



## Dr. Brenda Prater Earhart

May 20, 1944 - August 11, 2025

\*PLEASE NOTE SERVICE TIME ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS LISTED BELOW\*

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE FOR DR. BRENDA PRATER EARHART WILL BE HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025, AT ALLEN CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH, 804 W. NORTH STREET IN KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN.

ATTN: FAMILY & FRIENDS-PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH DOORS WILL OPEN AT 9:30 A.M.

MASKS & HAND SANITIZER ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

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\*\*\*THE (2) LINKS TO VIEW SERVICES LIVESTREAM & TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE PROGRAM WITH ORDER OF SERVICE ON MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025, ARE PROVIDED BELOW:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/15sNwZM7h7/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

-or-

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1C5PgGRKtk/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

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HERE IS THE PROGRAM FLIP BOOK LINK TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH ORDER OF SERVICE:

<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/cff1a4e76b.html>

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\*\*\*If you have any questions, please contact us at: (269) 342-1000

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\*\*\*NOTE: The DVD Tribute will be available today, Saturday, August 16, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

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Remembering our beloved Dr. Brenda Prater Earhart

Dr. Brenda Prater Earhart liked to keep busy. A dedicated educator, community mentor, lifelong volunteer, and woman of God, she never shied away from acts of service. Those in community with her can attest to the steadfast support she offered to anyone in need, whether they asked for it or not.

Born on May 20th, 1944 in Woodville, Mississippi, Brenda was seventh of eight children to the late Edward K. Prater and the late Ninnie E. Smith Prater. Her childhood was a rambunctious one in the country, marked by precious moments with her siblings, cousins, and other family members. Brenda loved playing outside, especially with her younger brother Wesley, creating games and adventures that still live on in family stories.

Her first years of education were spent in a one-room schoolhouse, Kingsford Elementary in Wilkinson County, where her mother taught her and her siblings. Before 9th grade, she moved in with her older brother Fred, to attend Utica High School where he worked. In 1961, she earned a high school diploma from Utica High School and enrolled at Alcorn State University where she would remain for four years in the successful pursuit of a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry. At Alcorn, she sharpened her gifts, formed lifelong friendships, and joined Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®.

Brenda's pursuit of higher education took her from Mississippi to Kalamazoo in 1965. To ensure her safe arrival, her parents hired a driver to take her there—a testament to the Prater family's deep commitment to education. She attended Western Michigan University, where she earned a master's degree in chemistry.

In addition to achieving her academic goals, Brenda received an unexpected bonus—meeting the love of her life, Malcolm Alan Earhart II. Their connection quickly grew into a deep and lasting bond, and they were married on August 26, 1967.

In 1972, Brenda and Malcolm's love bore their first child – their daughter, Tiombe Kai Bey-Woodson. When Tiombe was a young child, the family of three moved to Detroit, Michigan. Nine years later, they welcomed their son, Malcolm Alan Earhart, III, born in 1981.

Brenda's professional career spanned more than 40 years in education, impacting the lives of students across the country. The longest chapter of her teaching career was spent at Cass Technical High School in Detroit, where she taught a wide range of subjects—including algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus, chemistry, and physics—sharing her passion for learning with generations of students.

By 1987, the family moved back to Kalamazoo and Brenda became the first recipient of the Upjohn Doctoral Fellowship. During that time, while pursuing a doctorate degree in administration at Western Michigan University, she served as the assistant director at the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center (KAMSC). From authoring numerous publications and articles to the implementation of science programs for Kalamazoo Public Schools, it is here

that she laid the foundation to later become the director of KAMSC, a prestigious role she held for 10 years.

As director, Brenda developed and implemented several outreach initiatives, including the elementary/middle school Summer Science Program and the KAMSC Pre-college Engineering Program, which serves as a vehicle for increasing the number of African Americans and other underrepresented students in the science, mathematics, and technology pipeline. She also traveled to Japan to collaborate with a sister school, broadening KAMSC's scope internationally.

Her commitment to equitable education went beyond her work at KAMSC. She served as a member of several state organizations, including the Equity in Science Leadership Team, Michigan Science Teachers Association, Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the Michigan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. She also served on the board of the Kalamazoo Nature Center and chaired the leadership committee of the Kalamazoo Women's Educational Coalition.

Brenda was often decorated for the impact she had on the community, receiving awards such as the Michigan Science Teachers Association's Distinguished Service Award and the YWCA's Women of Achievement Award. As recently as March 2025, she received a Certificate of Appreciation for Black Excellence from Spring Valley Elementary.

Following her retirement in 2011, Brenda stayed active in her community, continuing to serve on boards, tutor students, and was a longtime treasurer at her church, Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal. In 2012, she was recognized as a Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® and also became a member of the Kalamazoo Chapter of The Links, Incorporated in 2014.

Above all, Brenda's most cherished titles were wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. Outside of her life's work, she enjoyed traveling with her family and visiting her girlfriends. Some of her favorite destinations included South Africa, Japan, Las Vegas and Tunica. She had a special bond with her children and grandchildren, who could expect to receive several calls, texts, and silly emojis from her weekly. Throughout the years, and across several states and cities, she created countless memories with her devoted husband of 58 years. One of their favorite pastimes was commenting on how Kalamazoo's food scene was severely lacking.

On Monday, August 11, God opened his arms to allow Dr. Brenda Prater Earhart to rest, and join her parents and brothers, Leonard Prater, Robert Lee Prater (Theresa), and Fred Prater. Brenda will be remembered for her generous spirit, infectious laugh, and dedication to her community. Her life's work continues in the students she taught, the communities she strengthened, and the family she loved.

She leaves to cherish her memory her loving husband Malcolm and their two children Tiombe Bey-Woodson (J'Nairo) and Malcolm Earhart, III, bonus daughter, Mallori Lockett (Quincy), grandchildren: Tori Zackery, Tariq Zackery, and Terrance Zackery, II, and Joshua Schenk, J'Nairo Bey-Woodson and Kahlil Bey-Woodson. She is also survived by her siblings Eva Prater, Mary Prater Demby, Daisy Prater Tillman, Dora Prater Simpson (Willie), and Dr. Wesley Prater (Gwen), as well as a host of beautiful nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and adoring former students.

# Previous Events

**ATTN: Family & Friends: Doors of the Church will open at 9:30 a.m.**

AUG 18. 9:30 AM (ET)

Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church  
804 W. North Street  
Kalamazoo, MI

*\*\*\*THE (2) LINKS TO VIEW SERVICES LIVESTREAM <https://www.facebook.com/share/15sNwZM7h7/?mibextid=wwXlfr> -or- <https://www.facebook.com/share/1C5PgGRKtk/?mibextid=wwXlfr>*

**Funeral Service Presentation-The Links, Incorporated**

AUG 18. 9:45 AM (ET)

Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church  
804 W. North Street  
Kalamazoo, MI

**"Ivy Beyond The Wall Ceremony"-presented by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.**

AUG 18. 10:15 AM (ET)

Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church  
804 W. North Street  
Kalamazoo, MI

## A Celebration of Life

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AUG 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church  
804 W. North Street  
Kalamazoo, MI

*HERE IS THE PROGRAM FLIP BOOK LINK TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH ORDER OF SERVICE: <https://heyzi.ne.com/flip-book/cff1a4e76b.html>*

# Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Brenda Prater Earhart



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**Harper Funeral Home** - August 16, 2025 at 02:37 PM

DM

*Sincere condolences to Malcolm Earhart and family*

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**Dee Marshall** - August 18, 2025 at 09:43 AM

ST

*Sincere condolences to Mr Malcolm Earhart and his family. May her light shine brightly for all eternity and her smile live on in their hearts forever.*

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**Sheena (Haines) Taborn** - August 18, 2025 at 04:01 PM

GW

*I remember Brenda at Kingsford Baptist Church with aunt Ninnie when I was a young girl. My deepest sympathy with you all.*

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**Glenda Stewman Williams** - August 18, 2025 at 04:55 PM

GW

*Our sincere condolences, prayers and love to the Family of Dr. Brenda Earhart.*

*Elder Richard &  
Evangelist Gwindland Worthy  
Tabernacle Church Of God In Christ*

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**Gwindland Worthy** - August 18, 2025 at 06:39 PM

EW

“ Evelyn Winfield-Thomas lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart



Evelyn Winfield-Thomas - August 31, 2025 at 01:09 PM

CS

“ Dr. Brenda. Earhart was such a beautiful lady with admired intelligence. Rest in peace, beautiful person and child of God. Cal Street

Cal Street - August 21, 2025 at 09:13 PM

LA

“ Brenda was my tenth grade math teacher when she taught at Old Kal Central High School. Over the years I would run into her at different events that was going on in the community. Brenda was a beautiful woman with a quiet spirit and always kind. Sending my condolences to her husband Malcolm, their children, grandchildren and family members. God bless and comfort you all.



Lorraine Abbott - August 19, 2025 at 10:02 AM

BW

“ Barbara Watson lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart



Barbara Watson - August 18, 2025 at 10:08 PM

SG

“ I am sending prayers of peace to the entire family. Dr. Brenda Earhart was a mentor to me while being a teacher for KPS. I was blessed to be able to work on science curriculum under her guidance. She also created opportunities for me to lead science pd for staff members. I was selected to go on a summer science institute through Upjohns that she lead. She taught me so much about teaching children to love science. She also cared deeply about me as a young teacher. Brenda was a treasured blessing in my life and I am so sad to read about her passing tonight. She made a huge difference in our students, teachers, and community. Sending so much love to her family and praying that our Heavenly Father wrapped His arms around her welcoming her home. Peace,  
Sandy Glasser

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**Sandy Glasser** - August 18, 2025 at 08:46 PM

LB

“ My condolence to her family and friends.



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**Lisa Boulding** - August 18, 2025 at 06:18 PM

JW

“ Today I joined the church and had the honor of celebrating the incredible life of Dr. Brenda Earhart—one of my greatest mentors and inspirations.

*Dr. Earhart wasn't just an educator; she was a force of nature. She poured herself into her students, her community, and her family, leaving behind a legacy that will ripple for generations. I was blessed to have her in my life far beyond my time at KAMSC—she celebrated with me and Stuart at our wedding, encouraged me through career decisions, and even got to meet my first born Zachary! She always stayed in touch, always uplifted, and always believed in me.*

*As a biracial woman, seeing her leadership, brilliance, and grace in spaces where representation mattered meant more than I can ever put into words. Dr. Earhart showed me what it means to lead with excellence, integrity, kindness, and how important advocacy is.*

*I will miss her dearly, but I carry her lessons, her laugh, and her encouragement with me always.*

*Rest peacefully, Dr. Earhart. Thank you for everything. 💕✨*



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**Jasmine Wheaton** - August 18, 2025 at 06:10 PM

HS

“ *Hilda Snell lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart*



Hilda Snell - August 18, 2025 at 05:47 PM

DF

“ *My sincere condolences praying 🙏*



Dallas Boards and family - August 18, 2025 at 03:24 PM



“ *Patricia Vardaman lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart*



Patricia Vardaman - August 18, 2025 at 12:47 PM

GL

“ *Gloria Lightning lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart*



Gloria Lightning - August 18, 2025 at 12:32 PM

MW

“ Our deepest condolences to the entire family.  
I pray that God gives you the strength that  
you need today and all the days to come.  
Love Margaret and the girls.



Margaret Watkins - August 18, 2025 at 10:55 AM

CF

“ Charles (Sonny) Prater & Family purchased the S  
imply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr.  
Brenda Prater Earhart.



Charles (Sonny) Prater & Family - August 18, 2025 at 07:39  
AM

GH

“ We send our condolences and heartfelt love to the Earhart family  
during this difficult time. Brenda will be missed and remembered  
fondly. Walter & Gloria Hall

Gloria Hall - August 17, 2025 at 10:56 PM

DF

“ Darlene Zackery and family sent a virtual gift in  
memory of Brenda Earhart



Darlene Zackery and family - August 17, 2025 at 10:32 PM

ED

“ *Emily Dawson lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart*



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**Emily Dawson** - August 17, 2025 at 10:28 PM

PD

“ *Peggy Dunigan lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart*



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**Peggy Dunigan** - August 17, 2025 at 10:27 PM

PD

“ *Peggy D. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Dr. Brenda Prater Earhart.*



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**Peggy D.** - August 17, 2025 at 10:21 PM

IR

“ To Earhart Family:

*We're so sorry for your loss. Our deepest sympathies and condolences are with you during this time of mourning.*

*Dr. Brenda Earhart, Thank you for all of your loving effortless support, always giving and never allowing anything but excellence.  
RIP*

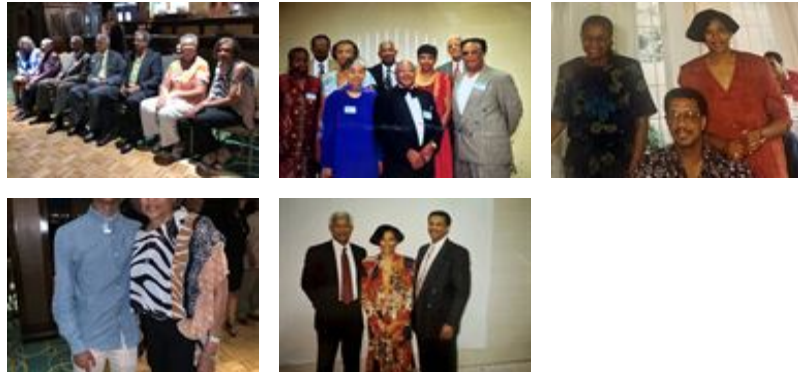
*We're Honored to have had you in our lives.  
Frank, Ida and Jaudon Robinson*



Ida Robinson - August 17, 2025 at 09:14 PM



“ 6 files added to the album Life Tributes



Harper Funeral Home - August 17, 2025 at 08:54 PM

YP

“ So thankful for the friendship Brenda and I shared through Allen Chapel, KPS and the Kalamazoo Links. You will certainly be missed.

Yvonne Payton - August 17, 2025 at 08:14 PM

PD

“ *Pat Davis lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart*



Pat Davis - August 17, 2025 at 07:54 PM

ML

“ *Mary Ligon-Goens lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart*



Mary Ligon-Goens - August 17, 2025 at 06:47 PM

TB

“ *Tiffany Brown lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart*



Tiffany Brown - August 17, 2025 at 06:07 PM

LJ

“ *Thank you Earhart Family for sharing your incredible mother, wife and loved one with our youth and community.*



Lara Johnson - August 17, 2025 at 05:42 PM

AR

“ *Angela Reed lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart*



Angela Reed - August 17, 2025 at 05:05 PM

HC

“ *Brenda was a lovely, sweet person, who will be deeply missed by me & others that she crossed their path's. God Bless the entire Earhart & Prater family.*



Herberta Carver - August 17, 2025 at 03:20 PM

BJ

“ *Buzette Jackson lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart*



Buzette Jackson - August 17, 2025 at 02:51 PM

JH

“ *Joan and Ed Harris lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart*



Joan and Ed Harris - August 17, 2025 at 02:48 PM

CL

“ My deepest condolences to the family. My Soror and friend will always be remembered for her many gifts, kindness, and beauty-- inside and out. Carlis Logan

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**Carlis Logan** - August 17, 2025 at 02:17 PM

HD

“ Sending prayers and condolences to the family. Soror Brenda will be missed by so many. Eddie and Helen Driver 💕💚



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**Helen Driver** - August 17, 2025 at 11:50 AM

TB

“ To the family of Dr Brenda Earhart, we are sending our sincere condolences to you all. We love and appreciate her shared moments with our son J'Nairo. We also pray that you are blessed with guidance, peace of mind and love for each other.

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**Thelma Bey-Woodson** - August 16, 2025 at 06:24 PM

RS

“ Reuquiyah Saunders lit a candle in memory of Dr. Brenda Prater Earhart



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**Reuquiyah Saunders** - August 16, 2025 at 01:44 PM

DM

“ *Darryl Matthews lit a candle in memory of Dr. Brenda Prater Earhart*



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**Darryl Matthews** - August 16, 2025 at 01:01 PM

MG

“ *Michael & Janett Gonder lit a candle in memory of Dr. Brenda Prater Earhart*



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**Michael & Janett Gonder** - August 16, 2025 at 12:09 PM

AB

“ *Arlene Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart*



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**Arlene Buchanan** - August 16, 2025 at 09:56 AM

FE

“ *From Diane & Paul Eckert planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Brenda Prater Earhart.*

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**From Diane & Paul Eckert** - August 15, 2025 at 07:10 PM

FE

“ From Diane & Paul Eckert purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Brenda Prater Earhart.



From Diane & Paul Eckert - August 15, 2025 at 07:10 PM

VE

“ Vanessa Prater Ealey&family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dr. Brenda Prater Earhart.



Vanessa Prater Ealey&family - August 15, 2025 at 05:17 PM

WA

“ Walgreens lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart



Walgreens - August 15, 2025 at 03:47 PM

TS

“ The Smith Sisters purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Brenda Prater Earhart.



The Smith Sisters - August 15, 2025 at 02:09 PM

CD

“ We are so grateful for the Friendship we have shared for 68 years. We will always cherish the memories we made together. Love you. You will be deeply missed. Bobbie, Cynthia, Madie, Martinia and Velma

Cynthia Davis - August 15, 2025 at 12:06 PM

KR

“ Krista Roberson lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart



Krista Roberson - August 15, 2025 at 11:47 AM

DF

“ Daniel Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Brenda Earhart



Daniel Family - August 15, 2025 at 08:57 AM

GH

“ Guenetta Harris-Gordon lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart



Guenetta Harris-Gordon - August 15, 2025 at 08:01 AM

NW

“ *Nikia Walker-Hall lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart*



Nikia Walker-Hall - August 14, 2025 at 11:50 PM

DT

“ *Donald and Kathleen Thompson purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. Brenda Prater Earhart.*



Donald and Kathleen Thompson - August 14, 2025 at 10:17 PM

DT

“ *Donald and Kathleen Thompson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Brenda Louise Earhart.*

Donald and Kathleen Thompson - August 14, 2025 at 10:17 PM

FC

“ *To the Entire Earhart family. We were saddened to hear of the passing of this wonderful servant. Know that our prayers and thoughts are with you during this difficult time. I believe that the precious memories of Brenda will comfort and give you peace. May God's grace , love and mercy continue to guide you now and always. Mo Fannie Charles*

Fannie Charles - August 14, 2025 at 02:46 PM

CB

“ *Carrol T Blair lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart*



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**Carrol T Blair** - August 14, 2025 at 01:53 PM

CB

“ *To Dr. Brenda's family. My heart is saddened to learn you had passed on. I just saw you at church first Sunday. You have been a friend to me since I've been at Allen Chapel , which has been quite awhile. May you R.I.P, and may God comfort your family at this time. I will always remember you. See you in the morning. Carrol T. Blair*

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**Carrol T Blair** - August 14, 2025 at 01:53 PM

PD

“ *So sorry for your loss, Brenda was such a sweet and kind person that I had the pleasure of working with for many years. Prayers to the family. Pat Davis*

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**Patricia Davis** - August 14, 2025 at 08:30 AM

AC

“ *Artrella M. Cohn, Chairperson purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Dr. Brenda Prater Earhart.*



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**Artrella M. Cohn, Chairperson** - August 13, 2025 at 07:18 PM

GH

“ *Guenetta Harris-Gordon lit a candle in memory of Brenda Earhart*



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**Guenetta Harris-Gordon** - August 13, 2025 at 07:17 PM

CS

“ *Sending sincere condolences to the family of Brenda Louise Earhart. May you be comforted by our Lord. Catherine Summers*

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**C. Summers** - August 13, 2025 at 04:30 PM

DM

“ *Diane McPherson-Carver sent a virtual gift in memory of Brenda Earhart*



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**Diane McPherson-Carver** - August 13, 2025 at 02:34 PM