



## Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson

November 5, 1948 - July 13, 2025

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9

It is with deep respect and great sadness that we announce the passing of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson on July 13, 2025. Brenda is survived by the love and greatest blessing of her life, Alfred Henry Lawson, Jr., sisters Christine Williams, Kathy Barnette-Novak, and brother Kenneth (Betty), brother-in-law Doug Lawson (Mary), several nieces and nephews, dearly loved cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by her father, Samuel Walton Barnett, and mother, Hula Ocie Nelson Barnett.

A visionary leader and educator, Brenda was born on November 5, 1948, in Jewell Ridge, Virginia. She graduated from Richlands High School in 1967 and went on to pursue a BS degree in Special Education from Radford College. She earned a Master’s degree in Supervision/Administration in Education from Radford and a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Virginia Tech.

Brenda’s love and passion for teaching started when she was a VBS teacher during her teenage years. She truly believed that teaching was a calling and proceeded to answer this call in the Tazewell County Public School system. In

order to make her a more effective teacher and leader, Brenda desired to experience education from each aspect of the school organization. She served as an instructional aide, school secretary, bus driver, Junior High school teacher, and elementary school teacher. Throughout her 41 year career in education, she served as Supervisor of Special Education, Director of Exceptional Children, elementary principal (Dudley Primary and Abb's Valley Elementary), Principal of Richlands High School, Assistant Superintendent, and retired as the Division Superintendent of Tazewell County Public Schools. Brenda would always say how blessed she was to work with such wonderful students, parents, and employees. She was committed to making school a happy place for all students. After her retirement from the school system, she taught Education classes as an Adjunct Instructor for Southwest Virginia Community College.

Brenda possessed a humble servant's heart. Growing up in the Jewell Ridge Presbyterian Church, she never wavered from her faith and any opportunity to witness to others about God's amazing grace and mercy. She was a member of the Richlands Presbyterian Church and served as a VBS teacher, choir member, adult Sunday school teacher, Moderator of the Women of the Church, and Trustee and member of the Session. Brenda's service extended beyond her local church serving as a member of Abingdon Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, Moderator of Abingdon Presbytery, several administrative commissions, and Moderator of Abingdon Presbyterian Women. Brenda served as Vice-Moderator and Moderator of the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands for numerous years.

Brenda was an engaged member of her community. She was a strong supporter of CART as well as various youth programs in the community. She served as a member on the Clinch Valley Medical Center Board of Trustees. Brenda was a Paul Harris Fellow recipient, an honor she was most proud of. She was a member of the Eastern Star Richlands Chapter 104.

Special Thanks to Legacy Palliative and Hospice Care of Richlands. Each member of their team brought not only professionalism, but genuine kindness and grace to our family. We extend our deepest gratitude to the compassionate physicians who supported us through this journey, in particular, Dr. Fady Tawadros and Dr. Shailaja Raj.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be conducted on Friday, July 18, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Richlands Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Tim Bird and Pastor Buddy Herald officiating. A visitation will be held from 11:00 AM until the time of service.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to honor the memory of Brenda are encouraged to make a donation to the Jewell Ridge Presbyterian Church, the Richlands Presbyterian Church, the Good Samaritan Food Pantry, or the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands. Hurst-Scott Funeral Home in Richlands is in charge of arrangements, and those wishing to express sympathy online may do so at [www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com](http://www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

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

Richlands Presbyterian Church  
1153 2nd St  
Richlands, VA 24641  
(276) 964-9465

## Memorial Service

JUL 18. 1:00 PM (ET)

Richlands Presbyterian Church  
1315 Second Street  
Richlands, VA

# Tribute Wall

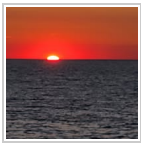


“ *Joanne Bumgarner lit a candle in memory of Brenda Barnett Lawson* ”



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**Joanne Bumgarner** - July 20, 2025 at 01:22 PM



“ *Patricia Thompson lit a candle in memory of Brenda Barnett Lawson* ”



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**Patricia Thompson** - July 18, 2025 at 12:10 PM



“ *Bill & Vicki Nuckels lit a candle in memory of Brenda Barnett Lawson* ”



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**Bill & Vicki Nuckels** - July 18, 2025 at 10:11 AM



“ *Mike Stumpp lit a candle in memory of Brenda Barnett Lawson* ”



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**Mike Stumpp** - July 18, 2025 at 10:10 AM

DP

“ *Debbie Peak lit a candle in memory of Brenda Barnett Lawson*



Debbie Peak - July 18, 2025 at 09:26 AM

MH

“ *Misti Harman  
Deepest Condolences 🌸 🙏 📱  
The Harman's  
Linda & Family*



Misti Harman - July 17, 2025 at 10:55 PM

RF

“ *Rick Ferrell lit a candle in memory of Brenda Barnett Lawson*



Rick Ferrell - July 17, 2025 at 08:34 PM

DS

“ *Doug and Melinda Smith sent a virtual gift in memory of Brenda Barnett Lawson*



Doug and Melinda Smith - July 17, 2025 at 06:30 PM

LB

“ *Dr. Lawson taught me so much about public education. I knew I could always go to her for advice. She was a mentor and a friend.*



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**Lana Ball** - July 17, 2025 at 12:40 PM

SR

“ *Sheri Rasnake lit a candle in memory of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson*



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**Sheri Rasnake** - July 17, 2025 at 10:54 AM

DM

“ *Henry, You are in our thoughts and prayers. Brenda was a wonderful person and the world is better because people like her lived. Cherish your wonderful memories.*  
*Dana and Carson Moats*

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**Dana Altizer Moats** - July 16, 2025 at 10:09 PM

KW

“ *Henry, Doug, Mary & Family,*  
*Our hearts are broken for you. Brenda was a beautiful angel on Earth and now in Heaven.*  
*We send our prayers of comfort and peace for the coming days. We can be comforted knowing her suffering is over and we will all see her again.*  
*We Love You,*  
*Keith & Lynda*



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**Keith & Lynda Whittington** - July 16, 2025 at 05:09 PM

KL

“ Keith & Lynda purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson.



Keith & Lynda - July 16, 2025 at 04:59 PM



“ Chelle Carini sent a virtual gift in memory of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson



Chelle Carini - July 16, 2025 at 04:44 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson.



July 16, 2025 at 03:38 PM

TJ

“ Henry, I am so sorry to hear of your dear Brenda's going home. The education community in Taxewell County certainly was blessed by having your Bride on the team for so many years and she will, no doubt, pick up where she left off in Gods classroom. Blessing to the entire family.

Tom Jessee - July 16, 2025 at 02:55 PM

TJ

“ Tom Jessee lit a candle in memory of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson



Tom Jessee - July 16, 2025 at 02:51 PM

SM

“ My prayers and heartfelt sympathy to the family. Your loss is heavens gain. May God comfort you. Sandy Dean Magee



Sandra Dean Magee - July 16, 2025 at 05:46 AM

JW

“ Judy West lit a candle in memory of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson



Judy West - July 15, 2025 at 09:27 PM

SL

“ Henry and family,  
Our prayers go with you as you travel this difficult journey. May the Lord wrap His loving arms around you and give you strength and comfort. Brenda was a very special person. So many memories over the years flood into my thoughts, but know that we are sending our prayers and love.  
Sharon Powers Lowe

Sharon Lowe - July 15, 2025 at 04:43 PM

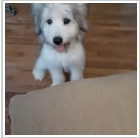
EJ

“ *Eunice Jones-Lester lit a candle in memory of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson*



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**Eunice Jones-Lester** - July 15, 2025 at 02:30 PM



“ *Henry and all the family,  
There is no words to tell you how sad I am about Brenda. She was a wonderful neighbor. Everyone will miss her very much. Thinking of all of you,  
Shirley*

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**Shirley Lawson** - July 15, 2025 at 01:42 PM

DH

“ *Henry, I want you to know that Brenda was such a sweet person and I know your heart is broken. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**debbie mcgaffee hunsaker** - July 15, 2025 at 01:07 PM

LP

“ *So sorry to learn of Brendas' passing. We graduated together in the class of 67. Sending prayers for the family.*

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**Linda (Whitt/Joyce/Russ) Pendry** - July 15, 2025 at 12:50 PM

JM

“ *Judy MacFarland purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson.*



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**Judy MacFarland** - July 15, 2025 at 11:49 AM

CB

“ *Sending condolences to the family.*  
*Cathy Blankenship*

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**Cathy Blankenship** - July 15, 2025 at 11:28 AM

KW

“ *Brenda was one of the best.*



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**Kathy Williams** - July 15, 2025 at 10:59 AM

SD

“ *I hate to hear of Brenda's passing...I had her as a teacher at Cedar Bluff, I helped take care of her father towards the end of his life in the hospital and then we moved right down the street from them back in 2013! I hate that she went through what she did the last few years! At least now the "monster" that took her now has no hold on her heavenly body. I pray for the peace and comfort for all of those who knew her in the days to come.*



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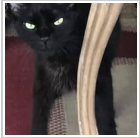
**Sara Dye** - July 15, 2025 at 09:44 AM

JR

“ *John And Wendy Reedy lit a candle in memory of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson*



John and Wendy Reedy - July 15, 2025 at 09:10 AM



“ *MY DEAR FRIENDS DOUG AND HENRY AND FAMILY ..... SO VERY SORRY . HENRY AND BRENDA WERE GREAT LIGHTS TO OUR CITY AND COUNTY , STATE , COUNTRY , AND CHURCH . OUR HOME IS NOT HERE ..... WE ARE HERE JUST FOR A SHORT TIME . THE GOOD WHEN THEY DIE SOUNDS THE TOLLS OF HEAVEN'S BELLS .... I HEAR THEM RINGING FOR HER NOW !!!!*

Davie Horton - July 15, 2025 at 01:25 AM

KS

“ *My deepest condolences*



Kathy Sneed - July 14, 2025 at 11:50 PM

KS

“ *Katrina Saxton lit a candle in memory of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson*



Katrina Saxton - July 14, 2025 at 10:30 PM

AP

“ So sorry to hear of Brenda’s passing. She was a wonderful person and a true educator. Our thoughts and prayers are with Henry and all her family. Alice and Jack Pyott



Alice Pyott - July 14, 2025 at 09:40 PM

TM

“ Tom And Dot McGlothlin lit a candle in memory of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson



Tom and Dot McGlothlin - July 14, 2025 at 09:00 PM

LT

“ Lusa Tiller lit a candle in memory of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson



Lusa Tiller - July 14, 2025 at 08:23 PM

LL

“ Lauren and Lesley Lawson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson.

Lauren and Lesley Lawson - July 14, 2025 at 07:49 PM

LL

“ *Lauren and Lesley Lawson purchased the Laven der Reflections Spray for the family of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson.*



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**Lauren and Lesley Lawson** - July 14, 2025 at 07:49 PM

TA

“ *Henry we are so sorry to hear of Brenda’s passing. If you need anything please don’t hesitate to ask Tom or I. We will keep you and the rest of Brenda’s family in our prayers*



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**Tom & Diana Arms** - July 14, 2025 at 07:33 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson.*

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July 14, 2025 at 07:24 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson.*



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July 14, 2025 at 07:24 PM

Many Men lose their Queen Bee messing around with these so-called Butterflies that were really Flying Cockroaches. "let us spray"

“ Joy Fields lit a candle in memory of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson



Joy Fields - July 14, 2025 at 06:31 PM



“ TonyanEdgar Wicks lit a candle in memory of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson



TonyanEdgar Wicks - July 14, 2025 at 06:22 PM



“ One behalf of the Richlands “Blue Tornado” Band, I extend the deepest of condolences to the Lawson Family. Dr. Lawson was an inspiration to students, educators, and everyone across the education gamut. She will be deeply missed, but her memory and humanitarian contributions will continue to light and guide generations to come.



D. Bruce Miller - July 14, 2025 at 05:54 PM

BW

“ Dear Henry, I know you are heartbroken, and I am so, so saddened. Brenda was one of my most favorite people. She was always so gracious. It was an honor having her teach for me. May God fill you with nothing but wonderful memories.



**Brian Wright** - July 14, 2025 at 05:49 PM



“ Ms. Brenda the girls at the lab will miss you so. You were always a light even when you were struggling yourself. Prayers for you Henry. You loved her so well.

**Leanne Keen** - July 14, 2025 at 05:38 PM

DB

“ David & Beverly Beavers lit a candle in memory of Brenda Mozelle Barnett Lawson



**David & Beverly Beavers** - July 14, 2025 at 05:18 PM

PW

“ Mrs. Lawson was always very nice to Jerry and me when she was the principal at RHS, so sorry to hear of her passing. Prayers for her family. May God give you peace and strength to help you through this difficult time.



**Pat Warner** - July 14, 2025 at 04:56 PM

BJ

“ Oh my, Henry, we're so sorry to hear this. I had no idea. Please know you and family are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Bill Ray and Naomi Joyce.



Bill Ray and Naomi Joyce - July 14, 2025 at 04:42 PM

AD

“ This is a horrible loss for those left behind, but a source of rejoicing in heaven. My prayers are with her wonderful family and dear friends.



Anna Y. Damron - July 14, 2025 at 04:37 PM

LN

“ So sorry to hear of Brenda's passing. We know our loss is truly Heaven's gain. We pray God wrap you in His peace and comfort as only He can. Sending love and prayers.



Leroy and Angie Nelson - July 14, 2025 at 04:26 PM

AM

“ Anita McGlothlin-Gibson lit a candle in memory of Brenda Barnett Lawson



Anita McGlothlin-Gibson - July 14, 2025 at 04:22 PM

JS

*So Sorry to hear, Brenda was so kind & Sweet to all our family, Will miss her in our schools, One of our best gone to early 🙏❤️🌹 Jim & Judy Steele & Family*

**jim Steele** - July 14, 2025 at 07:44 PM

SH

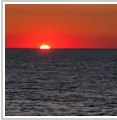
*Brenda and Henry were two of our favorite people. I always admired her. And they were the perfect couple. I know your heart is broken but we know where she is. And her pain and suffering is gone. I see her sitting on a cloud smiling down at you with love and thanking you for taking care of her these last four years. And always remember we love you.*

**Susie & Ken Hes** - July 15, 2025 at 11:39 AM

EJ

*Henry, my heart breaks for you! I loved Brenda and am so sad she had to suffer such a horrible illness. I watched two husbands suffer before losing them. We know that some things are worse than death and can give thanks to God when that relief comes. May God give you comfort in the knowledge that this is not the end and you will be reunited in heaven at last. Prayers for you and the family.*

**Eunice Jones-Lester** - July 15, 2025 at 02:27 PM



*Pleasant memories of Dr. Brenda Lawson. She was a great leader of Tazewell County Schools.*

**Patricia Thompson** - July 16, 2025 at 01:55 PM

SS

*I am so sorry to read of Brenda's passing. May your wonderful memories give you comfort now and in the future. God Bless.*

*Sandra Mozelle Lowe Scull*

**Sandra Mozelle Lowe Scull** - July 16, 2025 at 07:14 PM

BF

*I am so sorry to read of the passing of Dr. Lawson. She was a very special leader for Tazewell County Schools. One of the most beautiful ladies.*

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**Brenda Fletcher** - July 20, 2025 at 12:17 AM

LA

*Henry, Doug, Mary, and family - we send our prayers and sympathy. She was such a dedicated educator and an approachable leader, as well as a friend. If Heaven wanted a perfect administrator and teacher, no one would be better. Love to you all, Tom & Lara Addison*

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**Lara G. Addison** - August 08, 2025 at 04:17 PM