

## Brenda Lea Leighton-Vanderwalker

Brenda was born to Wilford Sr. (Bud) and Belva Jean Leighton on November 25, 1958. The eldest of 3 children, she grew up in Witten, SD and graduated from Wood High School. Following high school, Benda married Jeff Hanson of Witten. They resided in Colombe, SD and were blessed with three sons: Jason, Jamey and John. Brenda and Jeff parted ways and Brenda later married Richard Vanderwalker of White River, where she worked as a dietician at the White River Healthcare Center.

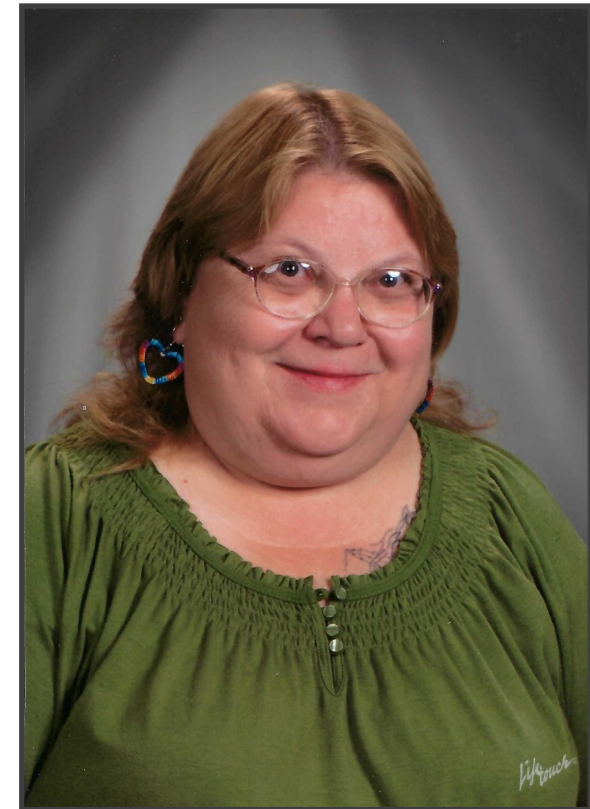
Brenda studied at Sinte Gleska University to pursue a career in teaching. After Richard passed away, she remained in White River and completed her college education. Along the way she met and fell in love with August (Augie) Chasing Horse. While working as a teacher at the White River Elementary School, Brenda continued to pursue her higher education, including certification in special education. She was a life-long learner and passionate about the kids she worked with.

Brenda shared the remainder of her life with Augie, traveling when she could, spending time with family, going to movies and listening to Elvis (she may have been his #1 fan.)

Brenda Lea Leighton-Vanderwalker passed away on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 with her best friend August Chasing Horse and son Jason Hanson at her side.

She is survived by her life partner August Chasing Horse of White River; sons: Jason (Crystal) Hanson of Pierre, SD, Jamey Hanson of Brookings, SD and John (Bobbie Jo) Hanson of Loretto, WI; parents Bud and Jean Leighton of Winner, SD; sister Vicki (Jim) Supik of Winner and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

Brenda was preceded in death by her brother Wilford Eugene Leighton, Jr and spouse Richard Vanderwalker.



In Loving Memory of

*Brenda*

November 25, 1958 ~ July 13, 2021

In Celebration of the Life of

*Brenda Lea Leighton*

**Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down  
in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul:  
He leadeth me in the paths  
Of righteousness for His name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley  
Of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:  
For thou art with me.  
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me  
In the presence of mine enemies:  
Thou anointest my head with oil,  
My cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life: and I shall dwell  
In the house of the Lord forever.

**Graveside Service & Inurnment**  
Wednesday - July 21, 2021 @ 2pm  
Winner Cemetery in Winner, SD

**Officiant**  
Rev. Morris Gustafson

**Honorary Bearers**  
Bobby Larvie                      Keith Larvie  
Butch Larvie                      Opal Maxey  
White River Elementary School  
All Relatives, Family and Friends

Arrangements By  
**Holmes Funeral Home ~ Valentine, NE**  
www.HolmesFH.com