



## Brenda Melnik

November 16, 1959 - June 2, 2025

Brenda Jo Melnik (65) and Gary Louis Melnik (69) of Jacksonville, Florida, were called to their final resting place with the Lord.

Brenda, a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and great-aunt, passed away peacefully on Monday, June 2, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on November 16, 1959, in Des Moines, Iowa, to the late French and Barbara Bullington. Brenda graduated from Robert E. Lee High School, attended the University of Virginia, and earned her degree from Florida State University.

Brenda worked for the government and also spent time in the teaching field. Above all, she devoted much of her life to raising her family. An avid reader, Brenda had a deep passion for learning and enjoyed spending time with loved ones especially spoiling his granddaughters.

Gary, a devoted father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and great-uncle, passed away on Sunday, June 29, 2025, after a brief illness. He was born on November 26, 1955, in Bad Axe, Michigan, to the late Henry and Catherine (Bezemek) Melnik. Gary attended St. John's Catholic School and graduated from Ugly Community Schools.

Gary enlisted in the U.S. Navy after high school, where he served for 20 years, retiring in 1995 at the rank of Petty Officer 1st Class AW1. His career took him across the globe aboard several aircraft carriers, including USS Enterprise. He did a tour of duty during the Desert Storm. He was Sonar Technician on the P-3 Orion, also served as an aircrewman and a submarine

hunter. He was stationed at numerous bases, including those in Florida, California, and Virginia. After his military service, Gary worked as an over-the-road truck driver and later at the United States Post Office Bulk Mail Center in Jacksonville, FL.

Known for his storytelling, Gary often shared his military experiences and the adventures of his travels. His love for driving also allowed him and his family to return to Michigan frequently, especially for family gatherings like the annual Melnik camping weekend. Gary and Brenda cherished watching their sons, Louis and Brandon, grow up, and they attended many sporting events over the years.

Brenda and Gary were married on August 16, 1981, in Florida, and together they raised two sons, French Louis (Erin) and Henry Brandon, both of Jacksonville, FL. They are also survived by two granddaughters, Kendra and Taylor, as well as siblings Judy Collier, Patricia (Ray) Cole, James (Diane) Melnik, Donald (Michelle) Melnik, Kenneth (Leslie) Melnik, and Maureen (Dale) Decker. Also surviving are Aunt Nita and Uncle Craven, Aunt Pat, a special "cousin/sister" Debbie, numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews, cousins, and many dear friends.

Gary and Brenda were preceded in death by two brothers, Charles Melnik and Ronald Melnik; sister-in-law Cindy Melnik; brother-in-law Kenneth Collier (KC); Step-father Emil Heck, nieces Renee' Melnik and Jennifer Melnik; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 1:00 PM at Kaufman Funeral Home, 84 Westland Drive, Bad Axe, MI 48413. Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 11:00am until the time of service at 1pm. Graveside services with military honors will follow at St John's Catholic Cemetery in Ubly. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the family's discretionary fund.

Condolences may be shared at [www.kaufmanfuneralhome.com](http://www.kaufmanfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## St. John Church Cemetery

Ubly, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 8. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Kaufman & Co. Funeral Home, Inc.  
84 Westland Dr  
Bad Axe, MI 48413  
(989) 269-3000  
kaufmanfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

JUL 8. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Kaufman & Co. Funeral Home, Inc.  
84 Westland Dr  
Bad Axe, MI 48413  
(989) 269-3000  
kaufmanfuneralhome@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ Gary and I were brother and sister. One stood on Brenda's right and one on her left. We gave each other support as needed, stories about Brenda as wanted and love however awkward. we didn't always play well together but that didn't stop us from adjusting the game and playing again. We shared our concerns and helped each other. I think that's love

---

**Judy Bullington Collier** - July 06, 2025 at 06:04 PM

JC

“ Some spell love L O V E, I spell it SISTER. There never was a better one. 7 years separated us but nothing else ever could. If you have one you will never stand alone ever! There is nothing that can't be asked, nothing that can't be shared. nothing life produces stops a sisters love from being in and around you. Cradle to grave as it's said. Brenda was mine and will ever be

---

**Judy Bullington Collier** - July 06, 2025 at 05:15 PM