



Brenda Joy Harper

September 9, 1957 - January 27, 2021

Brenda Joy Harper, 63, of Pleasant Grove, Utah passed away January 27, 2021 after a short battle with Leukemia. She was born in Panguitch, Utah on September 9, 1957 to Hal and Geneal Shurtz. She cherished her childhood of climbing rocks and building underground cabins with her 8 siblings in Escalante, Utah. She attended Southern Utah University and received an associates degree in secretarial work. She proceeded to head north to Utah State University where she received her bachelors degree in Physical Education. While there, she went on a blind date and was swept off her feet by Michael Harper. They later were married and sealed on June 13, 1980 in the Saint George LDS temple. She was then blessed to become a devoted mother of 3 daughters: Celeste, Ashley, and Shannon, who immediately became her world.

She was a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She served constantly in several capacities, but the one she cherished the most was her mission with her sweetheart in Nauvoo, Illinois.

The joy of her life was her 7 sweet grandchildren. She was the most phenomenal grandmother. She was constantly reaching out to make them all feel of her love; whether it was organizing sleepovers, crafting, making cookies, building with Legos, or taking them to lunch for their birthdays.

She adored her flower garden and yard and had a master hand. She was always attending and caring for her plants and showed the same time and attention to friends, relatives, and even strangers who crossed her path.

She is survived by her husband, Michael W. Harper, children, Celeste (and Benjamin Peacock), Ashley (and Paul Shin), Shannon (and Mark Chillson), Grandchildren, Madelynn Joy Peacock, Marli Sooji Shin, Teagan Geneal Peacock, Layla Sooh Shin, Quinn Michael Peacock, Dylan Max Chillson, Taeyang Michael Juho Shin, Unborn baby Chillson, Siblings, Vicki (and Kim Nelson), Valerie (and Stan Huntington), Kay (and Michelle Shurtz), Julie (and Scott Appleby), Kenneth (and Tracy Shurtz), Jaleen (and Bill Borom), Stephanie (and Shawn Jack), Kerry (and Jennifer Shurtz). She is preceded in Death by Parents, Hal and Geneal Shurtz.

Funeral Services will be held Tuesday, February 2nd, at 11:00 am, at the Grove 7th Ward Chapel located at 275 East 500 South, Pleasant Grove, Utah where a Visitation will be held prior to services from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Due to Covid restrictions, masks will be required at the funeral service. Interment in Pleasant Grove City Cemetery.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW FUNERAL SERVICE]https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__youtu.be_WT7FxZoXr5Y&d=DwlCaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=cE8rBgD2v4tsF_HKAZWx8QkaZqCfywgoGSqpBrynujY&m=IwY9RPZbDySptJTQO6v41m8n7WTF7XY15Z4ubdPNNLY&s=0Dcx2Zz2nnbRWLOiQ8ikyDQIN-gluR_mXOe29AkdBqk&e

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary.

Cemetery

Pleasant Grove City Cemetery

600 North 100 West

Pleasant Grove, UT, 84062

Events

FEB **Visitation** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

2

Grove 7th Ward

275 East 500 South, Pleasant Grove, UT, US, 84062

FEB **Funeral Service** 11:00AM

2

Grove 7th Ward

275 East 500 South, Pleasant Grove, UT, US, 84062

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Utah Valley Mortuary - February 01 at 12:26 PM



“ Brenda was my aide at preschool, when Shannon was attending. She asked me what we were doing for spring break and I told her we were going to a little town in southern utah. I told her she had probably never heard of it before! I said we were going to Escalante, because my grandparents lived there. Then she told me she was from there and she had my grandpa as a teacher! Such a small world! I loved Brenda! Whenever we would see each other, we would always have a great visit about Escalante! She could always make me laugh! She will be so missed, what a sweet person! - Heidi Walker

Heidi - February 04 at 11:13 PM



“ I remember going with Brenda on her blind date when she met Michael. I don't remember anything else about that night except how much they laughed and enjoyed the evening. I am so sorry she left so soon. Even though we had lost touch through the years, she was a friend I will always cherish.

Claudia Roundy Simpson - February 03 at 09:56 PM



“ Pleasant thoughts to all the Hal and Geneal Shurtz"s Family. Great memories of all of U.

Crockett Dumas - February 02 at 09:30 AM



“ Brenda was like sunshine to me...I served with her in Young Women's. What a beautiful person. I love her girls. I'm so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with this sweet friends family. Love you so much.
Maylee Lemon

Maylee - February 01 at 06:42 PM



“ I literally can't imagine life with out this sweet women! She was a great friend to me, and she was pivotal in my learning in my younger years as we served in many callings together, she always taught me how to do things better, and have fun while we served our Heavenly Father!! Brenda's giggle was contagious, and even after me and my family moved away from that area, whenever I saw her I had to run up and give her a big hug. She was one of my favorite people! She will be definitely missed, my heart has ached at her loss, but I've just decided, the big guy must've really needed her on the other side! Tell we meet again my dear friend! Love you! Robyn Bullock

Robyn Bullock - February 01 at 03:13 PM



“ So sorry for your loss sending prayers to ease your pain.

jan Duncan - February 01 at 09:51 AM



“ Brenda was one of the best childhood friends ever! She was the most fun to be around. There was never a dull moment! So many fond memories of my childhood with her. She was one of the best! I think of all the fun times, Derlynnne Brooks, Natalie Brian, Camille Shakespear, Margo Smith, Patrice Cottam! I pray for her family! Until we meet again Brenda! This is a memory from Janalee Taylor Bernardo

Camille Shakespear - February 01 at 09:07 AM



“ So sad to learn of Brenda's death, we loved serving with Michael and Brenda at LHSC. We treasure those times together!
Craig and Kathy Larsen

Craig and Kathleen Larsen - February 01 at 02:02 PM



“ We had the privilege of serving in Nauvoo with Elder & Sister Harper. They were outstanding missionaries! Brenda was always a ray of sunshine to guests who came to learn about the history and purpose of Nauvoo. Her testimony of the restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ radiated from her countenance and every word she spoke. What a joyful gift to have become friends with Elder and Sister Harper! We will miss this beautiful woman.

Larry and Carlene Veenker

Carlene Veenker - February 06 at 12:35 PM



“ Dear Brother Harper and family,

We are so sad to hear of the passing of Brenda. What a joy it was to work with you both in the Nauvoo Mission. Brenda lent her sweet spirit and great sense of humor to all her assignments, much to our pleasure. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. It will be a great adjustment for all to be without Sister Harper! Your faith in our Saviour and eternal life will be great comfort, I'm sure.

Sincerely,
Tamara Boyle

Tamara Boyle - February 01 at 01:09 AM



“ Our heartfelt love and prayers go out to Mike, Celeste, Ashley, and Shannon. Brenda has been our friend and neighbor for 30 years. She has always brought sunshine and joyful laughter to our neighborhood.

Brenda has blessed us over the years with her delicious homemade bread, kind and thoughtful words and my girls have fond childhood memories of her always bring sandwiches out to the children playing and building forts in Johnson's backyard along with loving and exemplary service as Young Women's President.

A fun memory of Brenda is when She and I were asked to play our guitars and sing for the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers "Sego Lilly, Lovely Lilly". It was a beautiful and somber song, yet each time we practiced we would get the giggles and it took everything we had when performance time finally came to get through it without giggling, which Brenda always started. What a fun person to be around.



Ra'Shelle Wilson - January 31 at 10:02 PM



“ This is Brenda, Camille Spencer and Julie Droubay at the Wide Hollow Reservoir in Escalante. Brenda and Julie were so much fun along with all the other friends we hung out with.



Camille Spencer Shakespear - January 31 at 04:46 PM



“ Brenda was a beautiful soul with a heart of gold. She was the only one that noticed and acted on when I was struggling with a serious health crisis last year. She was at my door with a homemade loaf of bread and an inspirational book. She often checked on me after that. I hope that she knew how much I appreciated and cherished those moments. I'm so sad to hear of her passing. The world has definitely lost a bright light.

Elizabeth - January 31 at 02:51 PM



“ My Beautiful Sister, Brenda:

When I think of the great blessings you have been in my life,, many outstanding virtues come to mind: Kindness, Passionate for your Causes, Determined, Hard Working, Understanding, Welcoming, Model Homemaker, Fun Loving, Lover of the Gospel and Our Savior (and serving him with everything you have been given), Obedient to the Gospel Principles, Tender Hearted, Beautiful, Lover of Music, Lover of Your Precious Family, Entertainer of Grandchildren, and the list goes on and on

Thank you for being part of my life and for loving me; thank you for lifting me, praying for me, laughing with me, sharing memories with me, and making my world a better place. Parts of a favorite poem: "You made me smile today, your voice was sunny and bright. You lifted me up and relieved my pain. My heart was gladdened and I shared your smile with others I met along my way".

No wonder your middle name was "JOY". You brought that gift to many others. God had a great plan, no one else could accomplish - only you. So he called you home - we have been heartbroken and have felt such sorrow losing you. I know you will be that "bright star" shining over all of us "until we meet again". I will love you forever and ever,

Your adoring Sister and Friend, Vicki

Vicki Nelson - January 31 at 09:28 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Shurtz Family with Brenda



Ken Shurtz - January 30 at 09:55 PM



“ When mom and dad would go on trips, they would tell us not to jump on the couch. But as soon as they pulled out of the driveway they would see us almost hitting the ceiling. Brenda seemed to organize the activities. We would get every pillow and blanket in the house and make a big pile to run and jump or dive off the couch onto. Sometimes we would get the ottoman or piano bench as a diving platform. We would let smoky the dog in for extra fun. We would have Indian leg wrestles We would go up to Munson's or Griffin's Grocery and buy fish sticks, french fries and make yummy stuff like peanut butter balls and divinity. Brenda growing up would sometimes wear a red baseball cap. One time at the dinner table date took it off her head a tore it up. Dad always made sure we Brenda and I had a horse to ride and take care of growing up. One in particular was a mare named Flossie, Flo for short and boy could she run. Brenda was my protector at school she was 2 years older. But one time she broke a broom over my head for muddying up the freshly cleaned kitchen. I was very proud of here when she made varsity cheerleader her junior and senior years. She wrote to me regularly on my mission even though she was heavily involved at USU. She told me about Mike and I had a good feeling about him! One time Brenda and I were in SLC and met up with Kay and Julie. We had ridden up in a grocery truck from Munson's. We ate at Trolley Square and when done I was going the wrong way on a street and Brenda had to grab the wheel and get us onto a side street. Recently she wasn't very happy when she found out I photoshopped myself onto her elk kill photo and put it on facebook. We are going to miss you Sweet Sister Brenda! from your Brother Ken

Ken Shurtz - January 30 at 09:52 PM



“ Memories of Brenda

One summer my dad and sister Brenda went on a fishing trip above Blue Spruce campground. We cleaned out an old sheep trailer wagon to stay in. We did catch a lot of fish but then it started raining hard and it went on for 3 days. Dad was worried that the steep roads would inhibit our station wagon travel back to town and wanted them to dry out a bit before attempting the trip for fear of sliding off the road. Our food was running out and we had mice running over us at night. We played cards a lot during the deluge. Between storms we would run out and fish for food for an hour or so, we started getting sick of trout. Finally dad said to hell with it lets try to get out of here and through a bunch of slipping, sliding and praying we made it over the last hill for home. Mom was sure glad to see us.

We would also fish North Creek Reservoirs, Boulder Creek & Mountain like Kings Pasture, Deer Lake, Lower Bowns and Oak Creek.

One time Brenda and I found a family of newborn mice in an old car by the river and brought them home in a box. They were so cute, but Mom was very unhappy and we returned them promptly.

When I was about seven years old, I got left in Salt Lake City. I was watching Saturday morning cartoons in my Uncle Verl's TV room when he came in and said, "Hey bud your family's just leaving!" I ran out the door and saw the station wagon turn the corner for home (a 7 hour trip). I got a little choked up, but Uncle Verl said. "oh don't worry they'll notice you missing and be back soon." Well it was not till they hit the point of the mountain that my sister Brenda noticed me not there and they turned around to get me.

Kay built a large pen with chicken wire and started to raise rabbits for fun. We loved to feed and hold them and chase them around the yard.

Brenda and I would roam around the fields below our house and build forts for a club. We dug a hole on the edge of the hill, put planks over it and covered it with dirt. She would invite the neighbor kids like Janalee Taylor and Derilynne Mitchell to participate. I would usually be named historian.

We would catch pollywogs, and put them in plastic containers with water in a box and watch them grow into toads. The ditch ran through our yard, and would spend many hours playing in the sand with our miniature trucks and excavating equipment. We had to be careful of where the cats buried their poop.

We would go across the Escalante River to the red rocks and slide down the grooves on premade pole sleds. We would play Andy-I-over, redlight greenlight, Simon says or night games like beary isn't out tonight, kick the can and red rover with the neighborhood kids too.

In the summer we would make stick horses and personalize them and play cowboys and Indians out in the hills and surrounding fields.

In the winter dad would play the guitar and we would sing and dance in front of the fireplace in the living room while it snowed out. We always had a good supply of potatoes, beets, carrots, onions and apples etc. in our cellar that I would be sent to get regularly. Mom was a good cook and we had plenty of food to eat because we would always grow a very large garden every year. Brenda and I would get paid 10 cents a row. Mom would have us help her prepare corn, green beans and other produce for bottling or freezing. We also raised raspberries and strawberries. Mom would make jam out of them.

When Brenda was very young, Mom was transferring hot tomato sauce from the stove, the bottle broke and went all over Brenda's face. Mom rushed her to the bathtub and got her in cold water and she was blessed to be okay. From Brother Ken

Ken - January 30 at 09:49 PM



“ Carole Dumas lit a candle in memory of Brenda Joy Harper



Carole Dumas - January 30 at 02:18 PM



“ Oh my partner in mischief! I will miss you, our hours on the phone chats, our giggles of all the goofy things we did through the years! Sharing our children's accomplishments, the ups and downs of teen woes, the excitements of marriages and grand babies that followed! I will miss sharing the many laughs of our little grandchildren's innocent sayings that were so hilarious we ended up crying from laughing so hard! You were the best, my buddy, my cousin, my sunshine friend! You will be missed, but loved forever Roanna Glazier (aka Bertha)

Roanna Glazier - January 29 at 10:07 PM



“ How can this be true? Our dear sweet friend! Our best friend in the whole world! Brenda is the most genuine, loving, kind and caring person we know. A dear dear friend! When we talked we instantly connected even if the time between visits was sporadic. Her family is everything to her and always will be. Mike-she loved you with every fiber of her being. She loves her three girls and would do anything for you. She would drop everything to spend a moment with her grandchildren. We are all blessed to know and love Brenda! We send our love and hugs dear Harper family! Love you all so much! So sorry that your wonderful wife, mother, grandmother is not here to laugh with, talk to and play together. Brenda always had a twinkle in her eye looking for a little bit of mischief. I love that about her. I also loved talking to her and being taught through her words of wisdom. I don't know what I would have done without Brenda after my daughter died. We walked and talked and solved many of our problems. She gave me courage to keep going, understanding to see better days ahead and peace to know my Savior was always there to help me through my trials. Just thinking of her makes me smile. We will all miss her greatly! We have been friends for 40 years! Love you Harper Family! From Karl and Karen Blunck

Karen Karl Blunck - January 29 at 02:49 PM



“ Brenda was always so fun to talk to and a wonderful friend. I will miss laughing with her. My heart goes out to Brother Harper and his family. Sending you love and prayers.

Sheri Hone - January 29 at 11:52 AM



“ Margo Gates Smith lit a candle in memory of Brenda Joy Harper



Margo Gates Smith - January 29 at 11:45 AM



“ Ed & Camille Spencer Shakespear lit a candle in memory of Brenda Joy Harper



Ed & Camille Spencer Shakespear - January 29 at 11:44 AM



“ Brenda was always a happy person to work with. We always had a good time. She will truly be missed. The world has lost a true friend, sunshine and light. Sending love and prayers to the Harper family.

Melissa Morton - January 29 at 10:03 AM



“ I am so saddened by this news. She is a wonderful woman. Always so kind and friendly. She will for sure be missed. I pray that your family will be comforted and strengthened
Paula Johnson

Paula Johnson - January 28 at 11:24 PM



“ Brenda was always a happy and friendly person with smile. The Seely family loves Brenda and the Harper family. We pray for comfort and peace that surpasses all understanding to bless them at this time. D
Seely

D Seely - January 28 at 11:03 PM