

## Brenda Schmitz, 46

Aug. 27, 1965 - Sept. 27, 2011

**ANKENY** — Brenda Schmitz, 46, died Tuesday, September 27, 2011, after a courageous battle with cancer. She passed away at Mercy Hospice in Johnston, surrounded by family and friends. Brenda's faith and strength were two of her defining characteristics and were an inspiration to many throughout each day of her life.



Brenda was born on August 27, 1965 in Atlantic. In school she was active in band, cheerleading and pom pon squad. She graduated from Atlantic High School in 1984 and went on to earn a degree in Interior Design from Hawkeye Institute of Technology in Waterloo in 1986. She worked in interior design for Redekers and McGregor's. In 1993, she began a new career when she returned home to Atlantic to help her step-father Howard with his printing business. She worked for various companies in the printing industry, most recently at Garner Printing in Des Moines. She moved to Ankeny in 1999 and became active in the community with church and youth sports. Brenda was generous with her smiles, her friendship, her time, her talents, and her love. Everyday was an opportunity to smile, say hello and make a friend with someone who had their own story to tell. Brenda had her own way of making everyone she met feel special, because she had a genuine belief that everyone she met was special in their own way. That was especially true of children. As a Sunday school teacher, mentor, a friend, an aunt and most certainly as a mother, Brenda went out of her way to take time to teach and inspire kids to make the most of the talents that God blessed them with. Brenda was blessed with amazing creative talents in art and design and had a knack for making a room come alive even when she wasn't there to light it up with her own personality. She will forever live in our hearts because of her loving touch. As a wife, a mother, a sister, an aunt, and a friend, she took the time to find the right card, the right gift, or the right words to let you know that you were in her heart too.

Brenda was preceded in death by her step-father Howard Smit and her grandparents, Svend and Kathryn Christensen and Merle and Gladys Reynolds. Brenda's memory will be forever cherished by her surviving mother, Karla Smit of Ankeny; father Ron Reynolds and step-mother Shari of Earlham; husband David, sons Carter Trewet and Max Schmitz, and step-sons, Josh and Justin Schmitz, all of Ankeny; sister Lori Reynolds (fiancee of Justin Breckenridge) of Des Moines; step-brothers Steve Smit (Kathy), Kory Michael (Chrissy), and John Trammel; step-sisters Shelle Goodwin (Brian), Jennifer Jones, and Sarah Jensen (Brad); father and mother-in-law, Cletus and Janice Schmitz of Harlan; sisters-in-law, Shari Proehl (Chad) and Shelli Hansen

(Todd); brother-in-law Danny Schmitz; life-long friends Joanie Wehofer (Randy) and Renee Pauley (Randy); god-daughter Hannah Wehofer; 36 nieces and nephews; and a seemingly endless list of friends.

The family would like to extend their deepest thanks to Dr. Jay Carson, Dr. Deb Turner, Deb Schnoor, A.R.N.P., Marie Rudolf, A.R.N.P., the radiation and infusion teams at Mercy Hospital, and the always terrific and caring nurses of 8 South at Mercy. Brenda's spirit will stay with all of us in the simple things, so next time you call someone a "dingle-snort," add a "tee hee" at the end of an email or a text, or see "Life is Good" on a hat or bumper sticker, know that Brenda is smiling right along with you.

Arrangements were handled by Memorial Services of Iowa.

*Memorial  
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