



Brenda S. Olin

August 9, 1943 - March 22, 2026

Brenda S. Olin, 82, of Brodhead Wisconsin, passed away on March 22, 2026 at UW Hospital following a brief but courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Born on August 9, 1943 in Rocky Mount North Carolina to Joseph and Melba Strickland. Brenda carried the warmth and spirit of her Southern roots with her throughout her life. She grew up with a deep love of family, the Outer Banks and the simple pleasures of North Carolina cooking, her favorites were eastern NC BBQ and hush puppies that she declared could not be made quite right in Wisconsin no matter how many time the family tried to replicate them. Brenda attended Meredith College Raleigh NC where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Education in 1965 – a degree she would go on to shape the lives of children for decades to come. On July 15, 1967 she married the love of her life, Donald B. Olin. The couple made their first home together in Franklin Park, Illinois before eventually settling in Don's hometown of Brodhead Wisconsin.

Brenda made her home in Brodhead, Wisconsin where she lived a life defined by love, learning and an extraordinary devotion to the natural world. For 23 years, she shaped young minds as a first grade teacher at Juda Schools. Her warmth, patience and passion left a lasting impression on countless children and families. To many, she was simply known as the "Butterfly Lady" a title she earned and treasured through her dedicated work raising and education others about the magnificent Monarch butterfly. Her classroom was not just a place to learn to read and write; it was a place of acceptance and wonder. She

ended each day asking every student if they needed a hug or a handshake, always seeing them and accepting them just as they were.

Beyond the classroom, Brenda's greatest joy was her family. She cherished time with her daughters, her grandchildren and her beloved little dogs who were constant companions and a source of endless delight.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the compassionate doctors and nurses at Monroe SSM Health and UW Hospital Madison for the exceptional care and kindness shown to Brenda and her family during this difficult time.

Brenda was preceded in death by her husband Don Olin, her brothers Bobby Strickland, Joseph H Strickland Jr and sister Sylvia Strickland.

Brenda is survived by her daughters Kristin Olmedo (Carlos) of Brodhead and Lori Rockwell (Randy) of Ontario and her beloved grandchildren Robbie and Vanessa.

Brenda Olin leaves behind a legacy as rich and graceful as the butterflies she so lovingly tended – a woman who understood that the most important things in life are the ones that grow when you give them care. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her and fondly remembered every time a Monarch drifts by on a summer breeze.

Visitation for Brenda will be held at the UCC Church in Brodhead, WI on Friday, April 10, 2026 from 6-8PM. Memorial Services will be held on the following day at the UCC Church as well, Saturday, April 11, 2026 with a small visitation before starting at 10-11AM with services starting immediately after.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 10. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

UCC Congregational Church
E201 23rd Street
Brodhead , WI 53520

Visitation

APR 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

UCC Congregational Church
E201 23rd Street
Brodhead , WI 53520

Memorial Service

APR 11. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

UCC Congregational Church
E201 23rd Street
Brodhead , WI 53520

Tribute Wall

FF

“ From Judy Rockwell & Family purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Brenda S. Olin.



From Judy Rockwell & Family - April 09 at 05:09 PM

FF

“ From Judy Rockwell & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brenda S. Olin.

From Judy Rockwell & Family - April 09 at 05:09 PM

JR

“ Brenda was a true southern lady and friend, she will be so missed, specially at our holidays get together. We are grateful for the many years we got to know her and for the closeness we shared. Godspeed Brenda, until we meet again.

Julio and Marissa Rodriguez - April 08 at 02:29 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Brenda S. Olin.



April 07 at 02:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Brenda S. Olin.*



April 02 at 08:19 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Brenda S. Olin.

April 02 at 08:19 AM



“ *Brenda was such a thoughtful and caring person and teacher. We are sorry for your loss.*



Tana Klitzman - April 01 at 07:45 PM



“ *So very sorry for your loss. Brenda was such a wonderful caring person. Such a wonderful teacher and mentor who help shape the lives of many children along the way. Thank you for everything you did for us.*

Debbie Wehinger - April 01 at 12:52 PM

BW

“ *Brenda Wahl lit a candle in memory of Brenda S. Olin*



Brenda Wahl - April 01 at 10:12 AM

BM

“ *So sorry for your loss, sending prayers and hugs.
Michale & Bonnie Moore*



Bknuta Moore - March 31 at 10:26 PM

Being an adult is weird. I'm just unsupervised all the time. - meme by u/unsupervised

“ *I was honored to have known Brenda as my child's first grade teacher in Juda and also as a friend. I enjoyed chatting with her when we bumped into each other. I will always associate her with the Monarch. Fly high Brenda and be at peace with Don ☐ 🦋*

Penny Mahlkuch - March 31 at 09:28 PM

AO

“ *Allen And Donna Olson lit a candle in memory of Brenda S. Olin*



Allen and Donna Olson - March 31 at 07:36 PM

TF

“ The Gary Olin Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Brenda S. Olin.



The Gary Olin Family - March 31 at 12:02 PM

WS

“ Sorry for your loss. Brenda was a wonderful person.



Wendy and Randy Schupbach - March 31 at 10:49 AM



“ Sending our prayers to the family at this difficult time.



Amy Mills - March 31 at 09:32 AM

KB

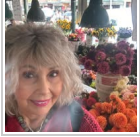
“ Sending prayers and love during this difficult time.

Kymerly Brennan - March 30 at 10:23 PM

KB

“ Kymerly B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brenda S. Olin.

Kymerly B. - March 30 at 10:21 PM



“ *Brenda’s influence in the first grade classroom will continue to ripple through every student she encouraged and every teacher she inspired to think outside the box. I am deeply grateful for the time I had to teach with through classroom plays, Maypole festivities, plan various activities together, but basically just learn from her, and most importantly to laugh with her. She will always remain in my heart. Thank you Brenda;)*



Jan Osterndorf - March 30 at 08:15 PM

LO

Thank you Jan - I was trying to find a way to reach you so you wouldn't have to find out this way. Mom loved you so much and was so grateful for all you did for Robbie.

Lori - March 30 at 09:49 PM

RW

My deepest sympathy to the family during this heart breaking time. Your momma was a special lady. 🙏

Robin Walenton - March 31 at 08:44 AM

DK

“ *Doug And Janice Knight lit a candle in memory of Brenda S. Olin*



Doug and Janice Knight - March 30 at 07:48 PM

VK

“ *Don and Brenda were a special couple in Brodhead. RIP Brenda. I am sure Don is waiting for you.*

Virgil And Judy Keller - March 30 at 02:19 PM

VK

“ *Virgil And Judy Keller lit a candle in memory of Brenda S. Olin*



Virgil And Judy Keller - March 30 at 02:16 PM