



Brenda Madsen

August 13, 1960 - June 29, 2022

Brenda Madsen was born August 13, 1960 in Renton, Washington. She was the 5th child of Boyd and Norma Madsen. She was so eager to get here that she didn't wait for the hospital, but arrived on the corner of 2nd and Shattuck, already stuck in traffic. At age 3, Brenda moved with her mother and siblings (Kathleen, Debra, Greg, and Charlotte) to Orem, Utah and later moved to Provo. She attended Provost Elementary until the fourth grade and enjoyed the adventurous and often unsupervised opportunity to explore the neighborhood on her bike. She often rode to her grandmother Madsen's house for a little TLC.

The family moved to Fredonia, Arizona in 1969 when Norma accepted a job with the Forest Service, which covered the Kaibab Forest and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Thus began the countless road trips and adventures that ranged from climbing 100 foot look out towers and getting lost on the Kaibab, to Boot Hill in Tombstone, Arizona. Norma "treated" her kids to multiple National Parks and Brenda was introduced early and thoroughly to wanderlust.

Norma passed away June 19, 1976, and Brenda moved to Pasadena, California to live with Boyd. She graduated from South Pasadena High School in 1978 and completed her general education requirements at Pasadena City College. Brenda transferred to UCLA and graduated in 1983 with a degree in Child Psychology. Brenda married Greg Moore in 1981 and welcomed her daughter, Kimberly, in 1984. Brenda and Greg divorced in 1985 and Brenda and Kimmy moved "home" to Utah. Brenda married Brad Freeman in 1987 in the Salt Lake Temple and welcomed four more children, Steve Jake, Jennifer Anne, Melissa Kate, and Joshua Blake. While Brenda served in multiple church callings, the highest calling and greatest joy was that of motherhood, followed closely by becoming a grandmother. She always felt very fortunate to be a stay-at-home mom for most of her kids growing up years. Brenda fought breast cancer in 1997, desiring only to live long enough to raise her kids.

Brenda and Brad divorced in 2006 and Brenda began a career in Early Childhood Special

Education, earning her Teaching License from Utah State in 2008. She taught three- and four-year-old children with special needs for 17 years in Alpine School District and piloted the Inclusion and Foundations programs. She received the Golden Apple Award and American Fork Cluster Teacher of the Year, while employed at Legacy Elementary. Brenda always felt that the place where the world's greatest need and her greatest talent intersected was where she was meant to be. That place was special needs preschool. Brenda was known to dress up as "Elsa" and was a wild pirate woman on several occasions. She genuinely loved her students, parents, and coworkers.

Brenda had a hard time staying indoors, much like her mom. She loved riding her bike to Bridal Veil Falls, hiking just about anywhere, and retreating to her beloved Tibble Fork with her kayak and a friend whenever she could. It could definitely be said that Brenda would come up with a plan (instigator) and her friends would just run with it (enablers). They explored much of Colorado, Arizona, Mesa Verde, Nevada, California, and several of the National Parks in Utah, wherever she could find adventure.

While Brenda is moving on to her greatest adventure, she bids a temporary farewell to her children, Kimberly Moore, Jake (Lacey) Freeman: grandsons, Cal, Everett, and Sawyer Freeman; Jennifer Freeman: granddaughter, Soleil Freeman; Melissa (Mike) Van Dam and Joshua (Whitney) Freeman: grandsons, Riley and Kaden Freeman. She is survived by brothers, Greg (Annette) Madsen and Martin (Belinda) Larson; sisters, Debra Hortt, Charlotte Madsen, and Denise (Brendan) Durrett. Brenda will be reunited on the other side of the veil with her parents, Boyd Madsen and Norma Larson; brother, Barry D. Madsen; and sister, Kathleen Madsen.

Brenda would want you to know that she knows this is only a temporary separation that will be followed by an eternity of joy. She would want you to imagine her happy, to think of her every time you see a butterfly, to care for each other, and always try to do the next right thing! Finally, Brenda wanted her children, grandchildren, siblings, friends, coworkers, students, and courageous parents to always remember how much she loved them!

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at the Berg Drawing Room Chapel, 185 East Center Street, Provo, Utah. Interment, Provo City Cemetery. Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.bergmortuary.com.

Those who cannot attend in person are invited to view a live stream of the services via Zoom, <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87019202034?pwd=YVhNdkY2MkN2UlpFR1EvdC9zVWR5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 870 1920 2034 Passcode: T0U3hG

Cemetery Details

Provo City Cemetery

610 South State Street
Provo, UT 84606

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUL 5. 11:00 AM (MT)

Berg Drawing Room Chapel
185 East Center Street
Provo, UT 84606

Tribute Wall

AG

“ *The service today was so beautiful. She was larger than life and such a blessing to the parents and children she served in special education. We were in her last class, and even our short time with her made a huge impact on our whole family. She loved and supported my daughter and I in a way that I will never forget. May your family be blessed with peace and comfort.*

Allyson Garn - July 05 at 04:29 PM

TR

“ *Brenda was a ray of sunshine! I had the privilege of getting to know Brenda by doing her hair. So many fun conversations and laughs we had together. She's wasn't just a client but also a great friend. I miss her already! Brenda always had a positive attitude with any hardship she was facing. I was always so impressed at her positive outlook. One of the last times I saw her I told her how sad I was and a final goodbye. She replied with I'll see you on the other side! Brenda knew where she was going and wasn't afraid. I'll miss you my friend!
See you on the other side,
Tiff*

Tiffany Ritchie - July 05 at 03:16 PM

LU

“ *Brenda was a caring teacher and friend. Her beautiful smile lifted many people. You will be missed!*

Lucy - July 05 at 12:52 PM

JS

“ *I have been lucky to work with Brenda for the past three years. She is a spirited person who brought everything to the table every day! I have admired her talent to light up the classroom with her energy. She was a good friend who cheered and supported me. Brenda, I will miss your smile, laugh and courage! I will miss you. Julie Spencer*

Julie Spencer - July 05 at 11:55 AM

CG

“ Ms Brenda taught my now 11 year old son Lincoln and was the best teacher he has ever had! She truly cared for each of her students and loved them like they were her own. We ran into Brenda at Thanksgiving Point a few years ago and my son said hi to her and she knew him by name. She was pure sunshine and will be so very missed.

Cassie Geels - July 05 at 12:35 AM

JR

“ I was blessed to work with Brenda in preschool and have her as a friend. She put everything she had into teaching and truly cared about each student individually and their families. She lived life to the fullest and would give all she had to anybody that she knew, cared about and loved. I always valued her opinion and will treasure the many memories of the times spent just being with Brenda.

Julie Rich - July 04 at 08:14 PM

JW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Joyce Wright - July 03 at 02:25 PM

JW

“ Maybe I can't stop the downpour, but I will always join you for a walk in the rain. All my love Joyce. ❤️

Joyce Wright - July 03 at 02:22 PM

JS

“ My little girl has Down syndrome and was in Ms Brenda's last preschool class. She was such an amazing teacher and truly loved my little girl. She was always talking to my daughter about how much she was going to achieve in life and that she could do anything she put her mind to. She impacted so many sweet little lives and will never be forgotten!

Jessica Silva - July 03 at 10:49 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Brenda Madsen.*



July 02 at 10:38 PM

MB

“ *Brenda was one of the most kind and loving people to work with. She was always so positive and upbeat. I loved the times she walked her preschoolers down the hallway dressed as Elsa from frozen singing, “do you want to go to preschool?” She was always ready with a complement and a smile. She always took time to ask how I was doing and how my family was doing. It takes a special person to treat those special needs preschool students with such love. And she had plenty to share. Brenda will be missed at our school.*

Michael Bottita

michael bottita - July 02 at 12:15 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Brenda Madsen.*



July 01 at 02:17 PM

GG

“ *Brenda was the greatest preschool teacher, and I got to work with her for several years. She was such an advocate for her students and their families, and she was fearless at doing what was best for each child. Her classroom was a joyful, safe, and happy place--which was so impressive and important for her challenged preschool students. I was blessed to have her as a friend and to learn from her example. I can only imagine the energetic and enthusiastic reception she's having now, and how much she is enjoying spying down on everyone and seeing how much she touched our lives.*

I hope God will bless you with tender mercies and comfort your family as you mourn and celebrate Brenda.

Gary Gibb - July 01 at 02:10 PM

LC

“ Brenda will be deeply missed. I know what a good grandma she is to my three grandsons that we share. I will do my part to help them remember her. I am also eternally grateful for the way she raised my son-in-law, to be respectful, loving, giving and a wonderful man in our lives. My daughter certainly found treasure in him, as did our entire family. I believe family is all-encompassing on heaven-side and we will find our families all entwined together in love. May each of you feel peace from the Holy Spirit and love from everyone around you.

Lori Call - July 01 at 02:07 PM

JW

Maybe I can't stop the downpour, but I will always join you for a walk in the rain. All my love Joyce.

Joyce Wright - July 03 at 01:33 PM

MJ

“ Brenda was such a good friend as I knew her in Fredonia she always had a smile and a kindness about her that touched me.

Mitch Jordan - July 01 at 12:07 AM

RB

I am Brenda's, Uncle Ralph Burnside. When her mother died I felt like I needed to help look after them. I loved Brenda very much and suffered with her this last year. Her older sister also died of cancer. In the passed few weeks we, talked about her getting back with her mother. The little Madsens have all come to accept and love God. They have all had very hard lives. They are my kids. Love you guys.

Ralph D. Burnside - July 01 at 09:32 AM

KT

Brenda was a mentor, inspiration and friend to all the Preschool teachers at Alpine School District. I will so miss her insights and wisdom during our ground training and inservice meetings. We love you Brenda! - Kathy Thompson

Kathy THOMPSON - July 01 at 05:09 PM