



## Brenda Ellen Horton

May 1, 1950 - January 16, 2023

Brenda Ellen Cole Horton, age 72, of Bristol, Virginia, passed away Monday, January 16, 2023 in Bristol, Tennessee.

She was born in Richlands, Virginia and was the daughter of the late Foyster Lee Cole and Nancy Saunders Cole.

How do you capture the meanings and nuances of moments that have happened over and over, but suddenly disappear forever?

Our minds have been racing through the years of momentous events that were not significant enough to write down but was the real-life embodiment of what it was to experience sacrificial love!

The person who wiped our feverish brow, powdered our chicken pox, taught us to read, and led us to the Lord! Yes, we know someone who shared those moments with us. This person believed in us, corrected us, and prayed for us! We know about love!

She showed us how to have a servant's heart. She taught school for fifty-two years, including Garden Creek Elementary, Whitewood Elementary, Richlands Tabernacle Christian Academy, and Faith Academy. She taught for forty-six years as a Christian school Principal and Teacher. In her years as a Christian

educator, she refused to take a payday! It was her calling. She gave of herself! She said, "I'll get my reward over there".

This woman lived multiple roles and gave her all in each. She was a wife, mother, nana, pastor's wife, Sunday School Teacher, tutor, daughter and sister-in-law, friend, church musician, and aunt. She visited the sick, elderly and grieving always with several dishes of food in hand.

She learned to fix Momaw Horton's turkey dressing. She learned how to fix seafood gumbo from Sis. Bridges. She provided countless meals in her home for preachers, family, and passersby!

She grew up in Whitewood, VA (class of '68) and graduated from ETSU (class of 71). She was married to her beloved for 54 years.

She loved the beach and the sounds of the ocean! She loved to travel! She played the piano, organ, clarinet, and her beloved accordion. She knew more gospel songs than most people have even heard. She sang with her family, solo, in choirs, and with strangers.

She was a twin! She loved to talk! She loved to tell stories of the days when she was young. She loved to read. Pets were such a joy! She loved the Lord. She was confident and reassured that her salvation was real. Her passion was for people to know her Savior!

How can we capture who this person was in just a few short sentences? How can you explain true love? You can't! It can only be experienced, felt down deep inside, savored, enjoyed, appreciated, but it can never be explained! When you experience love like this, you are changed, challenged, ..... blessed!

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Linda Jeanette Cole and daughter in law, Jennifer Horton.

Survivors are:

Her Husband of 54 Years: Rev. David S. Horton

Daughters:

Tonya Switzer and husband, Rev. Michael of Abingdon, Virginia

Hannah Birdsong and husband, Rev. Devin of Purcell, Oklahoma

Son: Rev. David Lee Horton of Richlands, Virginia

Grandchildren: Stacey Horton, Sydney Horton, Britton Birdsong, Brooks Birdsong, Bryce Birdsong, and Addyson Birdsong.

Funeral services for Brenda Horton will be conducted Friday, January 20, 2023 at 1pm at the Richlands Tabernacle, 2505 Third Street, Richlands, Virginia with the Rev. John Gabbard, Rev. Neil Bridges, and Rev. James Horton officiating. Entombment will follow at Greenhills Memory Gardens at Claypool Hill, Virginia. Pallbearers will be: Britton Birdsong, Brooks Birdsong, Bryce Birdsong, Rev. Ronnie Wheeler, Rev. Johnny Rex Ward, and Rev. Randy Webb. Honorary pallbearers will be the men of the Grace Tabernacle. Friends may call from 5pm until 9pm on Thursday night at the Richlands Tabernacle. Hurst-Scott Funeral Home in Richlands, Virginia is in charge of arrangements and those wishing to express sympathy online may do so at [www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com](http://www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Greenhills Memory Gardens

11800 Gov G.C. Peery Hwy  
Cedar Bluff, VA 24609

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **19**. 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Richlands Tabernacle  
2505 Third Street  
Richlands, VA 24641

## Funeral Service

JAN **20**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Richlands Tabernacle  
2505 Third Street  
Richlands, VA 24641

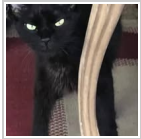
# Tribute Wall



“ Hurst-Scott Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Brenda Ellen Horton



Hurst-Scott Funeral Home - January 20, 2023 at 05:31 PM



“ Davie Horton lit a candle in memory of Brenda Horton



Davie Horton - June 29, 2023 at 08:16 AM

ZC

“ Sister Brenda was a child of God. She was a blessing to my children and always showed a friendly spirit to us. I am sure she will be missed by family and church but we will meet again soon.  
Brother Allen Childress

Zane Childress - January 20, 2023 at 11:09 AM

KC

“ We are so sorry about Brenda's passing. She was sure a precious woman. We knew her from the "Cole" family and always enjoyed talking to her. God bless all of you. ❤️🙏

Karen Cole - January 19, 2023 at 08:08 PM

FM

“ *Frances Meadows sent a virtual gift in memory of Brenda Horton*



---

**Frances Meadows** - January 19, 2023 at 07:38 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.*



---

January 19, 2023 at 04:49 PM

TM

“ *Tom and Dot McGlothlin lit a candle in memory of Brenda Horton*



---

**Tom and Dot McGlothlin** - January 19, 2023 at 04:43 PM

GT

“ *lifelong friends of all the Tinsley family....Greg and Teresa Tinsley....*

---

**greg and teresa tinsley** - January 19, 2023 at 02:10 PM



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



---

January 19, 2023 at 01:29 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.*



---

January 19, 2023 at 09:49 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.*



---

January 19, 2023 at 01:12 AM

RH

“ For the last several years, I have unfortunately not gotten to see Aunt Brenda very often. Knowing that, as well as knowing I have let the chance of spending time with her in this life slip through my fingers, is heart breaking. She was a big part of my earlier years, especially until I finished high school, in large part thanks to Aunt Brenda!. I will cherish many of those memories. She had a gentle, kind and generous spirit. Her generosity included giving of her time, her talents (as a teacher, singer, piano player and preacher's wife), her knowledge (she's so intelligent!) and with the materialistic things she had been blessed with. She was never haughty nor puffed up. I don't want to speak for Uncle David, David Lee, Tonya and Hannah, so I will just say of all the time I spent in their home growing up, it always felt full of love and peaceful. The kids all turned out wonderful. If you can see this, Aunt Brenda, I apologize for not visiting. Thank you for everything you taught me, did for me and shared with me. I love you.

*My love, sympathy and prayers for Uncle David, David Lee, Tonya, Hannah, sons-in-law and the grandchildren.*

---

Rebecca Harman - January 18, 2023 at 11:51 PM

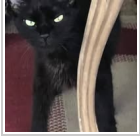


“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.



---

January 18, 2023 at 09:30 PM



“ *condolences to the HORTON FAHILY FOR YOUR GREAT LOSS !*



---

**Davie Horton** - January 18, 2023 at 08:58 PM



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



---

January 18, 2023 at 08:14 PM



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



---

January 18, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ *Judy West lit a candle in memory of Brenda Horton*



---

**Judy West** - January 18, 2023 at 07:34 PM

FB

“ *Sad to hear that Brenda has passed. I knew her all my life, living at Jewell Valley, and my daddy shopping at Foster’s store. My sympathies and prayers to her family and church family.*



-----  
**Freda Stiltner Breedlove** - January 18, 2023 at 07:23 PM

BC

“ *Brad & Jamie Choppy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.*



-----  
**Brad & Jamie Choppy** - January 18, 2023 at 06:36 PM

FW

“ *Sending Love & Prayers to all of Sis. Brenda's Family and Friends!*

-----  
**Frances & Cleressa C. Ward** - January 18, 2023 at 06:21 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.*



-----  
January 18, 2023 at 06:12 PM

KB

“ Sis Brenda was such a sweet Godly woman who was a blessing to all she came in contact with and left wonderful memories for all. She will be greatly missed by a lot of people. Prayers for all the family.



Kathy Blankenship - January 18, 2023 at 06:04 PM

DJ

“ So sorry to see this today ,i remembered Brenda from my childhood living at Whitewood she was beautiful and i loved her mom and dAD,LOVE GOING into their store her dad always slipped me candy,it is very odd that i was thinking about her family as i was just remembering my child hood just the other day,Again sorry she was a great person, Debby Hooker Johnson

debby johnson - January 18, 2023 at 05:01 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.



January 18, 2023 at 04:27 PM

RM

“ Not enough time or space to tell how great of a second mom she was in my life . She is dancing on the streets of gold with Mom Bea Moore. What a happy time will be when we all get home  
Love Becky Moore Morgan

Rebecca Kay Morgan - January 18, 2023 at 02:38 PM

GM

“ Gerald n Becky Moore Morgan purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.



Gerald n Becky Moore Morgan - January 18, 2023 at 02:34 PM

JS

“ JOAN STILTNER lit a candle in memory of Brenda Horton



JOAN I STILTNER - January 18, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.



January 18, 2023 at 02:19 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.



January 18, 2023 at 01:47 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.*



January 18, 2023 at 12:52 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.*



January 18, 2023 at 12:49 PM



“ *David and family we are sorry for your loss. Steve and Kay Christian*



**Priscilla Kay Christian** - January 18, 2023 at 12:25 PM



“ *Such a sweet, Godly lady... praying for Bro. David and family 🙏💙*

**Regina Browning** - January 18, 2023 at 10:19 AM

JL

“ *Joyce Leach lit a candle in memory of Brenda Horton*



---

**Joyce Leach** - January 18, 2023 at 10:02 AM

KL

“ *So sorry for your loss, prayers for the family.*



---

**karen (cole) Lester** - January 18, 2023 at 08:50 AM

JR

“ *John Wendy Reedy lit a candle in memory of Brenda Horton*



---

**John and Wendy Reedy** - January 18, 2023 at 08:45 AM

DR

“ *Deborah Roberts lit a candle in memory of Brenda Horton*



---

**Deborah Roberts** - January 18, 2023 at 08:39 AM



“ *TonyanEdgar Wicks lit a candle in memory of Brenda Horton*



-----  
**TonyanEdgar Wicks** - January 18, 2023 at 08:38 AM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.*



-----  
January 18, 2023 at 01:28 AM



“ *Christine Hayton lit a candle in memory of Brenda Horton*



-----  
**Christine Hayton** - January 17, 2023 at 11:26 PM



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



-----  
January 17, 2023 at 11:21 PM

PG

“ So sorry of your loss. Brenda was a great person. Prayers are with you and your family. Patricia (Kathy) Church Gross & Jr. Gross

Pat & Jr. Gross - January 17, 2023 at 11:20 PM

BN

“ Bill Vicki Nuckels lit a candle in memory of Brenda Horton



Bill & Vicki Nuckels - January 17, 2023 at 10:53 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.



January 17, 2023 at 10:32 PM

LR

“ We love you all.. praying for you all.. that God will comfort during this time.

Love and prayers,  
Robbie & Lisa Roberts



Lisa Roberts - January 17, 2023 at 10:12 PM

WM

“ Bobby and I have such wonderful memories of Brenda and David. We would love to have seen Brenda one more time. We have held all of you in our hearts all these years. We will be praying for you.  
Wanda Mills

wanda Mills - January 17, 2023 at 09:45 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.



January 17, 2023 at 08:22 PM

OC

“ She was a wonderful lady. Our condolences to the family. Prayers for you all

Oris and Dana Christian - January 17, 2023 at 08:14 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.



January 17, 2023 at 08:11 PM

ST

“ Sorry for your loss. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless you and your family during this time of sorrow.

*Quinton, Shirley and Stephanie Taylor*

---

**Stephanie Taylor** - January 17, 2023 at 07:41 PM

CO

“ David, I am so very sorry about your mom. May God give you and your family strength and comfort during this time. Love you, Connie

---

**Connie** - January 17, 2023 at 07:38 PM

TL

“ Bro David and Sis Brenda came to our camp meeting in Savannah, Georgia several times through the years. They were always such a sweet couple and very kind and friendly. We will be in prayer for the family. God bless and keep them. Travis Lundy

---

**Travis Lundy** - January 17, 2023 at 07:21 PM

CN

*Brenda and I were cousins, classmates for 12 , and great friends from a young age. We went to church together, went to vacation Bible school, played together...lots of times in the feed room at the back of the store. We road "Shorty" the Pony on hundreds of trips around Brendas parents house. We got chased by geese there and I waited patiently for Brenda to finish her piano lessons so we could play in her "playhouse". We later shared our experience in " being saved". We loved the Lord and we loved each other.*

*When we graduated, she was first in our class and I was second. Now she has seen Jesus first and I will see him second.*

*Looking forward to it. She leaves a hugh vacant space in this family. I will pray for strength, peace and grace through our Savior..Jesus..The Christ.*

---

**Carold Cole- Ownbey/ Waxhaw, NC** - January 17, 2023 at 08:13 PM

CR

“ *In our thoughts and prayers 🙏❤️  
Chester & Chris Rife*



Chris Rife - January 17, 2023 at 07:18 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of  
Brenda Ellen Horton.*



January 17, 2023 at 06:58 PM

DM

“ *There has never been nor will there ever be a more precious person than Sister Brenda. Few would give 46 years of her life educating children and teaching them about God and refuse payment. She became such a special friend to my daughter, Allison. Allison and I sat and talked about her special characteristics late into the night last night. What a blessing it was to know someone as wonderful as Sister Brenda. She will be greatly missed by so many people. She closed her eyes for a short while and opened them in Heaven.*

Dana Altizer Moats - January 17, 2023 at 06:55 PM

RC

“ *So sorry to hear this! Praying for all the family and friends!*

Rick Combs - January 17, 2023 at 06:51 PM

BL

“ *Brenda Lawson lit a candle in memory of Brenda Ellen Horton*



---

**Brenda Lawson** - January 17, 2023 at 06:25 PM

DA

“ *DAVID lit a candle in memory of Brenda Ellen Horton*



---

**DAVID** - January 17, 2023 at 06:10 PM

RH

“ *Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Timothy Hudson purchased the S imply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.*



---

**Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Timothy Hudson** - January 17, 2023 at 05:56 PM

OB

“ Dear Horton Family, I am praying for all of you! I will miss our sweet friend, Sis. Brenda.

*Sis. Horton was a lady full of grace, class and wisdom. I loved listening to her stories! She truly loved with all of her heart!*



---

**Odie Boggs** - January 17, 2023 at 05:47 PM

DB

“ What an amazing obituary for an absolutely amazing woman of God. She was everything described and more. Our family was bettered each and every time we rubbed shoulders with Sis. Brenda Horton. She taught us so much and loved us so freely.

*We are so sorry for Bro. David and all of the family and we are praying for you, dear friends. May God bless and keep you in this terrible storm.*

*Davy, Kelly and Odie Boggs*

---

**Davy, Kelly and Odie Boggs** - January 17, 2023 at 05:45 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.



---

January 17, 2023 at 05:32 PM

MP

“ Mike And Donna Perkins lit a candle in memory of Brenda Ellen Horton



Mike and Donna Perkins - January 17, 2023 at 05:25 PM

RB

“ Our long time friend..Sis Brenda..who was a friend to preacher wives..  
She opened her heart and home to those who came far and near..  
She gave her heart..her love and her sweet smile to everyone..  
Her impact will be remembered over and over..  
Her journey has been completed here..but just beginning in the land of forever!  
Jesus must have needed her..  
She was loved!

Rev Terry & Sherry Bowling

Rev Terry & Sherry Bowling - January 17, 2023 at 05:06 PM



“ Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Brenda Ellen Horton.



January 17, 2023 at 04:55 PM

WA

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Brenda I went to school with her

Wandacmartin - January 17, 2023 at 04:16 PM

WA

“ *Wandacmartin lit a candle in memory of Brenda Ellen Horton*



---

**Wandacmartin** - January 17, 2023 at 04:14 PM

MP

“ *She was my Landlord but I thought the world of her. Always friendly smiling and kind. She sure will be missed.*

---

**mary puckett** - January 17, 2023 at 04:10 PM

MA

“ *Marie lit a candle in memory of Brenda Ellen Horton*



---

**Marie** - January 17, 2023 at 03:59 PM

CP

“ *To all the Family of this wonderful lady my condolences. She was one very special Lady. May God comfort you during this time of great loss.*



---

**Carolyn Baldwin Pyles** - January 17, 2023 at 03:59 PM