



## Brenda S. Vowels

December 6, 1942 - September 23, 2025

It is with profound sadness that the family of Brenda Sue Vowels, 82, of Kalkaska, announce that she passed away on September 23, 2025 with her children at her side. She was born on December 6, 1942 in Wayne City, Illinois to Lester Dale "Pat" & Augusta Mae Crocker. Brenda married Stanley G. Waggoner on January 23, 1961 in Bridgeport, Illinois. Over a 30 year period they raised their three children (Danielle 1961, Gordon 1964, and Sara 1969).

Residing in Bridgeport and Mattoon, Illinois until relocating to Kalkaska, Michigan in 1976.

Brenda is preceded in death by her brothers, Charles (Chuck) Crocker, Olan (Bub) Crocker, and Lavern Crocker.

Brenda is survived by her husband James (Jim) D. Vowels of Kalkaska, her brother Dale Crocker of Wayne City, Illinois, her children: Danielle (Peter) Backes of North Mankato, Minnesota, S. Gordon Waggoner II of Traverse City, Sara (Joe) Waterman of Rapid City, and her step-children Amanda Vowels of South Glens Falls, New York and James W. (J.W.) Vowels of Kalkaska, along with her many precious grandchildren & great grandchildren.

Throughout Brenda's life, she was a Girl & Boy Scout leader for her children, a volunteer for multiple organizations, waitress and past owner of Carefree Cove on Manistee Lake. She loved to read, especially her Louis L'Amour collection, along with walking with her many Schnauzers.

She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Eves Club, Kalkaska Academia Club, 100+ Women Who Care and the Red Hat Society. Brenda had a passion for charities, devoting most of her time to the local K.A.I.R. Chapter.

The family would like to extend a grateful Thank You to the entire staff of French Manor Terra and Hospice of Traverse City for their care and support shown to our mom over these last fifteen months.

Brenda will be cremated and have a funeral and burial on a family plot in Wayne City, Illinois.

The family will hold a Celebration of Life at Timber Ridge Resort in Traverse City on October 18, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The family asks in lieu of flowers contributions in the name of Brenda Vowels be made to Kalkaska County Library, Kalkaska Animal Shelter or simply plant a flower in her honor.

Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home our family serving yours.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT 18. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Timber Ridge Resort  
4050 Hammond Rd. E  
Traverse City, MI 49686

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ *Such a beautiful and sweet soul,I took care of Brenda from the time she entered French Manor Terra,we formed a special relationship and I will miss her beautiful smile and the moments we shared.My heartfelt condolences to this beautiful family ♡*

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**Sheila Steele** - September 27, 2025 at 06:09 PM

MS

“ *So sorry for your families loss, Brenda was such a beautiful lady and always willing to help out in the community. May God give you comfort and peace.*

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**Mary K Skick** - September 26, 2025 at 04:41 PM

DN

“ *Deborah Newell lit a candle in memory of Brenda S. Vowels*



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**Deborah Newell** - September 26, 2025 at 03:22 PM