



Brenda Hinojosa Marshall

January 17, 1955 - January 9, 2022

Brenda Hinojosa Marshall-beloved wife, mother, sister, and friend to so many passed away on Sunday, the Lord's Day, January 9th, 2022, from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, ALS- Lou Gehrig's Disease. Brenda will be remembered not for the way she died, but for the joyous way she lived.

Brenda was a proud native-born Texan and was equally proud of her Hispanic roots dating back to the 1500's in Hinojosa, Spain. Brenda was born in Corpus Christi, Texas in 1955. Her parents, Jose and Marina along with her dear sister, Celeste, moved to Pensacola, Florida, in 1959. Brenda attended public schools in Pensacola and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School, class of 1973. Integration was new to Pensacola in those days. Already recognized for her naturally friendly and inclusive nature, Brenda stepped up to chair the school's first interracial organization, "United Students" bringing together a core of diverse students who championed BTWHS's successful transition over the next four years. Brenda attended Pensacola Junior College where she was a member of Zeta Phi Delta sorority. Brenda completed her education in 1977 at the University of Montevallo, earning a B.A. in Fashion Merchandising. While at Montevallo, she joined Chi Omega sorority where she made many lifelong friends. When Steve and Brenda moved to Central Florida in 1982, she quickly immersed herself in her adopted hometown. Brenda was active with the Central Florida Chi Omega Alumni Association and chaired the scholarship committee for many years. Brenda was also a

long-standing member of the Greater Orlando Junior League and maintained Sustainer status for many years.

Known far and wide for her warm personality, humor, and creativity, among her many talents Brenda made from scratch award winning gingerbread houses during the holidays and baked gourmet cakes for all occasions. Her delicious homemade tortillas, complimented with guacamole and salsa, were legendary. Brenda could paint, sew, make computer art, craft virtually anything and prepare five-star meals. She used every holiday as a reason to celebrate life and treat those she loved. Valentines, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Christmas, Cinco de Mayo—any holiday was a day for music, special foods, and festivity. Brenda decorated her home like the North Pole at Christmas and served corned beef & cabbage, green bread, and Irish folk music on St. Patrick's. Brenda was even known to pour green dye in the commode. What a funny lady! You would have thought she was of Irish descent rather than a proud Tex- Mex Hispanic gal.

Her girlfriends called Brenda “Winter Park’s Martha Stewart” in recognition of her creativity and inspiring talents. She could wear Walmart discount fashion and look like Park Avenue because of her style and cleverness. Typically, she donned full costumes at Halloween and Easter. Once, when Britt was in elementary school, Steve was out of town during Father’s Day week. Brenda showed up in the classroom wearing a coat, tie, and mustache so Britt would have a dad present. Brenda relished her role by Steve’s side as Mrs. Claus to Steve’s Santa Claus appearing at Christmas holiday parties for nonprofit organizations and nursing homes.

At the age of eight, Brenda started a lifelong fascination with frogs. Brenda was a “frogaholic” with frog fashion, jewelry, flatware, table lamps, shoes, pajamas and more. Of course, her favorite tv/movie star was Kermit the Frog. Rest assured; frog legs were never on the menu at the Marshall’s home.

Brenda maintained connections and friendships for life. She was routinely in touch with elementary and high school friends, college classmates, sorority sisters and friends from her working career and church family, many of whom she lunched with just weeks before her death. Most anyone would say Brenda was sweet, funny, and incredibly thoughtful. If you were Brenda's friend, you could count on receiving punctual and humorous birthday greetings, with an insightful remembrance she had mentally noted months before was "just what you needed". Wherever Brenda went in life, her winsome charm, wit, and mischievous twinkle would ignite smiles and good will with men and women alike.

A few weeks before she and Steve started dating in 1979, Brenda custom ordered an aqua blue Volkswagen Beetle convertible. In fact, Steve first kissed Brenda on the cheek and started their romance while Brenda was sitting in her VW. Brenda loved to drive around town and honk the horn (playing La Cucaracha) enjoying waves and admiration from people who treated her like the celebrity she was. Brenda kept that treasured car for 42 years.

Brenda and her husband Steve were married one month short of their 42nd anniversary. Steve would tell you he loved Brenda more and more as the years rolled by. Steve simply adored her for the magnificent person that was Brenda Marshall. Steve proposed to Brenda in a hot air balloon, and they married in 1980. Their partnership not only endured but blossomed over the years, inspiring countless friends, and younger couples with their devotion to each other. Every Saturday for nearly 15 years, Steve wrote a song dedication to Brenda on Facebook professing his love. Their "song" Billy Joel's "I Love You Just the Way You Are" fit their story perfectly. Brenda and Steve's favorite date was dinner and a rock concert, frequently an act from the 60's or 70's.

They saw all their favorites like Billy Joel, Elton John, Paul McCartney, Lionel Richie, Diana Ross and many more.

ALS did not defeat Brenda. Learning of her diagnosis in December 2020, Brenda faced the unimaginable with courage and calm. Brenda managed her ALS diagnosis with incredible resolve; choosing to ignore her body's failing and instead chose to enjoy people, shopping, church and casual nights with family and friends. She was loving and grateful to all. Brenda especially appreciated her daughter, Marina, and future daughter-in-law, Desiree Monahan, who tenderly helped her during these difficult months of decline. Brenda continued to lead a life of smiles, dignity, a strong faith in Jesus Christ and truly enjoyed every day as a gift.

Brenda is preceded in death by her parents whom she loved dearly. She is survived by Steve (husband), Britt (son), Marina (daughter), Celeste Whisenant (sister), Rick Whisenant (brother-in-law), and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless friends.

A funeral Mass is scheduled Friday, March 11th, 2022, for Brenda at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, 526 North Park Avenue, Winter Park, Florida 32789. Visitation will be in the church sanctuary at 10:00 am. The service will be at 11:00 am with a reception to celebrate her life afterwards. Final internment will follow a private ceremony at Queen of Angels Cemetery, Winter Park, Florida.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggest a donation in Brenda's memory be made to either:

- 1) ALS Association, Florida Chapter, 3242 Parkside Center Circle, Tampa, FL 33619
- 2) Team Gleason Foundation, P.O. Box 24493, New Orleans, LA 70184
- 3) St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, Haiti fund, 526 North Park Avenue,

Winter Park, Florida 32789.

The family would like to recognize and thank the DeGusipe Funeral Home and Todd DeGusipe for their professional service and attention during this difficult time.

The family of Brenda Hinojosa Marshall invites you to leave a message of condolence on the Tribute Wall created in her loving memory.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church
526 North Park Ave
Winter Park, FL 32789

Funeral Mass

MAR 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church
526 North Park Ave
Winter Park, FL 32789

Celebration of Life following Funeral Service

MAR 11 (ET)

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church
526 North Park Ave
Winter Park, FL 32789

Tribute Wall

JC

“ To know her was to love her 💖 always kind, happy, generous & so creative. If you ever needed a helping hand she was there! A loving wife, parent & friend. I'll be looking for you Brenda on the other side 🙏💖🙏
Sincere condolences to Steve & children.

Jean Carlson - January 31, 2022 at 06:00 PM

KS

“ What a beautiful tribute to Brenda! I was honored, and I mean really honored, know her and to share in the happy, joyful spirit that glowed around her. May she rest in peace now. May those who loved her be comforted. And may her memory be a blessing to all who knew her!

Katie Seymour - January 29, 2022 at 10:21 AM

MJ

“ Brenda was one of my favorite classmates from the old Booker T., Class of '73, Pensacola, FL. She was sweet. I was sarcastic. She was well-groomed. I was a hippie. She was quiet. I was loud. And yet, we got along famously. I moved cross-country and we lost touch for a few years years but when Facebook came along we picked right back up where we left off. Our friendship thrived as though no time had passed. We had a shared love for the Beatles & all things Classic Rock from the 70s - our beautiful decade. Brenda was always a true friend and one of the few I still had left from high school. Her loss is enormous to me. It has hit me hard. She was absolutely genuine. I will miss her funny & loving messages, esp. rare Beatles videos. But, all she sent is preserved on my phone and I will visit her there often. Fun Fact - Before Brent Lane in Pensacola was extended & curved, it used to just end at the top of the hill as you swoop down & up coming from 9th Ave. Brenda & her family used to live in a cute little house right there at the end of the old Brent Lane. I always thought of her every single time I drove that road. Beautiful Brenda Hinojosa. She was there when I became me. Now she lives in my heart and I will protect her memory there. My deepest condolences to her beloved husband, Steve (an incredible man), and to the rest of her family and close friends back home. How fortunate are we to have known her? Very fortunate indeed. Rest in Eternal Peace, Brenda, and say hello to John & George for me. ILY. ❤️ - Meghan Jones 🕊️🙏🕊️

Meghan E. Jones - January 28, 2022 at 09:27 PM

EW

Meg! What a wonderful testimony to your friendship and B's influence. She was one in a million..... xo, EA

Ellen Adair Wyche - January 29, 2022 at 12:57 PM

CW

Thank you, Meghan for this beautiful tribute to Brenda! Your remembrance of Brenda is heartwarming & very special to me. Brenda's sister, Celeste

Celeste Whisenant - February 21, 2022 at 11:45 PM

SW

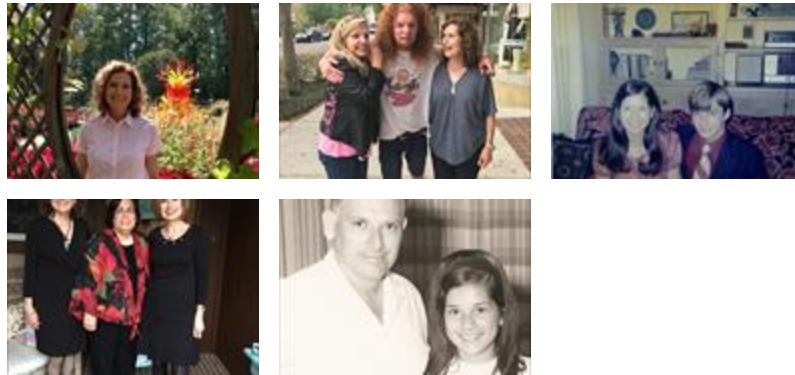
“ *Susan Wesler lit a candle in memory of Brenda Hinojosa Marshall*



Susan Wesler - January 28, 2022 at 08:51 PM



“ *76 files added to the album Family Memories Album*



DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory - January 27, 2022 at 03:58 PM

NK

I've known Brenda most of my life. We grew up together. We fought and loved like brothers and sisters, and that's what we were, family. I love you my dear friend, you will never be forgotten. Peace in heaven, I will always miss you.

Nick Kiser - January 28, 2022 at 07:47 PM

JB

I remember her wearing her brownie outfit to Agnes McReynolds I wore my cub scout outfit a few times. I didn't know she was sick when she sent some pictures of our 4th grade play recently. I'm sure she will be missed and many good memories.

John Burgoyne - January 29, 2022 at 07:31 PM

JD

*I worked with Brenda many years ago and recently we reconnected and started a lunch bunch with Jannine & Betsy . Looked forward to many more lunches its hard to believe no more. I loved that she always had a smile and a twinkle in her eye..she will be missed by all who knew and loved her.
Rest in peace my friend.
Joyce Dorfman*

Juanita Joyce Dorfman - February 22, 2022 at 08:02 PM

JD

*I worked with Brenda many years ago We recently reconnected and started a lunch bunch with Janine and Betsy. We enjoyed our time together and looked forward to many more.
Its so hard to believe she left us so soon.
Brenda always had a smile and a twinkle in here eye.
She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.
Rest in PEACE my friend.
Joyce Dorfman*

Joyce Dorfman - February 22, 2022 at 08:48 PM