



Brenda Carol Bacso

March 14, 1956 - November 9, 2025

Brenda Carol (Mason) Bacso, 69, of Waskom, Texas, passed away peacefully in the arms of her children in Chicago, Illinois, on Sunday, November 9, 2025. Born on March 14, 1956, in Brookhaven, Mississippi, to the late Elton E. and Ella L. Mason, Brenda was raised in Portage, Indiana, where she attended the public schools and went to Portage High School as Class of 1974.

Brenda devoted her career to serving others through her work with the Porter County Government's Child Support Division. She lived in Portage until her retirement in 2018, after which she relocated to Waskom, Texas. Known for her determination and deep passion for justice, Brenda was committed to making a difference in the lives of those she served and stood as a steadfast advocate for what was right.

Brenda was deeply devoted to her children, family, and friends, and she lived her life guided by her strong values and compassionate heart. Always willing to help others, regardless of her own circumstances, she was known for her gentle spirit and the love she poured into everyone around her. A devout Christian, Brenda found strength and peace in her faith in Jesus Christ, whose love and guidance carried her through life's challenges.

She especially adored her grandpups and grandkitties, both past and present, who brought her endless joy and comfort. Some of her happiest moments were spent watching TV shows and movies with her son, a beloved tradition that kept them close no matter the distance. She cherished sharing laughs and heart-to-heart conversations with her daughter, often reminiscing about

their many adventures and “shenanigans.” Brenda also loved listening to The Eagles and Bob Seger, whose music brought her peace and happiness.

Brenda faced stage-four lung cancer with extraordinary courage, determination, and grace. After reaching remission, she bravely confronted the disease once more, with the same strength and faith that defined her life. In the blink of an eye, our world changed. Shortly after arriving in Chicago from her home in Waskom to visit her children and loved ones, Brenda passed away unexpectedly following a medical emergency. Knowing she was surrounded and held in love brings peace to those who miss her most.

Brenda was preceded in death by her parents, Ella L. and Elton E. Mason. She is survived by her son, David Bacso of Chicago, Illinois; her daughter, Nikki (Bacso) Hendrickson, and son-in-law, Jason Hendrickson, of Portage, Indiana; sister, Barbara (Mason) Posey, and brother-in-law, Tommy Posey, of Waskom, Texas; sister, Debby (Mason) Hedgepeth of Monticello, Mississippi; and brothers, Jim Mason of Monticello, Mississippi, and J.D. Mason.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Kavita Nirmal and the staff at Texas Oncology in Longview, Texas, for their exceptional care, compassion, and support.

Brenda’s warmth, strength, and compassion will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by her family and friends. Her presence will forever live on in the memories we hold dear and in the lessons she taught.

A Celebration of Life for Brenda will be held, with details to be shared once arrangements are completed. The family welcomes donations in her memory to Portage Helping Hands. Burns Funeral Home, Crown Point entrusted with arrangements. www.burnsfuneral.com

“You are never alone, for my love surrounds you always.”

— Brenda Bacso (2025)