



Brenda Gail Reneau

January 4, 1954 - December 5, 2013

Brenda Gail Reneau, 59, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma passed away Thursday, December 5, 2013 at her home. She was born January 4, 1954 in Fort Hood, Texas to Norman Lloyd Fallen and Marjorie L. Shaffer Fallen. Brenda grew up in Fort Gibson where she attended school and graduated with the class of 1973. Her parents instilled in her the importance of fighting for what she believed in and the rewards that come from hard work, sincerity, and dedication. Her journeys took her to Oklahoma City where, in 1994, she was the first woman elected as the State Labor Commissioner, a position she held for three terms. Brenda was one of three statewide elected officials at that time whose journey to the State Capitol went through Muskogee County. During her tenure, Brenda highlighted a previously little known workplace safety effort into an effective, nationally recognized program she called "Safety Pays". This program assisted Oklahoma employers in reducing workers compensation costs through improved safety programs and significant reductions in workplace accidents. Brenda will be remembered as a woman of great character, a courageous public servant, a true conservative, and was committed to reform in state government. Current Labor Commissioner, Mark Costello said "Oklahoma is a finer place due to her service."

Brenda is survived by her daughter, Jennifer Gail Houghton, of the home; her parents, Norman and Marjorie Fallen of Muskogee; her brother, Kevin Fallen and wife, Jackie of Oklahoma City; nieces, Allison and Emily Fallen; her best friend, Kathy Johnston; other family members and many friends.

Funeral services celebrating Brenda's life will be 1:00 p.m., Friday, December 13, 2013 at Christian Chapel Church with Pastor Conrad Barrett officiating. Interment will follow at Citizens Cemetery in Fort Gibson with Sammy Fallen, Robert Hernandez, Jimmy Fallen, Harold Willard, Carl Fallen, and Tom Moydell serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be Kathy Hutching Rusk, Paula Stretch Arterberry, BB England Cooper, Sheila Risenhoover Haughey, Carol Cavin Wheeler, Pat Worley Orman, Carol Claney, Estella Vann Cain, Tray Davis, Pat McGiugan, Mike Buckskin, and Ben Buckskin. The family requests memorials be made to SPCA, Central Oklahoma Humane Society, 7500 North Western Ave, OKC, OK 73116.

Cemetery Details

Citizens Cemetery

Fort Gibson, OK 74434

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **10**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Visitation

DEC **11**. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Visitation

DEC **12**. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Service

DEC 13. 1:00 PM (CT)

Christian Chapel Church
4043 Chandler Rd.
Muskogee, OK 74403

Visitation

DEC 13. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Tribute Wall



“ *Brenda Gail Reneau*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *TO NORMAN AND FAMILY: WE SEND OUR SYMPATHY ON THE LOSS OF BRENDA, OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU TODAY, SO SORRY WE COULD NOT MAKE THE SERVICES. LOVE, JIM AND JEANETTE AND GEORGE AND LOUISE FAMILY.*

JIM AND JEANETTE WARD - December 13, 2013 at 10:56 AM



“ *When I was in the 9th grade sitting in Biology...Brenda and Stella sat beside me and would flirt with me knowing how shy I was and would get embarrassed so easily. I always thought Brenda was too beautiful for Fort Gibson and sure enough she made it big in OKC. My condolences to all the family and friends. She left this world way too soon! Johnny kerns*

Johnny Kerns - December 13, 2013 at 07:40 AM



johnny that was a nice memory. i am sharon young who lived with the Tibbles. i am Sharon Lee now. Hope you are doing well.

Sharon Young Lee - December 14, 2013 at 11:35 AM

DP


“ *Brenda was a blessing to all who had the privilege to know her. She was one of the most intelligent people I know. Most of all she loved God, and her Country. She understood what Liberty was about and that freedom wasn't free and she was willing to pay the price for honest and good government. Truly a person with a servants heart, with four times the courage of any person. She stood for what was right. I am thankful that I was blessed to work with her and know her. Don Powers, Edmond, OK*

Don M. Powers - December 12, 2013 at 08:06 PM

 Carol Wheeler

“ *The Fort Gibson Class of 1973 so wanted her at our recent reunion. She was greatly missed. Many of us were together from 1st to 12th grade and we became like family. The older we have become has somehow made that bond even stronger. We haven't kept in touch over the years, but I was fortunate to speak with her in October. What a gift! She has just moved a little farther away for now, but soon we will be classmates, friends, and family again through an eternal bond that can never be taken away. Until we meet again dear Brenda....*

Carol Wheeler - December 12, 2013 at 06:22 PM

 Carol Wheeler

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Carol Wheeler - December 12, 2013 at 06:07 PM

RM

“ *Rebecca Magann lit a candle in memory of Brenda Gail Reneau*



Rebecca Magann - December 12, 2013 at 01:01 PM

RM

“ *I met Brenda in 1980 and she became my best friend and although I didn't get to see her in the last few years I still consider her my best friend for life. We had so many fun times together and I will miss her forever, but know I will see her again. Brenda accomplished so much in her life and lived life to the fullest. My prayers are with her parents, brother and Jennifer.*

Rebecca Magann - December 12, 2013 at 01:01 PM

EB

“ *Eunice Brown lit a candle in memory of Brenda Gail Reneau*



Eunice Brown - December 11, 2013 at 08:32 PM

PA

“ *Brenda was one of my favorite childhood friends. We had so much fun just being kids, doing kid things. When we were Juniors in High School she would pick me up for school every day in her little red car. We felt so cool. I loved her spirit and her spunk. I miss my friend and would love to have hugged her neck one more time.*



Paula Arterberry - December 11, 2013 at 05:36 PM

SL

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Sharon Young Lee - December 11, 2013 at 10:45 AM

SL

“ *Sharon Young Lee lit a candle in memory of Brenda Gail Reneau*



Sharon Young Lee - December 11, 2013 at 10:34 AM

SL

I have been trying to post a tribute to Brenda but somehow it doesn't seem to post. God Bless you everyone. Love Sharon Young Lee

Sharon Young Lee - December 11, 2013 at 12:12 PM

SL

“ Hello Dear Beautiful Friend. You will be missed. I remember you well from Ft. Gibson High when I moved there my Junior Year. I appreciated becoming friends then. I enjoyed becoming friends again about a year out of High School and when we were in our 20's. I enjoyed working with you at Victor Savings together as tellers. I enjoyed walking home with you every day after work. That was so much fun and enjoyable. I really enjoyed us going together to our first class reunion at Ft. Gibson High when we were around 28 years old. We had fun. I so enjoyed seeing everyone we went to school with together. You are in my heart. No matter where you are or where you go you will always be there. I am grateful and appreciated of your accomplishments but I am mostly proud of the way you have touched all our hearts in an amazing personal way forever and always. God Bless you Sharon Young Lee

Sharon Young Lee - December 11, 2013 at 10:15 AM



“ Iced Tee lit a candle in memory of Brenda Gail Reneau



Iced Tee - December 10, 2013 at 10:36 PM



“ Brenda Stretch-Green lit a candle in memory of Brenda Gail Reneau



Brenda Stretch-Green - December 10, 2013 at 10:30 PM

SH

“ *Shelia Risenhoover Haughey lit a candle in memory of Brenda Gail Reneau*



Shelia Risenhoover Haughey - December 10, 2013 at 09:15 PM

SH

“ *Brenda was a great part of our class 1973 she will be missed by all that knew her. we always had fun cheering together all thru school. Her Mother Margie is where she get's her Beauty from in side and out .She will always be with us .1973 was a better class for having this spunk girl in itSorry for you loss with Love Shelia Risenhoover Haughey*

Shelia Risenhoover Haughey - December 10, 2013 at 09:14 PM

SR

“ *Sandy Radebaugh lit a candle in memory of Brenda Gail Reneau*



sandy radebaugh - December 10, 2013 at 08:04 PM

CM

“ *Cindy McIntosh lit a candle in memory of Brenda Gail Reneau*



Cindy McIntosh - December 10, 2013 at 04:54 PM

KH

“ *Kim Hammer lit a candle in memory of Brenda Gail Reneau*



Kim Hammer - December 09, 2013 at 08:42 PM

PO

“ *I can't believe she is gone. I will always remember her beautiful face and her pretty smile. We had some good times together while attending school at Fort Gibson, I can still hear her laugh about something funny that someone said or did in class. We use to talk lots of times on the phone about issues (and boys) at school. I was so proud when she won her labor commission position and was honored that I knew her and that she was from "our" town. Margie and Norman, I am thinking of you and the rest of the family. I never met her daughter but I bet she was just as beautiful as Brenda. I wished that Brenda had felt like attending our 40th reunion. I am glad she is no longer in pain. Can't wait until we have our reunion in heaven and once again I will get to hear her laugh. Love you all. Pat Worley Orman*

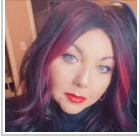


Pat Worley Orman - December 09, 2013 at 06:04 PM

EV

“ *I have so many fond Memories of Brenda. We were the best of friends in school. I know my childhood would not have been the same without Her and Her families love and support. Love, Estella*

estella vann-cain - December 09, 2013 at 03:04 PM



“ *Brenda was actually my second cousin, but I always had called her my aunt because her and my dad were like brother and sister and she treated me like a niece. I would sometimes spend summers with her. When I was a teen I thought it was so neat that I got to go on some campaigning events with her. Man did I think I was cool :)*
Brenda was a very special person. She was so kind and loving. I always loved that she didn't take any nonsense from anybody and would stand for what was right.
Now she is with the Lord and is suffering no more. You will be missed greatly Brenda Gail.
Amber Armstrong-Coberley

Amber Coberley - December 09, 2013 at 02:00 PM

BH

“ *Brenda and I were first cousins. I remember as kids playing with her and our other cousins..having tons of fun.....I haven't talked to her in about 3 years but have thought of her often. I will miss you..BEVERLY REDFEARN HISER*

BEVERLY HISER - December 09, 2013 at 10:39 AM

BH

“ *Brenda and i were first cousins. I hadn't spoke to her in about 3 years but think of her often. We spent a lot of time together when we were kids along with our other cousins in Ft. Gibson....Wished we could have seen each other again. I will miss you..*

BEVERLY REDFEARN HISER - December 09, 2013 at 10:31 AM

BS

“ Norman and Margie, I was so sorry to read of Brenda's passing. My heartfelt condolences to you. Love you.

Betty Hutchens Smallwood

Betty Smallwood - December 09, 2013 at 08:12 AM

LM

“ Brenda and I became friends in Edmond in 1986, 27 years ago, when our daughters first became friends in 4th grade at Orvis Risner Elementary. We knew each other then as moms and career women. Then in 1994 very amazingly we came back together as friends when we were both entering into the political arena. There were many wonderful times and experiences we shared. Brenda and I fought against School-to-Work and took a strong stand which helped keep it from becoming well established in Oklahoma. I traveled with her on a national speaking trip when the Wall Street Journal featured her work in the prevailing wage fraud. Brenda was a bright courageous woman who worked to accomplish changes in Oklahoma that have benefited the citizens of this state. Her work was recognized by leaders around the nation. There are many great dinners, evenings and days that we spent together and I will miss her greatly. She loved her daughter, Jennifer, and her whole family so much and always talked of them. I thank God that she knew Jesus Christ as her Savior and will be raised again to live eternally. -
-Linda Murphy

Linda Murphy - December 08, 2013 at 05:56 PM

EC

“ I knew Brenda for almost thirty years. She started out as apprenticeship coordinator and would then become the Apprenticeship Director for Associated Builders & Contractors. Under her direction the apprenticeship program would have more certified programs and students and would be recognized as one of the best open shop apprenticeship programs. Brenda would then become the Executive Director of the Oklahoma City chapter of ABC. Brenda then run for and become the first female Labor Commissioner for the State of Oklahoma in 1994. She worked tirelessly for safety in the work place. Brenda fought against the corruption of wage rates on state and federal contracts as well as on construction projects. Even more that all those great attributes, Brenda was always there to help as a true friend would. She helped me through some very hard times in my life and would be there no matter what. Even when she went back to private life, we might not see each other much. However, we were always talking on the phone about life and or politics. I was fortunate to spend forty-five minutes on the phone with her last Saturday. We talked about love, life, death, and a failed trip to Italy. I will truly miss her. To Jiff and the rest of her family, my thoughts and condolences go out to you. We will all miss her smile and determined spirit. Eddie Cox

Eddie Cox - December 08, 2013 at 02:57 PM

CD

“ SENDING OUR CONDOLENCES FROM BONNIE BOWLIN BYFIELD'S CHILDREN TO YOU THINKING OF YOU



CONNIE DOBSON - December 07, 2013 at 01:16 PM