



## Brenda J. Merkel

April 29, 1946 - February 1, 2025

[www.becherkluesner.com](http://www.becherkluesner.com)  
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Brenda (Laswell) Merkel, age 78, of Celestine, Indiana, passed away on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at her home, with her family by her side.

She was born in Boonville, Indiana, on April 29, 1946. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother and relished in her role as the matriarch of the family.

She is survived by her husband, David O. Merkel; her children: Sheryl (Duane) Pritchett and Bret (Courtney) Merkel; five grandsons: Andrew (Erin) Terwiske, Dustin Terwiske (significant other Kelly), Spencer (Dana) Terwiske, Alex Merkel, and Jacob Merkel; two step-grandsons: Stephen Pritchett and Kevin (Lindsey) Pritchett; five great grandchildren: Everly, Lennyn, Taytum, and Beckham Terwiske and Chandler Pritchett.

Brenda was preceded in death by her brother, Robert Goodwin, two brothers-in-law, and one sister-in-law.

Brenda and David were married for 59 years and were high school sweethearts, having met her freshman year at Dubois High School. Brenda

and David were married June 19, 1965, at St. Peter Celestine Catholic Church, officiated by Father John Finis, where she was a lifelong member. Brenda was a beautician after high school and owned several of her own businesses. She went on to become Director of Operations at French Lick Springs Villas, retiring after 34 years.

Brenda was well known throughout the community, always anxious to catch up with her large network of friends. Before retiring, Brenda and David designed and built their log home one log at a time on part of the Merkel farm, which has been in the family for 75 years. It was their sanctuary where they loved to entertain friends and family. She was an excellent cook and if you attended one of her gatherings you likely went home with some of her home-cooked cuisine. She took pride in caring for their property and enjoyed sunny days on the tractor mowing. When she was relaxing you might find her on the front porch playing cards or reading. Her other hobbies included gardening, hunting, and fishing. However, what Brenda loved the most was spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Heart-to-Heart Hospice, American Cancer Society, Chemo Buddies, or St. Peter Celestine Church.

There will be no visitation and a private service will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be made to [www.becherkluesner.com](http://www.becherkluesner.com)

# Tribute Wall

JH

“ *Very sorry to hear the passing of your mother, Cheryl and Brett. You have our sympathy. Your mother was a blessing to all that knew her. She was a very special lady. Prayers during this difficult time.*

*Julia and Jon Hurst*

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**Julia Hurst** - February 07, 2025 at 08:18 AM

DN

“ *My Condolences and prayers to David, family and all who knew and loved Brenda. Blessings during this difficult time. May she rest in peace.*

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**Delphine Neukam** - February 07, 2025 at 07:03 AM

SS

“ *David and family sorry to hear about your loss. I remember the great times we had in our younger days. My deepest sympathies to you and family. Steve & Grace Stemle*

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**Steve Stemle** - February 04, 2025 at 07:31 PM

NM

“ *Sending my sympathies to David and family. Brenda was a special lady.*

*Nancy Merkel*

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**Nancy Merkel** - February 04, 2025 at 05:39 PM

AB

“ *She was always a highlight of my Mail route. I'll miss her sassiness fly high Brenda .*

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**Angie Brown** - February 04, 2025 at 05:06 PM

MJ

“ Sending our sympathies to all the Family. We always enjoyed talking to Brenda when we would see her out. She was always a joy.

*Prayers during this most difficult time.*

*Randy & Marcie Jacob*

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**Marcie Jacob** - February 04, 2025 at 12:43 PM

CC

“ Sending my sympathies to David and family ..

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**Connie Eisenhut Crouch** - February 04, 2025 at 11:17 AM



“ I have always thought very highly of Brenda and she will be sadly missed. She always had spunk! That spunk and loving nature is what made her stand out. My deepest sympathies to all of you.

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**Lisa Schroering** - February 04, 2025 at 07:28 AM

GR

“ Brenda was such a light for everyone. A very special lady!! My sympathy to all! She will be deeply missed!

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**Gail Reutman** - February 03, 2025 at 01:09 PM

CH

“ Sorry to hear about Brenda. May she rest in peace!!

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**Curt and Connie Hall** - February 03, 2025 at 01:03 PM

MS

“ Sorry for your loss. Sending prayers of comfort. Bill and Margaret Spooner



Margaret Spooner - February 03, 2025 at 11:41 AM

AB

She was one of the highlights on my mail route. I Will miss her sassiness . Fly high Brenda 🙏

Angie Brown - February 04, 2025 at 09:09 AM

JS

So sorry for your loss. Brenda was a wonderful lady. My thoughts & prayers are with all of you.

Jan Sendelweck - February 04, 2025 at 10:49 AM

TK

Brenda was a ray of sunshine. Our hearts go out to her loved ones.

Terry & Jan Kleinhelter - February 04, 2025 at 11:43 AM

BV

Our sympathy to David and the family. Brenda was fun to be with  
Our condolences to her whole family.  
Bob and Dottie Vogler

Bob Vogler - February 04, 2025 at 05:30 PM

JP

Truth and authenticity were very important to Mrs. Brenda. Her high school sweetheart treated her like a queen and she took care of her king. Brenda's children are a testament to her and Dave's high morals and parenting skills. Her prayer list and daily devotion to prayer inspired me. Her friends and family knew love. I will greatly miss her cards, 11 course hme-cooked meals, and loving and serious guidance.

John Pfister - February 07, 2025 at 06:56 AM

SY

*David, Brenda's picture tells a story how Brenda was happy , energetic, vivacious, I remember she always brought a spark into the room . Sorry for your loss .*

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**sylvia** - February 23, 2025 at 10:39 PM