



Bruce L. Gillett

November 24, 1959 - March 14, 2026

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Bruce L. Gillett age 66 of Ludington, who died peacefully in the early morning hours of March 14, 2026 surrounded by the family who adored him.

Born on November 24, 1959, in Ludington, Bruce was the son of the late William "Bill" and Marion (Vance) Gillett, the 9th of 10 children. A 1978 graduate of Mason County Central, he was a standout track athlete and State Qualifier in the 100-yard and 220-yard dash.

On September 1, 1990, Bruce married the absolute love of his life, Brenda Funk. In a testament to Bruce's decisive nature and sure heart, the two were engaged after only six weeks of dating, a romance that blossomed into a beautiful 35-year marriage.

Bruce spent much of his professional life as a skilled meat cutter and department manager, serving the community at Farmer John's, Favorite Foods, and Prevo's. However, Bruce's life was forever altered in August of 2000, following a biking accident. Bruce suffered a brachial plexus injury, rendering him unable to continue his career. After the injury, he transitioned to working alongside Brenda at "Miss Brenda's Daycare." It was here that he earned the title: "Mr. Bruce" and the name he cherished most, "Papa Bruce." He impacted the lives of countless children with his boundless compassion,

unwavering kindness, and an infectious sense of humor that could brighten any room.

Bruce was a man of simple pleasures, deep loyalties, and devoted faith. He was a lifelong fan of Michigan Wolverines football and Detroit Red Wings hockey, a passion he took great pride in passing down to his boys. He also enjoyed high school football, assisting the Ludington Football program for many years, as well as hunting, fishing, warm weather, and most of all, spending time with his grandchildren.

Bruce will be greatly missed by his wife, Brenda Gillett; his two sons Brent (Lindy) Gillett, and Sean (Leah) Gillett; his siblings William (Roberta) Gillett, and Beth (David) Dufon; and many nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind the "lights of his life", his four grandchildren: Jameslee, Juliette, Camden, and Bryson Gillett.

Bruce was preceded in death by his parents, William and Marion; his in-laws James and Beverly (Millgard) Funk; siblings Marvin "Moose" Drier, Marlene Pinkerton, Marcella Foster, Merlin Drier, Maurice "Jock" Drier, Beverly Nichols; and his faithful dog Riley.

The family expresses their deepest gratitude to Chelsea Hackert, PA-C, for her compassionate guidance and devoted care over the last three months, and to Dr. Amanda Overmeyer, MD, for her many years of exceptional and dedicated support.

Funeral services will be held for Bruce at 11:00 am on Saturday, March 21st at Calvary Baptist Church in Ludington. Friends may meet with his family on Friday from 4:00 – 6:00 pm, and on Saturday morning from 10:00 – 11:00 am at Calvary Church. Those who wish to remember Bruce with a memorial donation are asked to please consider the Ludington Area School District

Football program, a program near and dear to his heart.

Cemetery Details

Lakeview Cemetery

800 N. Lakeshore Drive
Ludington, MI 49431

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 20. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Calvary Baptist Church
220 North Jebavy Drive
Ludington, MI 49431

Visitation

MAR 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Baptist Church
220 North Jebavy Drive
Ludington, MI 49431

Funeral Ceremony

MAR 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Baptist Church
220 North Jebavy Drive
Ludington, MI 49431

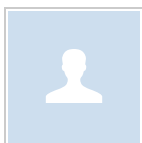
Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Bruce L. Gillett*.



March 19 at 11:02 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of *Bruce L. Gillett*.

March 19 at 11:02 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute to Bruce*



Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services - March 19 at 01:26 PM

CK

Beautiful tribute to a beautiful soul

Carolyn Kirwan - March 21 at 10:05 AM

AH

Truly a beautiful life, well lived. Brenda, I'm so sorry for your loss.

Anne Herrick - March 21 at 09:34 PM

ML

Brenda, what a beautiful tribute to your dear Bruce. His gentle spirit touched many and it shines through in all the lovely photos of his life well lived. It has been a blessing and a privilege to have known him. We pray God's grace and peace upon you in the days to come. We wish we could have been with you today.

Marjan Lowley - March 21 at 11:44 PM

PR

Brenda, that was so beautiful. Bruce would be so proud of how you did that for him. May God comfort you & your boys & their families. Penny Lou Ritter

Penny Lou Ritter - March 22 at 12:51 AM

LP

Beautiful tribute ! Your in my thoughts and Prayers 💔

Loretta Petersen - March 22 at 05:51 AM

RM

Beautiful... his love for you and your family is so evident in all the pictures in this video. ❤️🙏

Rise McIntosh - March 22 at 03:51 PM



“ *Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bruce L. Gillett.*



March 18 at 11:53 PM

PD

“ *Brenda and family. I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Paul and I have wonderful memories of working Emmaus with Bruce and attending church. He had such a wonderful heart. Heaven has truly been blessed with a new angel. Paula Damkoehler and family*

Paula Damkoehler - March 17 at 08:17 PM

ED

“ *Rest peacefully little brother. I will miss you for the rest of my days.*



Elizabeth Dufon - March 16 at 06:12 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bruce L. Gillett.*



March 15 at 09:46 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bruce L. Gillett.*

March 15 at 09:46 PM