



## Brenda Ciummo

January 12, 1962 - December 25, 2023

Brenda Jane Ciummo, 61, Topeka, Kansas, passed away on Monday, December 25, 2023.

Brenda was born in Hutchinson, Kansas, the daughter of Charles and Onabel Heyen Ragsdale. She graduated from Hutchinson High School in 1980 and in 1984 earned a Bachelor of Music in Voice from McPherson College. In her early career, she worked as an administrative assistant in Dallas, Texas and then moved to Topeka to work for the St. Francis Hospital Foundation Department. Shortly after moving to Topeka, she met Russ Ciummo, and they were married on June 18, 1994.

Brenda raised and later homeschooled their three children from Pre-K through high school, and participated in their homeschool community, Cornerstone Family Schools. In Cornerstone, she was a board member, mentored younger mothers, provided food for the sick, coordinated sports teams, and was a dear friend to many. She was a member of Topeka Bible Church and held a number of women's Bible studies in her home. She loved being around others, making sure they were comfortable and having a good time. In her spare time, Brenda enjoyed home projects, painting cabinets and walls, playing with the family dogs, cooking, thrifting, and watching KU basketball and Chiefs football. Brenda had a contagious laugh, and she was happiest when she was around her family and friends.

Brenda is survived by her husband, Russ; and her children, Ben Ciummo (Rachel), Anna Van Camp (Kolby), Andrew Ciummo; brother, Vernon Ragsdale (Pam); parents-in-law, Mario and Carol Ciummo; brother-in-law, Nick Ciummo (Jane); sister-in-law, Gia Schuetz (Douglas); four nephews; and three nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Bonnie Ragsdale.

Visitation will be 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614, where the memorial service will start at 11 a.m. Inurnment will follow in Mount Hope Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Topeka Rescue Mission or SCARS sent in care of the funeral home. Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com).

In her last women's Bible Study, Brenda was impressed by John 6:35 where Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." Brenda was a true believer in Jesus and is now resting with Him. We will see her again and talk to her about our lives and why everything happened the way it did. We will all have a better understanding at that time, but for now are trusting that God will work all of this sadness together for good. He is the Bread of Life and Brenda is enjoying that Life today.

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Hope Cemetery

4700 SW 17th Street  
Topeka, KS 66604

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 3. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home  
2801 SW Urish Road  
Topeka, KS 66614  
(785) 272-7888  
[info@kevinbrennanfamily.com](mailto:info@kevinbrennanfamily.com)

## Memorial Service

JAN 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home  
2801 SW Urish Road  
Topeka, KS 66614  
(785) 272-7888  
[info@kevinbrennanfamily.com](mailto:info@kevinbrennanfamily.com)

# Tribute Wall

AF

“ I remember Brenda as a kind, gentle soul, always willing to help others, and share in her delights. My family grew up as good friends with her and her family, and here I would like to provide my thoughts and prayers with you all. Our time on this earth is fleeting, but our time with Jesus is forever. Mourning is natural, but we also rejoice, knowing that Heaven has gained a wonderful soul.

Alan Ferrell - May 02, 2024 at 04:36 PM

KM

“ Kim Melcher lit a candle in memory of Brenda Ciummo



Kim Melcher - January 03, 2024 at 08:15 AM

DD

“ Dorothy and Joel Duarte purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Brenda Ciummo.



Dorothy and Joel Duarte - January 02, 2024 at 03:57 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Brenda Ciummo.*



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January 02, 2024 at 02:36 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brenda Ciummo.*



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January 02, 2024 at 10:57 AM



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



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January 02, 2024 at 10:38 AM



“ *Russ, we are so sorry for you and your family's terrible loss. We have you in our thoughts and prayers. Jayson and Loriccia Pierce*

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**Jayson Pierce** - January 01, 2024 at 09:31 AM



“ *The Antczaks (Jim,Janet,Jim,Joe,Laura) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brenda Ciummo.*

**The Antczaks (Jim,Janet,Jim,Joe,Laura)** - December 31, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Brenda Ciummo.*



December 31, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Brenda Ciummo.*



December 31, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Corey True & Ashley Soderlund planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brenda Ciummo.*

**Corey True & Ashley Soderlund** - December 31, 2023 at 11:59 AM

JW

“ I met Brenda in 1984 when we moved into Dotzer Hall at McPherson College. We lived on the same floor all four years of college and I remember Brenda as one who was both beautiful inside and out. She was so happy, bubbly, friendly and had the most beautiful singing voice. We reconnected some years ago on Facebook and discovered that we had a son the same age and were fans of The Chiefs, Jayhawks, and Charlie Brown. I will miss her posts and messages and pray that the peace of God, which passes all understanding, comes to all who knew and loved her.

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**Jeanette Williams** - December 29, 2023 at 03:50 PM

VW

“ Brenda was a student and 1984 graduate of McPherson College. She was in our choir and singers group as well as several Christian organizations. We had some great times while on our week long spring break choir tours each year. She had a great sense of humor, was fun to be around and loved to sing. These were so me of the best days of my life and I’m sure hers as well. Don’t know why God had to take her so early but I look forward to joining her in the heavenly choir when my time comes as well. Our college choir was amazing but I know we can’t even imagine the sound and spirit of the heavenly choir. We always ended with our last song at each church performance, “God be with you til we meet again”. I’m so sad but also so happy for her at this time. God be with you Brenda til we meet again.



Victor Williams - December 29, 2023 at 03:25 PM

JF

“ As first cousins, we shared many school holiday breaks and summer breaks together, we giggled so much and loved our time together. I will miss her upbeat attitude and helpful heart. My prayers are with her precious family at this most difficult time.



Jill Flory - December 29, 2023 at 01:09 PM

HP

*Our deepest condolences our thoughts and prayers always. May God be with you during this time of loss. Although We never had the pleasure of meeting Brenda we always heard how wonderful and kind she was to everyone.may god be with her always.*

*Norman and Helen Phaneuf*

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**helen phaneuf** - December 29, 2023 at 10:23 PM

RB

“ *Russ and kids,  
Devastated to learn of Brenda's passing. She truly was the Light and Center of your home, and she made it a home where everyone was welcome. God will bring her into His kingdom with open arms, and her love will always be with all of you. My prayers go out to your family.*

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**Roseann Bybee** - December 29, 2023 at 12:06 PM



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



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December 29, 2023 at 11:33 AM

BT

“ *Brenda was truly the heart of her home. She was the first to step forward and open her home and her heart to those in need. She made our transition back to Topeka so much easier through letting us stay in her home as needed and for helping us to transform our home through paint and many other touches. Literally and figuratively her fingerprints are all throughout my home and I am reminded of that each time I enter a room! I rejoice in the fact that she is in heaven and that we will be reunited in time! May God's peace surround each member of her family at this time.*

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**Belinda Taylor** - December 28, 2023 at 01:45 PM

PW

*I Have known Brenda for 35 years. Brenda was a true sister in Christ and one of God's greatest blessings in my life. If there was such a thing as a picture dictionary, and you looked up loving, generous, kind, wonderful wife, mother and friend, godly woman....Brenda's picture would be included in all of those definitions. Brenda was one of the best friends I've ever had. She left her imprint on so many lives and she will be so greatly missed. We know she is in heaven with her savior and look forward to eternity when we will see her again.*

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**Pam Whitmore** - December 28, 2023 at 05:16 PM

TR

“ *Russ, so sorry hear about the passing of Brenda. My prayers are with you and your family. May you find peace in heart and mind, in knowing Brenda is in the hands of God. Terry Roberts*

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**Terry Roberts** - December 28, 2023 at 01:19 PM

PH

“ *Sorry for the family's loss. I went to High School with her. She was always nice to everyone..prayers for all.*

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**Patty Harts** - December 28, 2023 at 11:21 AM

DH

“ Thinking of all of you and grieving for you at this sad time. I will never forget Brenda's smile and laugh! So grateful Brenda is with Jesus and that He is your ultimate Comforter too! Praying for supernatural peace and strength at this most difficult time. Di Holloway

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**Diana Holloway** - December 27, 2023 at 09:31 PM

KA

“ I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you. May the Lord keep you in his loving arms and may you find comfort in His love.

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**Kelly Algarin** - December 27, 2023 at 04:57 PM

CG

“ Russ, In this sorrowful time, I am sending you thoughts of comfort and hope that you find strength to through the difficult days ahead. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Can G

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**Can Gomez** - December 27, 2023 at 03:53 PM

DM

“ Russ, I am sorry for your tremendous loss. I can't imagine. I will continue to pray for you and your family. - Dan. Mc.

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**Dan McElroy** - December 27, 2023 at 02:27 PM

ML

“ Marc Lindblom sent a virtual gift in memory of Brenda Ciummo



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**Marc Lindblom** - December 27, 2023 at 01:21 PM