at 08:31 AM

RS

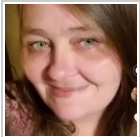
“ To the family of Brenda Carol Herndon Edwards,

I am the youngest son of J.T. and Lucille Smith who lived in the Dry Fork community. My mother, whose maiden name was Oakes, was raised in Swansonville and was the daughter of Buford and Lillian Oakes. When my parents celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in April 1996 at the Swansonville Pentecostal Holiness Church, Mrs. Edwards was good enough to bake the cake that was served at the anniversary reception. The cake was beautiful and it added a lot to the occasion.

I was sorry to hear of Mrs. Edwards' death. I wish only the best for all of you during this difficult time. Take care.

The family of J.T. and Lucille Smith

Ronald Smith - October 14, 2023 at 10:44 AM



“ Brenda was a great person. She was my children's bus driver and we will all miss her very much . I will miss talking to her . Prayers for her family and friends.

Sincerely,

Tracy Tolley Nichols

Tracy Nichols - October 14, 2023 at 06:53 AM



RH

“ To all of Brenda’s family. We are so sorry to hear of Brenda’s passing. I am with my dad today, Brenda’s Uncle Malcolm, and remembering so many wonderful times of gathering with family and spending time with Brenda. Extending our love, condolences and prayers to all of you. Cousin Ronald

Ronald Herndon - October 13, 2023 at 04:01 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Brenda Herndon Edwards.



October 13, 2023 at 02:03 PM

JR

“ Charlie and family, I am so sad to learn of Brenda's passing. She seemed like someone who should live forever. Her enthusiasm for life and her love for others was contagious. My home economics students always looked forward to her visits to class to demonstrate the latest techniques. May God give each of you the strength to carry on as you remember your wonderful mother. Charlie, you must know that you were always one I will never forget. Please take care.



Judy Robertson - October 13, 2023 at 10:23 AM

VR

“ I didn't know until today that we lost sweet Brenda she was a beautiful soul. So sorry for the family prayers for you all. RIP my friend , Vicky Rye & Rodney Shelton

Vicky Rye - October 12, 2023 at 08:26 PM

KQ

“ I don't even know where to start. From my early memories, Brenda was a part of my life. I felt like she was a part of my family. I spent so many days and nights at her house and down the road. Some of my most vivid memories, even painful ones (skating anyone?) she was a part of, lol. I'll miss your posts, Brenda. Rest in peace, dear friend.



Katrina Quinn - October 12, 2023 at 06:35 PM

TB

“ Brenda's Family,
So sorry to hear of the passing of Brenda. She touch many people throughout her life. May God give you comfort always.
God Bless
Tom and Penny Blair

Tom Blair - October 11, 2023 at 07:41 PM

KT

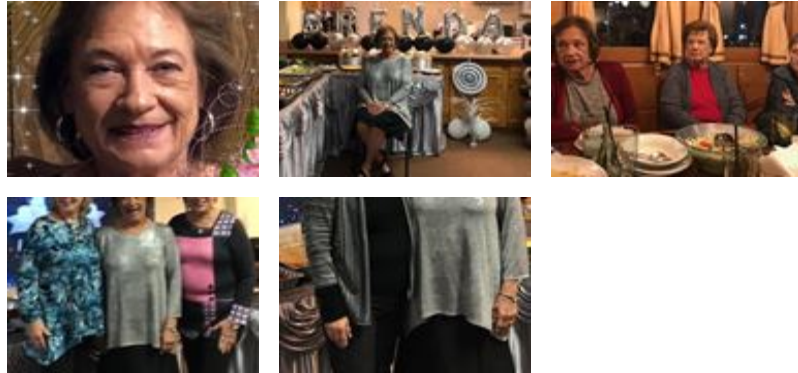
“ Katie, Todd, Gwen, and Elsie Turney purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Brenda Herndon Edwards.



Katie, Todd, Gwen, and Elsie Turney - October 11, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ 20 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes - October 11, 2023 at 11:44 AM



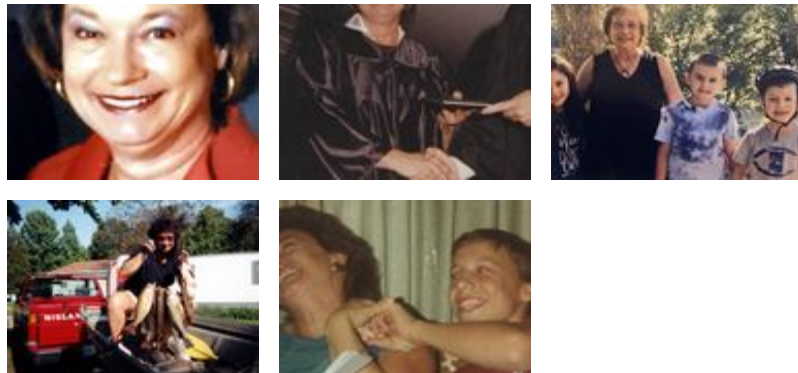
“ *Frances Thompson Cook lit a candle in memory of Brenda Herndon Edwards*



Frances Thompson Cook - October 11, 2023 at 10:53 AM



“ 20 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes - October 11, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *Gone too soon, but always to be remembered. Such an amazing woman. We will never forget the amazing baker who created the food for Kimberly's wedding to Jack Gosney in 1997.*

Cathy Petty - October 11, 2023 at 05:39 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Brenda Herndon Edwards.*



October 10, 2023 at 09:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Brenda Herndon Edwards.*



October 10, 2023 at 05:38 PM



“ 53 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes - October 10, 2023 at 04:16 PM