



## Sharon Lynne Brownfield (nee VanRosendale)

July 22, 1954 - June 4, 2014

Sharon Lynne Brownfield (née VanRosendale) age 59 of Sarasota, FL, formerly of Merrillville, passed away June 5, 2014 after a short illness. Known by most as "Brownie", she had 20 loved ones with her bedside through her last night. Her incredible kindness, acute sense of humor, and love of simple everyday life made her one of her community's most beloved characters. Sharon was born in Gary, IN to parents Ernest and Theresa (VanderMeer) VanRosendale in 1954. She graduated from Merrillville H.S. in 1972, where she was a cheerleader for 6 years and captain of the school's inaugural swim team. She continued her education at Indiana University, earning a degree in 1976.

Sharon and high-school sweetheart Steve Brownfield were married on September 10, 1977 and relocated to Sarasota shortly thereafter. She then embarked on a 35 year journey of multiple positions in both the hospitality industry and the youth coaching arena. Sharon was co-owner/operator of the very popular Oasis Restaurant for much of the 80's. During the 90's and 00's, "Coach Sharon" was an integral member of the staff for the nationally acclaimed Sarasota Sharks swim family, and head coach at Venice H.S. for eight years. Her personal passions included time at the beach, swimming in the Gulf, gardening, her dogs, cooking, and every minute spent with her kids. Sharon was preceded in death by her parents Grandpa Van and Grandma (Groovie) Van and sister, Glenda Harding. Surviving family members include husband Steve, son Cory David of Jacksonville Beach, daughter Carly Jean of

Sarasota, sister, Nancy (Lance) Clarke of Hebron, brother Perry (Debbie) VanRosendale of Valparaiso, IN, and brother-in-law Gary Harding of Lowell. Also missing Sharon will be many, many nieces and nephews.

To honor the joy Sharon brought to all who knew her, there will be a Celebration of Life reception Tuesday, June 24, 2014 from 6-9 p.m. at Valparaiso Country Club, 2371 Country Club Road, Valparaiso. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Sharon's name may be made to the Jimmy V Foundation. [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com)