



Brenda Leigh Bellus

May 10, 1941 - December 18, 2011

Brenda Leigh Bellus, 70, of Sunrise Beach, MO, passed away on Sunday December 18, 2011, in the comfort of her home. She was born in Alva, Oklahoma on May 10, 1941. Her parents Robert and Gracia Waite preceded her in death.

Leigh graduated in 1958, from Westport High School in Kansas City, Missouri, and served as President of Phi Kappa Delta Sorority. Following graduation, Leigh worked as the personal secretary for Dr. Kermit E Krantz at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

She married on October 1, 1960, and just recently celebrated 51 years of marriage to the love of her life, Ray Bellus. Leigh gave us a gift so special; by sharing and demonstrating unconditional love to her soul mate and best friend, Ray. In her last moments, she communicated her love to Ray stressing how lucky she was for picking the "Right Man".

Leigh drove a school bus for USD 500 Public Schools in Kansas City, KS, but she was most proud to be called "Mom" or "Grandma".

Leigh has 3 children: Debbie Mecum married to Donnie Mecum, of Piper, KS; David Bellus married to Patty Bellus of Georgetown, IN; and Danny Bellus married to Karen Bellus of Kokomo, IN. Leigh was an energetic and active

grandmother for 7 grandchildren: Tyler and Austin Mecum; Brittany, Matt, and Emma Bellus; and Bailey and Drew Bellus.

Family was most important to Leigh. She loved so much to be actively involved during school years serving as PTO President, Room Mother, Bluebird Leader, and as Mom's taxi service to all school events. Not rain, sleet, or snow would stop Mom from marching those sidelines or cheering from the bleachers in support of her kids. As a Grandmother, she cheered her grandchildren with the same enthusiasm topped off with a big hug and a kiss after the event. Grandma's house sleeps 15! It still does as we count on Grandma's presence today.

Leigh had a real passion for the Lady Elks – Osage Community Elks Lodge #2705. She was named Lady Elk of the Year in 1999-2000. She actively participated in the annual garage sale, Potluck Team, Taco Team, and the annual Christmas Gift Drive. Leigh will miss the activities, parties, and events that she shared with her lodge friends and especially those closest to her. We will miss her "all in" mentality, her organizational skills, her sense of humor, and most of all her smile coupled with that loud laugh.

In spirit she is there.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 9:00 a.m., Friday, December 23, at the Shrine of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Laurie. Graveside services and interment will follow in the St. Patrick Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Thursday, at the church. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Shrine of St. Patrick Catholic Church or to the Lady Elks.

Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel.

Cemetery Details

St. Patrick Cemetery

800 Highway O
Laurie, MO 65038

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **22**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church
176 Marian Dr.
Gravois Mills, MO 65037
<http://www.stpatrickcatholicchurch.org>

Service

DEC **23**. 9:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church
176 Marian Dr.
Gravois Mills, MO 65037
<http://www.stpatrickcatholicchurch.org>

Tribute Wall

DM

“ Hi Mom, It's quiet on the lake and it looks like its going to be a beautiful day. All of us together as the 3 "D's" take really good care of what you and Dad built for all of us to enjoy. We sure miss you and think about you and Dad everyday.
Danny and Karen are coming down today. It will be nice to see them. You and Dad did a great job raising us 3 kids. We love on another just like you hoped we would.
This is Killian Ray Mecum. Your great-grandson and Tyler and Darcies 1st baby. Hes absolutely perfect. Tyler and Darcie bought a new home in St Louis and are living their best life. You and Dad would be proud of them.
Austin passed his boards and now is a PMHNP currently at the VA in Topeka and starting his new position at LMH in Lawrence Ks. He's a Mental Health Provider. Pretty cool having a Doc in the family. It's a very exciting time for both the boys. You and Dad would be proud of their accomplishments.
I really Really miss you. Not only were you my Mother but you were my best friend. XOXO
I love you so so much.
Deb - Give Dad a hug from me. ((Hug))



Debbie Mecum - May 09 at 09:39 AM

DM

“ I miss you Mom!❤️

Debbie Mecum - February 26, 2023 at 06:08 PM

DE

“ Finals again Mom. You were always the best at cheering them on. They need you.

♥♥♥ Deb ♥♥♥

Deb - December 13, 2015 at 09:17 PM

DE

“ I need to talk to you. 😞 I really do. Especially today Mom. ♥ Deb

Deb - January 31, 2015 at 09:05 AM

DE

“ Thinking about you today. I'm sending you great big hugs on this Christmas Day. You are so missed and loved everyday! 🎄 ♥ 😞
I hope your enjoying yourself with family and friends in heaven 😘 😘

😘

Your Daughter

Deb - December 25, 2014 at 08:58 AM

DM

“ Hi Mom I really miss you..... 😘 😘 😘 ♥ Deb

debbie mecum - October 05, 2014 at 07:44 PM

DM

“ I put some of your favorite flowers in the vases on your headstone. I hope you enjoy them. I miss you so so much. Watch over us Mom. Austin and Tyler are doing so well in college. Bless them with your encouragement and give them your strength as they move into finals. I think of you everyday and love you each of those days??
Your Daughter

debbie Mecum - April 22, 2014 at 08:32 AM

DB

“ Hi Mom!

David Bellus - January 18, 2014 at 12:54 PM

DB

“ Mom tough time of the year for all of us. We are doing pretty good. I know I speak for all of us when I tell you thank you for being such a wonderful "Mother". You really earned your stripes. You absolutely did a wonderful job!!

I love you and think about you every day.

David

David Bellus - December 14, 2012 at 09:08 AM

DA

“ Thanks Mom. You know.

David - October 24, 2012 at 09:12 PM

DD

“ Happy Mother's Day Mom.....

DDD - May 15, 2012 at 11:40 AM

DB

“ Mom

Really miss you. We think about you everyday. Just wanted to let you know that Dad and you did a great job. You're the greatest.

Love you

David Bellus - February 09, 2012 at 10:13 PM

YS

“ Hi Mom,

*Down visiting Dad. He's doing great. Everything you taught him.....
he learned!!!*

Love You

Your Son - January 20, 2012 at 07:54 PM

TN

“ *I remember taking a sewing class at the Eisenhower Rec Center
one summer. Leigh was my instructor and she was so good to me. I
think I knew from day one that I was going to be a disaster at
sewing, but Leigh was so patient and told me my project was going
to turn out fabulous. It wasn't fabulous, but I sure had fun!!*

Tina

Tina Novak - December 29, 2011 at 07:37 PM

DB

“ Thank you to the Elks Lodge.

As a family we celebrated Mom's life today together. As often as the ladies and members have heard about us..... I would like everyone to know it was a pleasure to put names with faces as Mom frequently spoke about her friends as well.

Our family very much appreciates your generosity and emotional support. Mom and Dad are very lucky to have such wonderful friends.

Merry Christmas

*Debbie, Donnie, Tyler & Austin Mecum
David, Patty, Brittany, Matt & Emma Bellus
Danny, Karen, Bailey & Drew Bellus*

David Bellus - December 23, 2011 at 09:23 PM

DB

“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

David Bellus - December 23, 2011 at 08:48 PM

“ After I got home from today’s “Celebration of Life”, I wanted to call Leigh and tell her how proud she should be of her loving family. They ALL were remarkable. As I watched the videos standing behind her grandchildren, I thought to myself what would have been missed if she had not beat the cancer twenty years ago. Both Leigh and the grandchildren would have missed out on twenty years of WONDERFUL moments (& memories).

That said, from a personal standpoint, I will just say that Ed & I joined the Lodge 10 years ago and I had never met (& probably never will meet) anyone quite like Leigh. She had a unique way of making you feel apart of everything in a way that I have never seen before. She decided what needed to be done, who could best do it and most importantly who would feel felt out. Leigh went beyond the “click-mode” to ensure everyone felt like they played a role.

As I sat and thought about Leigh, I really tried to think of some kind of negative attribute that might be associated with Leigh. The only thing that came to mind was “talking on the phone too long”. When Leigh would call, Ed would say “see you in an hour or so”. That was Leigh! Until she felt certain that you were over the hurdle and on an upbeat path, she was determined to stay on the other end of that phone (like it or not – and it worked). I guess the only possible negative attribute turned out to be one of her BIG positive attributes.

I’m 67 and until I met Leigh I will say that my dad stood head and shoulders above anybody when it came to supporting friends and family. She is the only one I know that maybe could have taught him a thing or ten!

Leigh might have been named “Lady Elk of the Year” for one year but she will be remembered by many as a LADY OF HONOR for the way she lived each and every day of her life. How grateful and honored I am for all the special memories that I shared with that very special lady named Brenda Leigh Bellus. I will NEVER forget!

Kathy Morris

Kathy Morris - December 23, 2011 at 06:51 PM

DM



Debbie Mecum - May 09 at 09:05 AM

CM

“ *There are too many favorite memories ...the parties and dances at the Lodge, the gin games, the cruises and just good times. My only regret is that since I moved back to KC I haven't had a chance to spend much time with Leigh and always looked forward to seeing her when I went back for a visit and got caught up on the latest Lady Elks antics. Leigh and Ray were one heck of a couple and you knew you would have a good time being in their presence. A laugh a minute. Farewell to a beautiful lady and a great friend. Carol McClanahan*

Carol McClanahan - December 20, 2011 at 03:14 PM

JD

“ *Leigh was a wonderful lady. I only knew her for a few years but enjoyed her sense of humor. She was a joy to be around and I will certainly miss her at the rummage sale this year. She was such an important part of our lodge and a wonderful friend to many.*

Jeannie and Gary Dake

Jeannie Dake - December 20, 2011 at 12:40 PM

“ So many good memories of a dear friend Leigh. So full of life, funny, caring, giving, loyal, think of the perfect wife, parent, & friend.... That was Leigh Bellus. She was always there for everyone, not a selfish bone in her being.

Sometimes it is not how long we live on this earth that matters, but how we live and what we did during our sojourn on earth that sets us apart from our friends and relatives. And it is always no telling how much we have impacted the lives of others such that in death we are still greatly missed. But of all our good or bad deeds on this earth, it is the care, compassion, goodwill, understanding and concern we show toward our fellow human beings that count the most. Our friend, Leigh Bellus, was such a person, and this is why We want to remember her & honor her.

Isn't it amazing how God works in our lives! TRUE FRIENDSHIP "NEVER" ENDS. Friends are FOREVER. For good friends are like stars.... You don't always see them, but you know they are always there. Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave, and impossible to forget. Leigh was this kind of friend.

In this regard, someone once said: A Good Friend is "the siblings God forgot to give us." And another said: "I believe that friends are quiet angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly." But as for those of us who were considered Leigh Bellus's friends - we saw her as "a four leaf clover, HARD TO FIND and LUCKY TO HAVE," because she made the world SPECIAL just by being in it. Most people walk in and out of our lives, but only friends leave footprints in our hearts. Leigh certainly left a huge footprint in our hearts.

Leigh knows that her Redeemer liveth, and that she shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: She shall see God. For "there shall be no more death, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away." So fare thee well, our friend, may your soul rest in perpetual peace! And We trust that the Great Lord will richly reward her for her great works on earth, and protect her until such time that we shall meet again. May her soul rest in perfect peace!

John & Wanda Clifford - December 20, 2011 at 09:48 AM

DM



Debbie Mecum - May 09 at 09:54 AM

JC

“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Wall*



John & Wanda Clifford - December 20, 2011 at 09:36 AM

JC

“ Leigh was truly a Lady, always ready with a smile and a encouraging word to everyone. She will be missed by all who knew her. *Bob and Joan Coots*

joan and Bob coots - December 20, 2011 at 09:28 AM

DB

“ Darrell B. purchased the *Wings of Gold Set* for the family of *Brenda Leigh Bellus*.



Darrell B. - December 20, 2011 at 07:55 AM

DJ

“ There are so many things I remember about Leigh. I loved her laugh, I remember that she was always there to watch and support her kids no matter what they were doing. Leigh was the kind of mom I have always admired and wanted to be like. I remember that we called her "Bus".

Her love and support for her children and grandchildren is so very apparent. You only have to look at the faces in those pictures to see it.

She had a kind heart and the Bellus house was always a good place to be.

I feel very blessed to have known her and to call her amazing children my friends. My heart is heavy with the loss but her legacy lives on and I take comfort in that.

I wish you all strength and comfort in the days ahead. You will be in my thoughts and prayers. I know without a doubt that Leigh is in heaven and will continue to watch over you even from afar.

In love and friendship,

Dee (Withrow) Jowder

Dee (Withrow) Jowder - December 19, 2011 at 09:27 PM

KB

“ 11 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Karen Bellus - December 19, 2011 at 08:04 PM

DB

“ *Do you remember the time Danny did.....*

David Bellus - December 19, 2011 at 04:23 PM

DJ

There's a pretty long list here David.....

Dee (Withrow) Jowder - December 19, 2011 at 09:28 PM

DB

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



David Bellus - December 19, 2011 at 02:26 PM

DM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Debbie Mecum - December 19, 2011 at 01:09 PM

DM

Wife, Mother, and Grandmother. She earned all three. She lived her life for her family. Always thinking of others first before herself. We lived by the ways she taught us. I loved my mother's laughter. Her "off the cuff" sense of humor. Her honesty and the way she just knew if something was wrong...she was always there to try and fix it. My mother taught me life and the true meaning of "don't sweat the small stuff" as she would say. If you knew her, you loved her. She was an amazing friend. Later as I grew to be a mother myself we grew together to be best friends.

I will not only miss my wonderful mother but I will miss the most amazing friend I will ever have.

*With Love,
Your Daughter Debbie*

Debbie Mecum - December 19, 2011 at 01:37 PM

KB

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Karen Bellus - December 19, 2011 at 12:38 PM