



Brenda Joyce Meritt

November 5, 1942 - May 10, 2026

Brenda J. Meritt, 83, of Sullivan, Illinois died Sunday, May 10, 2026 at 8:00 PM at Sullivan Rehab & Health Care. Funeral Services will be held Friday, May 22, 2026 at 2:00 PM at Kennedy & Sons Funeral Home, Pana, Illinois with Pastor Rodney Briscoe officiating. Visitation will also be Friday, May 22, 2026 at Kennedy & Sons beginning at 12:00 Noon until time of Service. Burial will be in Myers Cemetery, Herrick Township, Shelby County, Illinois.

Memorials may be made to Moultrie County PAWS.

Brenda J. Meritt was born Thursday, November 5, 1942 in Carson Township, Fayette County, Illinois the daughter of Ivy Eugene and Lois Fay (maiden name Carter) Wilson. She was raised in Decatur, Illinois attending Centennial Grade School and Eisenhower High School, graduating with the Class of 1960. Brenda Joyce Wilson married Gary Edward Meritt on November 26, 1960 in Decatur. Brenda was employed as a secretary in the insurance industry and worked at Farm Bureau in Decatur. She was a member of Maranatha Assembly of God, Decatur.

Brenda J. Meritt is survived by her Husband: Gary of Sullivan; Daughter: Lisa Smothers (Daryl) of Sullivan; Son: Gary L. Meritt (Michelle) of Lennon, Michigan; Daughter: Michelle Meritt of Sarasota, Florida; Daughter: Carla Henson (Cannon) of Madisonville, Tennessee; Son: Charles "Chuckie" Marshall (Amy) of Port Richey, Florida; eight Grandchildren: Shelly, Doug, Haley, Michael, Jessica, Levi, Gage, and Kyle; two Great-Grandchildren: Louis and Oliver; Brothers: Lynn Wilson (Debbie) of Maroa and Chuck Wilson of

Oreana. The family wishes to extend a great thanks to the staff of Sullivan Rehab & Health Care for the excellent care given to Brenda. She is preceded in death by her Parents and one Grandson: Dean.

Cemetery Details

Myers Cemetery

125 N County Road 850E
Herrick Township Shelby County, IL 62431

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **22**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Kennedy & Sons, Funeral Directors
401 S. Locust Street
Pana, IL 62557
(217) 562-3959
info@kennedypana.net
<https://www.kennedypana.net>

Funeral Service

MAY **22**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Kennedy & Sons, Funeral Directors
401 S. Locust Street
Pana, IL 62557
(217) 562-3959
info@kennedypana.net
<https://www.kennedypana.net>

Tribute Wall



“ Kennedy & Sons Funeral Directors PC created a Tribute Video in memory of Brenda Joyce Meritt



Kennedy & Sons Funeral Directors, P.C. - May 20 at 02:22 PM

LW

Brenda will be miss SO MUCH. Lots of Love Lynn and Debbie Wilson

Lynn Wilson - May 20 at 04:34 PM

DF

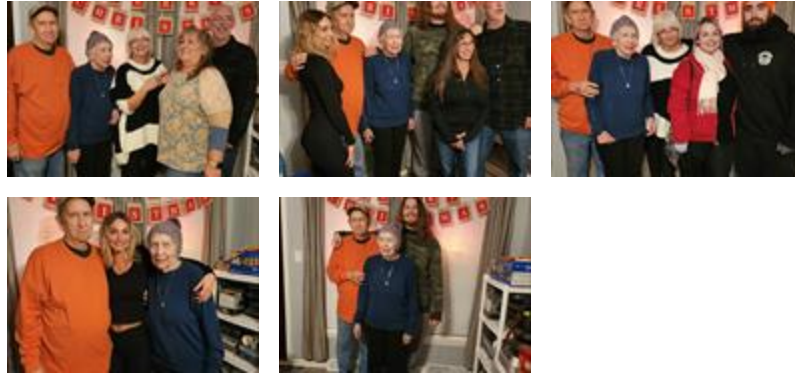
“ Dianne Hagan and Family purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Brenda Joyce Meritt.



Dianne Hagan and Family - May 22 at 03:10 PM

LW

“ *What an awesome Christmas with family together*



Lynn Wilson - May 21 at 08:06 AM

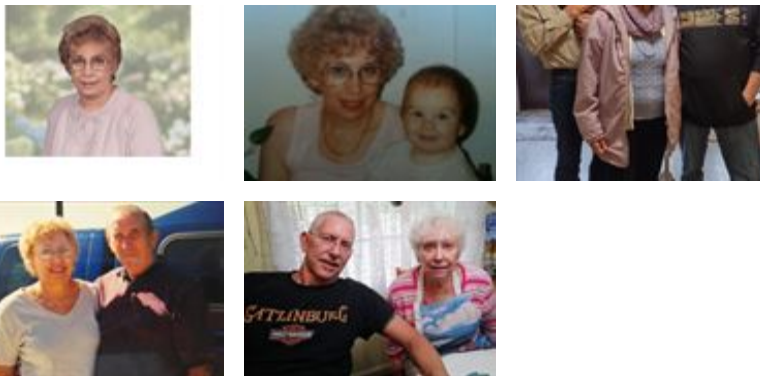


“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Brenda Joyce Meritt.

May 20 at 04:28 PM



“ 41 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Kennedy & Sons Funeral Directors, P.C. - May 20 at 11:15 AM

CA

“ Chuck, Amy ,Jesse, Brittney, Waylon and purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Brenda Joyce Meritt.



Chuck, Amy ,Jesse, Brittney, Waylon and - May 18 at 08:01 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Brenda Joyce Meritt.



May 18 at 01:46 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Brenda Joyce Meritt.



May 16 at 09:22 PM

PM

“ Paula M. purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Brenda Joyce Meritt.



Paula M. - May 15 at 05:18 PM

JD

“ JT and Dorothy purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Brenda Joyce Meritt.



JT and Dorothy - May 14 at 04:27 PM

DW

“ Brenda and I HAVE BHEEN FRIENDS SINCE 7th grade. We were luck enough birth to still get together all these years later. She. She will never br forgotten Brenda and I have been friends since seventh grade. We were lucky enough to still get to do ,things together. These. She will never be forgotten

DOROTHY WOOD - May 14 at 03:23 PM



I have been friends with Brenda since I veas a freshman in high school. We dressed alike, wore our hair the same, and we both were crazy about Elvis. I love you ,Brenda , and now that you are in Heaven, soar with the angels!

Patti Whittington - May 16 at 07:40 PM

JH

“ John & Chris Haycraft purchased the In Heaven's Arms Bouquet for the family of Brenda Joyce Meritt.



John & Chris Haycraft - May 14 at 03:20 PM

JH

“ John & Chris Haycraft planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brenda Joyce Meritt.

John & Chris Haycraft - May 14 at 03:20 PM

SS

“ 3 files added to the album Brenda



Shelly Smothers - May 14 at 12:58 PM

DK

“ Doug & Marjorie Jessen, Kurt&Kim Kroll planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brenda Joyce Meritt.

Doug & Marjorie Jessen, Kurt&Kim Kroll - May 13 at 05:44 PM

DK

“ Doug & Marjorie Jessen, Kurt&Kim Kroll purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Brenda Joyce Meritt.



Doug & Marjorie Jessen, Kurt&Kim Kroll - May 13 at 05:44 PM

DM

“ Dr Joyce Moore planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brenda Joyce Meritt.

Dr Joyce Moore - May 13 at 05:15 PM

DM

“ Dr Joyce Moore purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Brenda Joyce Meritt.



Dr Joyce Moore - May 13 at 05:15 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Brenda Joyce Meritt.



May 13 at 04:27 PM



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

May 13 at 04:27 PM