



Mrs. Francine Inez Bender-Sykes

March 8, 1951 - March 21, 2025

**A WALK-THROUGH VISITATION IN LOVING MEMORY FOR FRANCINE INEZ BENDER-SYKES WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025 AT THE OUR FUNERAL HOME.

***NOTE: PLEASE SEE WALK THROUGH VISITATION TIMES LISTED BELOW.

**MASKS AND HAND SANITIZER WILL BE PROVIDED BY REQUEST.

OBITUARY

Francine Inez Bender-Sykes passed away peacefully on March 21, 2025.

Fran was born in

Harrisburg, PA on March 8, 1951. She grew up in a close-knit community in Cassopolis, MI.

where she graduated from Cassopolis High School. Fran attended Western Michigan University

where she received her Master's Degree in Social Work and Education. Fran dedicated much of

her career working as a Victim Witness Coordinator in both Cass County and Kalamazoo

County Prosecutor's Office. Later she shared her knowledge and kindness as a substitute

teacher in the Kalamazoo School District and as a Computer Application

Professor at
Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Fran cherished time with her family and found joy in the company of her beloved pets. She had a deep love for the outdoors, whether it was taking long walks, adventure and travel with her husband Bill and furry companion Cletus or simply appreciating the beauty of nature. Her warmth, generosity, and unwavering kindness touched all who knew her, especially her devoted love for her children and grandchildren.

Fran leaves behind four children: Sheila Ash (Carl), Michael Ash, Jared Sykes (Bonnye), and Scott Sykes. Four grandchildren: Karah Brewer, Michael Ash Jr., Micah Sykes, and Elinor Sykes. Two Siblings: Butch Bender (Sheila), Naomi Singer (Henry) and tons of Nieces and Nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents- Bernard Bender and Adeline Tosco-Bender., Husband-William R. Sykes, and Sister- Bernadette Bender Buszek.

Special thank you to the caring and compassionate staff of Bronson Cancer Center.

Previous Events

Walk Through Visitation For Family & Friends

MAR **29**. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Francine Inez Bender-Sykes



Harper Funeral Home - March 25, 2025 at 10:41 PM

DR

“ Frannie as I knew her was my classmate, friend, and overall a fun person to be around. We spoke via messenger or text rarely but it was still a connection I valued. My deepest sympathy to all the family and friends . Dianne Jackson class of 69

Dianne jackson russell Jackson Russell - March 29, 2025 at 05:50 PM

TB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Terry Bradshaw - March 28, 2025 at 01:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Francine Inez Bender-Sykes.*



March 26, 2025 at 07:44 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Francine Inez Bender-Sykes.

March 26, 2025 at 07:44 PM



“ *It is with a heavy heart I say... I am so sorry for your loss of such a kind, and beautiful person as Fran! I met her at BHFC (gym) and we became friends. I feel honored to have known her! My heart goes out to the family, and I pray that the special memories you hold so dear will help you through the difficult times! She will be greatly missed! She was an angel! Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers! Linda B.*

Linda Bush - March 26, 2025 at 12:12 PM



“ *Darryl Matthews lit a candle in memory of Francine Bender-Sykes*



Darryl Matthews - March 26, 2025 at 09:39 AM

MK

“ *Molly Kosty purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mrs. Francine Inez Bender-Sykes.*



Molly Kosty - March 25, 2025 at 08:43 PM