



## Brenda Joyce Phillips

March 26, 1946 - June 18, 2015

Brenda Joyce Phillips, 69, daughter of the late Cecil Isaac and Gay Louella Hart, was born on March 26th, 1946 in St. Louis, MO, gained her wings on June 18th, 2015. She was preceeded in death by her parents and older sister Sandra Jewell. She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Larry (Phil) Phillips; 3 daughters – Dawn and husband Vince Arbetello of Tarpon Springs, FL., Andrea and husband Travis Peery of Lexington, OK, Louella (Lulu) Price of Broken Arrow, OK; 3 granddaughters – Baylee and Morgann Price, and Tia Peery; and sister Debra and Husband Erroll Perdue of Denton, TX. She is also survived by nephews Shadd and Shane Ross and nieces Shannon Castillo and Teresa Jewell. She also leaves behind Aunts, Uncles, and many cherished friends. Brenda graduated from Ruskin High School in 1964 and went on to attend college in Springfield, MO for nurses training. She met Larry in 1966 while he was attending the University of Missouri at Rolla and they were married in Columbia, MO September 23, 1967. Brenda's first job was at the Cebra Palsy Center in Kansas City, MO. When Larry returned home from the service, Brenda decided to start a child care service in their home in Kansas City along with rearing her own three daughters. The family moved to Tulsa in 1973 so Larry could attend Spartan School of Aeronautics and go to work for Brenda's dad's company while going to school. Brenda, of course, continued the home child care. In 1975, the family moved into their custom built home in Broken Arrow, OK where Larry still resides today. And, yes, the home child care followed to the new home as well. Brenda retired from home child care in 2006, but, not being able to stay away from taking care of children, took the job of teacher's assistant of the autistic class at Arrowhead Elementary in Broken Arrow for five years. As the pattern suggests, Brenda absolutely loved any and all Children. Having had home child care for 38 years, she ended up caring for some of the children of the children she earlier cared for along with two of her granddaughters. Brenda was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in March of 2009 but continued at Arrowhead Elementary until 2011. As can be seen, Brenda touched the lives of many children and parents over many years, always caring and always giving. The world was a better place with her in it, and will be a lesser place without her. If you would like to donate in lieu of flowers to the Alzheimer's organization in my moms Brenda's name at <http://www.actionalz.org/donate.asp> or to the autistic foundation.



# Comments

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“ Back in 2006 to 2008, I was one of the students in Arrowhead’s kindergarten/1st grade class for autistic kids, where she used to work with Ms. Judy at the time. Back in those days, it was pretty hard for me to get used to my new surroundings since I used to live in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, but then, we moved to Tulsa; I was never used to be in a school/class like this before and it was scary and stressful for me, but I wouldn’t have gone through it without Mrs. Brenda. I will never forget the times I had with her; she was not just a teacher assistant, but a caring, thoughtful friend. One of the memories I had with her is that when I was kid, I used to be a Goosebumps fanatic and been (and still kinda am) very fond with horror movies (particularly Chucky); we used to talk about this stuff a lot throughout those 2 years and never lost interest in it. We’ve been interested in stuff like this so much, that one day, my mom found some mail for me and it was CD burns of Goosebumps episodes; I can’t thank her enough for something that’s so thoughtful and I will never forget it. There’s so much more memories I had with her, but I can’t mention them all; but all I can say to Brenda is a thank you for being there with me and my family through thick and thin. Just, thank you so much. You’ll be forever missed.

**Drayke Hornig** - January 20, 2020 at 03:46 PM

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“ Oh Brenda I just stumbled across this page and am so glad I get to say something to you. Brenda you were such a phenomenon! I remember one day watching you take your little ones for a walk. You were in the lead and about 4-5 little ones followed behind you in single file, just like little ducks they lined up perfectly! I couldn't believe it! At this age they should be yelling and screaming and chasing each other around! But no you could tell they were enjoying their walk, they had smiles on their faces. This is the memory I think of when I think of you and it never fails to bring a smile to my face. Dan and I enjoy our new home but oh we miss our wonderful neighbors like you and Phil. I know your gentle spirit is in bliss right now. Enjoy!Patty Collins

**Patty Collins** - October 10, 2015 at 12:44 PM

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“ Lit a candle in memory of Brenda Joyce Phillips

**Phil Cacioppo** - June 26, 2015 at 12:39 AM

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“ Oh Brenda, where do I even begin...? You are in the earliest of memories I have as a preschooler, & you are in the earliest of memories my children have as preschoolers. You've been a part of every era of my life. You taught us how to tie our shoes, you taught us how to ride bikes, you taught us how to eat things we didn't like...I could go on and on, lol. I remember calling you frantic one day when I set the toaster on fire at home. No matter what, you were always there...as a child, as a teen, as a young adult, & as a grown woman with a family. Something I will always remember is your bright smile, your joyous laughter at most situations in life, and your creative mind when I was ever in a bind and needed help. And you were so so funny and could always make me laugh. As an adult, I learned to appreciate your humor in a way you don't understand as a child. You were so much more than a caregiver to myself, & my kids. You were a very dear family friend. You will forever be loved and missed in our home. The Hutto/Downes Clan

**Dawn Downes** - June 23, 2015 at 05:53 PM

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“ Brenda was a wonderful friend who loved kids and could handle a bunch of them at one time! I always picture her with that orange Suburban and all the kids she took care of piled in — before the days of required child seats and seat belts! After she did that terrific job taking care of the neighborhood kids, including mine, she did a great job with our autistic little ones at Arrowhead. I've missed her friendly smile and laugh. She was one super, caring lady! Janice Blankenship

**Janice Blankenship** - June 21, 2015 at 07:47 PM

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“ I met Brenda when our daughters were on the Gymnastics team together. She was always doing fundraisers, etc for the team. The team really needed a spring floor so Brenda did research and found a kit to make our own spring floor. She organized the moms and dads together and we put springs on sheets of plywood for the floor. We had a great time doing it. Brenda was always so much fun and was always thinking of others!!My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this sad time.

**Vicki Aneshansley** - June 21, 2015 at 03:07 PM

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“ Brenda was vice-president of our Ruskin High School Class of 1964. In addition to that leadership role Brenda was a leader of making your day better than it would have been had you not gotten to be around her. She loved to smile. She loved to laugh. She loved to get people around her to do the same. A smile comes to my face when I think of her. What a great gift from her life. Mike Gerken Classmate and Friend

Mike Gerken - June 21, 2015 at 12:35 PM

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“ I don't know where to start with a favorite memory of Brenda... There are so many after being neighbors for 39 years. We laugh together, cried together, prayed together, mostly laughed together. One funny time was when she was with me at the hospital with Wesley. She sat with me the whole night and the beeping sound kept going off and we thought it was the machines giving him meds. So, I would get up and tap on it and mess with the tubing and it would stop beeping. We laughed so hard we cried when, the next morning Wes woke up and wanted to check his pager, and it was full of phone numbers from his friends! That's only one of about a thousand. And when we would remember any of them, we laughed just like when it happened! I will always miss Brenda.

Reva - June 20, 2015 at 10:32 PM

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“ Larry and Brenda are very dear to me, as Larry was my childhood bud that I love as a brother. We had so much in common and lived so close together. Larry's mom would drive us to school every day. We would watch tv together, go to the Lake and fly model air planes and boats together. Larry is a great guy and Brenda was great lady. I pray that all of the family will be blessed in this time of need. Don Kelsay

Don Kelsay - June 20, 2015 at 04:24 PM