



Mrs. Brenda Bradley Gelston

January 10, 1941 - June 20, 2021

Brenda Bradley Gelston 1941-2021

Survived by her husband of 58 years, Hugh E. Gelston Jr.; children Virginia "Ginger" Gelston, Sue DuMars (Steve), Hugh "Trey" Gelston, Kelby Gelston (Rhiannon) and grandchildren Nick, Luke, Jake, and Georgia DuMars, Kayla Kiley, Cassy, and Liam Gelston, Grady, Tilly, Lola, Eliza, and Waverly Gelston, Siblings Wayne Bradley (Nita) and Nancy Passwaters

Born January 10, 1941 in Federalsburg, Maryland to Lambertine and Reta (Cummings) Bradley, Brenda was the 7th of 8 children raised on a chicken farm. Brenda attended Federalsburg High School and was crowned Miss Federalsburg in 1958. She attended Towson State Teachers College and earned a degree in Physical Education.

Following a brief stint as a P.E. teacher Brenda was instrumental in the creation of the Baltimore Board of Officials for Women's Sports (BBOWS). As the Executive Director Brenda assigned officials for all girls' and women's sports in Baltimore County and Baltimore City High Schools. She later became the Commissioner of the Maryland Intercollegiate Board of Officials for Women's Sports and the Supervisor of Women's Basketball Officials for the Colonial Athletic Association. She was a National Division I volleyball official. She recruited, trained, assigned and evaluated college basketball officials and

served on NCAA committees

Brenda was passionate about girls' and women's sports, her family and her Eastern Shore roots. She had a very green thumb and enjoyed gardening, sewing and DIY projects of any kind. A loving wife, mother and grandmother she cherished her time with her 13 grandchildren

On June 20, 2021, Brenda Bradley Gelston beloved wife of 58 years of Hugh Edward Gelston Jr., dear mother of Virginia Lee Gelston, Sue Bradley DuMars (Steve), Hugh E. Gelston III and George Kelby Gelston (Rhiannon), devoted sister of Wayne Bradley, Nancy Passwater and the late Ruth Gensler, Audrey Warren, Gerald, Alvin and Dorsey Bradley. Also survived by thirteen grandchildren.

Friends may call at the family-owned MITCHELL-WIEDEFELD FUNERAL HOME INC. 6500 York Rd. Baltimore, MD 21212 on Friday, June 25th from 1-3 And 5-7 PM.

Please omit flowers. Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association 1850 York Rd., Suite D, Timonium, MD 21093.

Cemetery Details

Immanuel Episcopal Church Cemetery

1509 Glencoe Road
Glencoe, MD 21152

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 25. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.
6500 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
(410) 377-8300
general@mwfuneralhome.com

Visitation

JUN 25. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.
6500 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
(410) 377-8300
general@mwfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

MW

“ I met Brenda in College. She was in the first class at Towson to graduate with a degree in health and physical education. We took classes together in officiating while at Towson.

We all had our officials ratings and actually were hired by the schools in are Junior and senior years.

At that time, all schools having girls' sports had to find their own officials. A short time after graduation, I remember sitting in the basement of one of the buildings at Roland Park with Brenda, Joann Murray and others as we hammered out the start of the BBOWS. Not sure if BBOWS would have ever developed without the masterful leadership of Brenda. If I looked real hard, I am sure I could find to 8MM cassette tape of this meeting.

How I relish the talks we have had over the years! Brenda was passionate, forthright and loved her officials and her family!

As coaches, we knew never to call Brenda about any official if we had lost the game! Officials (and I was one in my younger years) had a true advocate in Brenda...she had their backs and yet she was the ultimate teacher and could improve their performance. She was direct, passionate to improve officiating, funny and gave the players a better experience.

A Sunpapers article appeared when Brenda was in Gymnastics class at Towson. She was on the balance beam and little known to most, she was carrying her first born. We have laughed many times over this picture.

My friend, Brenda, loved her family more than anything!

Thank you all Gelstons for sharing your Mom with so many people! She was so special!

May you remember the good times with your Mom! My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Melba Williams - June 29, 2021 at 01:50 PM

SM

“ *Brenda was a forthright quick witted individual who invest herself in BBOWS and the mission to provide quality officials for women’s and girls in athletics. I am honored to say that I was fortunate to work beside Brenda with this organization to assist and support these efforts. Brenda, Rest In Peace. To all the Gelston family, may your memories of her help carry you thru this sorrowful time. She was truly a unique and dynamic lady.*
Sincerely, Stephanie Murphy

Stephanie Murphy - June 26, 2021 at 01:44 PM

SM

“ *Brenda was a forthright lady, quick witted , who championed the efforts opportunities for women in athletics and officiating. She left an indelible mark on those who she met and mentored. It was a honor to work beside her at BBOWS to support those efforts and endeavors. Rest In Peace Brenda .*
May your memories of her help you thru this difficult time
With sincere condolences. Stephanie Murphy

Stephanie Murphy - June 25, 2021 at 11:24 AM

TL

“ Well said, Sally Bell. Brenda was by far one of the best. I have had the pleasure of knowing Brenda over 25 years. Whenever we spoke about women's basketball, we would always exchange stories about family. I know she was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and so very proud of everyone in her family. Brenda's character was outstanding. I just adored her entire demeanor, from the business aspect of supervisor to family matters. I pray to God and ask for Him to shed His comfort and blessings on Brenda's family during this difficult time.

Tony Lippa

Tony Lippa - June 25, 2021 at 09:46 AM

SD

“ 1 file added to the album Brenda



Sue DuMars - June 24, 2021 at 02:38 PM

SD

“ 1 file added to the album Brenda



Sue DuMars - June 24, 2021 at 02:37 PM

MS

“ Brenda was a great friend and classmate had lots of good times together and we would get together with other classmates for special luncheons , always happy and smiling she will be missed by those who knew her. Rest in peace Burns until we meet again. Love to you always my friend. Marty



Marty Dukes Smith - June 23, 2021 at 09:37 AM

MS

“ Great friend many fun times together in school and out in our later years classmates always close always had a smile and happy love you Burns you will be missed



Marty dukes smith - June 23, 2021 at 06:42 AM

BT

“ Brenda and I started first grade in the same class, and were in all of the same classes, teams and clubs throughout our elementary and high school years; the only difference was that she was in the band and I wasn't!! I have many years of wonderful memories. Rest in Peace, dear friend.

Bernese Culhane Todd - June 22, 2021 at 01:37 PM

EW

One of my fun memories- my grandparents lived next door & had a“Party line”. So while there I would call our mutual friend Bobbie Holt and Brenda would pick up her phone and since she was on same Party line” As my grands we could have a 3 way chat! Also my black swimsuit helped her win Miss Federalsburg!! Great fun memories.

EI Wilson - June 23, 2021 at 10:09 PM

SB

“ *She was the best mentor and friend to so many. Women’s basketball referees throughout the country will always be in her debt. She was the BEST!!*

Sally Bell - June 22, 2021 at 10:45 AM