



Mrs. Brenda Pollard Prater

July 9, 1948 - November 10, 2025

Brenda was born to the late Robert Thomas Pollard and Sarah Woodall Pollard, on July 9, 1948, in Opelika, AL. She was the fourth of seven children born to their union.

Brenda accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age and was a member of St. Luke A.M.E Church during her childhood. Brenda's devotion and dedication to her Christian faith was a hallmark of her life. While living in Columbus, GA for most of her adulthood, she was a dedicated and active member of her beloved St. Mary's Road United Methodist Church (UMC). Brenda wore many hats while a member of St. Mary's Road UMC including serving as Sunday School Superintendent, Chairperson of Christian Education, Vacation Bible School Director, Trustee Board member, Sunday School teacher, and Lay Leader. She eventually moved to Williamsburg, VA after retirement and joined the historic First Baptist Church where she continued her faith journey.

Brenda deeply valued education. She graduated from J.W. Darden High School in 1967. She went on to attend Alabama A&M University in Normal, AL where she received a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education in 1971. She later earned a Master of Science in Foundations of Education from Troy State University in Phenix City, AL in 1979. Brenda also earned certificates in Specific Learning Disabilities and Mental Retardation from

Columbus State University in 1980 and 1990, respectively. She returned to Troy State University to continue her academic journey and earned a certificate in School Guidance and Counseling in 1993 and completed her Educational Specialist degree in 1996.

Brenda's passion for bettering the lives of children made her an outstanding educator and administrator. While she taught for a few years in other cities, she spent most of her career with the Muscogee County School District (MCSD) in Columbus, GA where she served as a special education teacher, elementary school teacher, and elementary school counselor. Brenda eventually retired from MCSD as an assistant principal in 2003.

Early in Brenda's career, she was named Teacher of the Year at the former Waverly Terrace Elementary School in Columbus, GA. She eventually served as the chair of the Muscogee County Elementary School Counselors Association. She was appointed to the Georgia School Counselors Association Leadership Team. She also piloted the 1st Counseling and Development Center for MCSD and created and coordinated the MSCD Elementary Career Fair. Additionally, she served on the MSCD Curriculum SEARCH Team and published articles in the BEACON (Georgia School Counselors Association Magazine).

The job that Brenda held most dear was that of being a devoted and loving mother. In 1974, she married Brett Lewis. Her only child, Brenetta, was born to that union. Brenda poured her heart and soul into being a caring, involved, nurturing, and protective mother. She was a single mom for most of Brenetta's youth and that could not have been easy. Yet, somehow, she managed to fill her daughter's childhood with fun, joy, laughter, unconditional love, and magical experiences. She was simply the best!

Brenda worked tirelessly to better the lives of all children and serve the

community with her time, talents, and treasure in numerous civic organizations. Brenda became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA) on February 28, 1981, when she was initiated into the Mu Sigma Omega Chapter of Opelika, AL. She eventually joined the Gamma Tau Omega Chapter of AKA in Columbus, GA where she served as co-chair of Fashionetta, Social Committee chair and Cluster Representative. She was also a dedicated member of the Columbus, GA chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. where she served as chair of the Beautillion Ball, Program Committee chair and Scrapbook Committee chair.

Brenda joined Dr. Oscar L. Prater in holy matrimony in 2002 and they moved to Williamsburg, VA. They briefly transitioned to Talladega, AL where Oscar served as president of Talladega College from 2005 to 2007. Brenda was a proud and engaged First Lady. She even served briefly as an adjunct professor in general psychology during her tenure at the college.

The couple returned to Williamsburg in 2007 and Brenda continued her service to others - joining the Lambda Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. where she served as Founders' Day chair and Fashionetta co-chair. She also volunteered with the Child Development Center, Big Brother Big Sister of the Greater VA Peninsula, Williamsburg Community Hospital Auxiliary, and chaired the Curiosity Room at the Hampton University Museum. Brenda was a proud member of the Newport News Chapter of The Links, Inc. Additionally, she was a member of the Greater Williamsburg Women's Association (GWWA) where she was instrumental in developing and implementing the Cultural Arts Experience camp in 2012. The camp gives students an opportunity to engage with African American culture through art, dance, and literature.

On the afternoon of Monday, November 10, 2025, Brenda transitioned to be

with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Atlanta, GA after a courageous battle with Parkinson's disease. She was preceded in death (in 2022) by her husband, Dr. Oscar L. Prater. Her brothers Thomas Pollard and Robert T. Pollard, Jr. preceded her in death as well as brother-in-law Thomas E. Peterson, Jr.

Brenda will be forever cherished by her daughter, Brenetta Nicole (Kofi) Smith and her grandsons, Kole Parker Smith and Kyler Redmond Smith. She will be dearly missed by stepsons Lamar Prater and Marcus (Marion) Prater. Brenda's memory will be cherished by her siblings Birdie Pollard Peterson, Dr. William Pollard, Alvin Pollard, Michael (Pamela) Pollard, and sister-in-law Ruby Ingram. Brenda will be missed dearly by her nieces and nephews Twyla Pollard, Thomas E. (Sharon) Peterson III, Michelle (LC) Robinson, Corey (Stefanie) Peterson, Mickael Pollard, Mallury Pollard, Uriel Pollard, Yvette (Rick) Smith, and Kevin (Jill) Hill. Her memory will be cherished by her God-daughters Shanelle (Ebi) Ferguson, Timyra (Olandous) Curry, Elysse Parker and a host of other loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

1409 Monroe Avenue
Opelika, AL 36801

Previous Events

Service

NOV **14**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Peterson and Williams Funeral Home
1016 McCoy Street
Opelika, AL 36801
(334) 745-6473
pw1016mccoy@hotmail.com

Tribute Wall



“ Peterson and Williams Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Brenda Pollard Prater



Peterson and Williams Funeral Home - November 14, 2025 at 12:39 PM

BH

“ I met Brenda in the 9th grade at J. W. Darden High. I had relocated to Opelika from California for the year my father was in Vietnam. We instantly became the two Brenda's, Brenda Pollard and Brenda Sands. She was an absolute petite chocolate beauty with a heart of gold. We spent time together laughing and reminiscing about the good old days as recent as when she lived in Williamsburg. We always had the ability to pick up where we left off. 62 years! I will miss my friend, but she will always remain in my heart.

brenda Sands Hines - November 15, 2025 at 09:42 PM



“ My heart goes out to you and your family during this difficult time. May you find comfort in the love of those around you and peace in the memories you hold dear.



Ruby James - November 14, 2025 at 12:57 PM

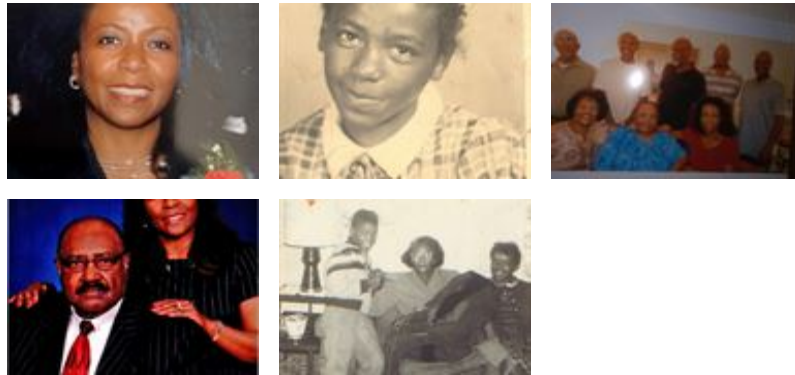
BS

Brenda will be remembered as the girl all the boys in the 6th grade was in love with. We would fight and argue over her and she never knew it. We use to watch her go thru the hedges everyday for she lived right behind the school yard. She was our version of Liz Taylor.

Billy Stinson - November 23, 2025 at 03:05 PM



“ 30 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Peterson and Williams Funeral Home - November 13, 2025 at 06:22 PM

MN

“ *Mickael P. Pollard, her loving nephew planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Brenda Pollard Prater.*

Mickael P. Pollard, her loving nephew - November 13, 2025 at 04:40 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Brenda Pollard Prater.*



November 13, 2025 at 04:40 PM

BC

“ *Betty Stinson Conway lit a candle in memory of Brenda Prater*



Betty Stinson Conway - November 13, 2025 at 12:34 PM

BC

“ *Betty Stinson Conway lit a candle in memory of Brenda Prater*



Betty Stinson Conway - November 13, 2025 at 12:32 PM

TP

“ *Tiffany overstreet P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Brenda Pollard Prater.*

Tiffany overstreet P. - November 13, 2025 at 10:58 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Brenda Pollard Prater.*



November 13, 2025 at 10:17 AM

PC

“ Paula and Cameron planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Brenda Pollard Prater.

Paula and Cameron - November 13, 2025 at 10:17 AM

CF

“ Carlos Sprinkle (Cols, GA family) purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Brenda Pollard Prater.



Carlos Sprinkle (Cols, GA family) - November 13, 2025 at 09:11 AM

CF

“ Carlos Sprinkle (Cols, GA family) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Brenda Pollard Prater.

Carlos Sprinkle (Cols, GA family) - November 13, 2025 at 09:11 AM

NB

“ Brenda was a beautiful woman. I was so blessed to know her and share Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc membership with her . Brenda was family and truly blessed my life.



Nelia Bryant - November 13, 2025 at 07:46 AM

SG

“ Minister Sheri Galloway, lifting the family in prayer.



Sheri Galloway - November 12, 2025 at 10:44 PM

YF

“ Your Keystone Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Brenda Pollard Prater.

Your Keystone Family - November 12, 2025 at 09:33 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Brenda Pollard Prater.



November 12, 2025 at 09:33 PM

JS

“ My heart goes out to the Pollards, the Petersons and the Prater families during these trying times. Brenda, Birdie and their brothers were once my neighbors and we all grew up together. Losing a neighbor is like losing a family member because there are so many beautiful memories entwined. Enter Heaven's Gate peacefully Brenda 🌸🌹🌺



James W. Strickland,PhD - November 12, 2025 at 06:13 PM

GM

“ *Gwendolyn Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Brenda Prater*



Gwendolyn Mitchell - November 12, 2025 at 03:17 PM

AD

“ *Anthony and Sandra (Galloway) Davis lit a candle in memory of Brenda Prater*



Anthony and Sandra (Galloway) Davis - November 12, 2025 at 11:44 AM

RS

“ *Priscilla and I send our condolences to the Prater and Pollard family on the passing of our once neighbor and Friend Brenda. Our thoughts are with her loved ones. Reggie and Priscilla Strickland*



Reggie Strickland - November 12, 2025 at 08:23 AM

TP

“ *It is said that you are the product of everything and everyone you encounter in life. Brenda touched so many lives with her love, compassion, and friendship. She was the blueprint to true friendship and sisterhood. My life is richer because Brenda was in it. I will miss my sweet friend dearly.*

Tina S. Parker

Tina S. Parker - November 11, 2025 at 09:37 PM

LH

Nicole and the Pollard family, you have my deepest sympathy. I am deeply saddened by the passing of my friend, Brenda. She was one of the sweetest, nicest, caring people, so genuine. She loved her family. I will miss her.

Laura Hill

Laura Hill - November 13, 2025 at 10:01 PM

WP

“ *With all our love, Tina and Gary Parker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Brenda Pollard Prater.*

With all our love, Tina and Gary Parker - November 11, 2025 at 09:17 PM

WP

“ *With all our love, Tina and Gary Parker purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Mrs. Brenda Pollard Prater.*



With all our love, Tina and Gary Parker - November 11, 2025 at 09:17 PM

CW

“ *Cynthia Williams lit a candle in memory of Brenda Prater*



Cynthia Williams - November 11, 2025 at 12:47 PM

DP

*We are thankful to have shared so many great memories with Brenda.
Our condolences to the Family.
Donnell & Marie Prater*

Donnell Prater - November 12, 2025 at 12:45 PM

HW

*)Netta Nic,
Your mother's kindness and quiet strength touched more hearts than
you may ever know. I hope the memories you carry bring comfort and
the love she gave continues to guide you through the hardest days. I
will also miss my dear friend. Our sincere condolences to you and your
family.*

Homer and JoAnn Wells

Homer and JoAnn Wells - November 13, 2025 at 11:50 AM

IL

*Our prayers are with the entire family during this time of bereavement.
Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that
believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. John 11:25
Ingram and Shirley Lilly*

Ingram & Shirley Lilly - November 14, 2025 at 12:51 AM