



Iraena Mae "Renie" Brown

January 16, 1943 - February 24, 2021

Iraena Mae "Renie" Brown, age 78, of Watseka passed away Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at AMITA St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee. She was born January 16, 1943 in Sedgewickville, MO, the daughter of Ira & Sarah Mae (Seabaugh) Gibbons. Iraena married Roger G. Brown on February 18, 1961. He preceded her in death on February 5, 2014.

Renie worked as a laborer in a factory. She loved gardening, crocheting, and sewing. She loved spending time with her family. They were the most important thing in her life. Renie was a great storyteller. She loved playing scrabble with her family. She would always try to play the word "ubet" in the family scrabble game. Renie had a strong faith and was the family prayer warrior.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Watseka.

Surviving are two sons and one daughter-in-law, Ricky Brown of Papineau and Greg & Susan Brown of Moultrie, GA; four daughters and two sons-in-law, Tonia Collins of Donovan, Sonia & Kevin Bulmann of Donovan, Donna & Scott Wascher of Bourbonnais, and Rhonda Emerson of Beaverville; one sister, Thelma Beckett of Cape Girardeau, MO; fifteen grandchildren; and sixteen great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, Roger Brown, Renie is preceded in death by her parents; one daughter, Patricia Brown; two grandchildren, Tristan Emerson and Courtney Bires; three sisters, Glendola Gibbons, Faye Seabaugh, and Yonetta Moore; two brothers, Donald Gibbons and Jim Gibbons; and two sons-in-law, Michael Emerson and Rusty Collins.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial visitation will be held from 1 p.m. until the time of the 3 p.m. memorial service on Sunday, February 28, 2021 at Clancy-Gernon-Houk Funeral Home in St. Anne. Please wear a face mask and practice social distancing guidelines. Pastor Raymond Jackson will officiate the service.

Memorials may be made to the family wishes.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

FEB 28. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

St. Anne - Clancy-Gernon-Houk Funeral Home
214 W. Sheffield
St. Anne, IL 60964
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Memorial Service

FEB 28. 3:00 PM (CT)

St. Anne - Clancy-Gernon-Houk Funeral Home
214 W. Sheffield
St. Anne, IL 60964
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Tribute Wall



“ Garden Accent Stone - *"Wherever a Beautiful Soul..."* was purchased for the family of Iraena Mae "Renie" Brown.



February 28, 2021 at 12:38 PM



“ My deepest sympathy and prayers for you and your family.



Carlene Giasson - February 27, 2021 at 08:00 PM



“ RIP Mrs. Iraena , an i give my condolences to the family, my god bless u all.



Thomasina Mobley - February 27, 2021 at 02:24 PM



“ I worked with her many years ago. She was so much fun.

Patsy Williams - February 27, 2021 at 01:28 PM

JG

“ I was only 3 at the time but I remember looking out the front room window of Mom-Moms house in Delta, Mo., waiting for my Aunt NeeNee to come running down that gravel road after she came home from school. She hit that front porch, opened the screen door and always gave be a big hug everyday. Then, after some 57 years later, she came out to Colorado Springs to visit us. You adored the views of our Rocky Mountains and loved "her mountains". A loving last memory was when she knew I was getting tired during the drive back to Cape, she wanted to drive a while...I crawled in the back seat to grab a nap and all I heard was Aunt Neenee and my Mom (Thelma) just laughing up a storm as she drove east on I70 thru Kansas...you bet I had my seatbelt on tight. I love you always and miss you...especially your Facebook comments...the good Lord finally brought you Home...say hi to Grandpa, Mom-Mom, Aunt Faye, Aunt Yonetta, Uncle Buck and Uncle Jim and all the others for us...I'll meet you there too...

Your Joe

Joe Gibbons - February 26, 2021 at 12:50 AM

DW

Joe, mom considered you one of her own. She adored you and always bragged on you. She will be missed by so many. Until we meet again!
Love you!

Donna Wascher - February 26, 2021 at 04:49 PM

JS

Some of my favorite childhood memories were the nights I spent at Sonia's house. With all those kids, there was never a dull moment. I never saw Rhonda without seeing Patty; those two were pretty much glued at the hip. Greg was simply outnumbered with all those girls around. Donna would do some things with us, but she usually had other things going on. Tonia was the cooler older sister who would sometimes let us hang with her, and Rick's heart was as big as his dreams. In the middle of all the chaos we created, if it bothered Sonia's Mom, she never showed it.

I have lots of fond memories of Sonia's Mom, but two really stand out. No matter how many times she came home to find me there, she always made me feel like one of her own. I can't remember a time when she didn't have a kind word for me. I wonder if she realized how powerful her words were to an insecure teenage girl.

The other memory I'll share is one of my favorite stories to tell, and I've told it a lot throughout the years. In fact, the last time I saw Renie, I told her just that. Here's the story: "My friend Sonia's Mom bought a raffle ticket for \$100. The prize, if she won, was a brand-new car. The raffle was in Chebanse at the Community Center. I remember the place was packed, but I managed to get a seat right next to Renie, even though her entire family was there. (I told you she made me feel like one of her own.) The announcer called 99 numbers, and if your number was called, you lost. It was that simple. Renie sat eating a bag of popcorn, listening to the announcer call the numbers. Her husband wasn't happy about her spending \$100 on a ticket, and he didn't hesitate to let her know. She pretty much just gave him the "talk to the hand" gesture and continued listening to the announcer call the numbers and eating her popcorn.

As the night went on, more numbers were called. People began offering Renie money for her ticket. One guy offered \$50, but Renie replied, "No thank you." That's when she revealed she'd made a promise to God if he'd let her win that car. By now, about 75 out of 99 numbers had been called. Her husband still pressuring her to sell, but Renie held strong, and kept eating her popcorn.

More offers to buy her ticket, more "No thank you's." This went on until it got down to the last 10 numbers and Renie was still in the game. All that had to happen was her number to be called and she was done. Now, offers for her ticket were coming in at \$100, and \$200, but Renie held out, and kept eating her popcorn. More pressure from her husband, more "Talk to the hand." I kept encouraging her, "Yeah Renie, I wouldn't sell either." Like she needed my encouragement.

Finally, there were 2 numbers left. Renie's and another guy's. This guy offered \$500 for her ticket just before the last number was drawn, and once again, "No thank you" was her reply. By now more people were encouraging her to sell. Lots and lots of pressure, but she'd just shake

her head “no,” and eat her popcorn. Even I jumped on the, “maybe you should consider selling your ticket” wagon. If her number was called, she was done. She could have had a sure \$500, but she took the risk, and it paid off. The last number called was not hers, and she won that car! The place went nuts. When everyone ran to hug her, Renie spilled her popcorn.”

That night taught me a lot about faith. I don't think I've ever witnessed another time when someone had so much faith under so much pressure. She never wavered, knowing without a doubt that God would honor her prayer.

Her faith was important to her. She was steadfast in her belief and she was proud to share her love for the Lord. I can't imagine what it was like when she looked upon the face of Jesus, and heard those long-awaited words, “Well done good and faithful servant.” Just think what she must have felt when Jesus put his nail-scarred hand in hers, and led her through the gates of heaven? I know the family is heartbroken right now. But I also know they take comfort knowing she is with our heavenly father, as well as all her loved ones who have gone before. Renie's finally home now. I hope they have popcorn in heaven.

Until we meet again,

JoElla

Joell Smith - February 26, 2021 at 05:49 PM

SB

Thanks Joella! You are soooo right, Mom had and abundance of Faith, and the Good Lord received an amazing woman! She loved you as her own, and was so happy for you when you finally found your true love. She had to see thise pics right away. Thanks for those kind words. Love you!

Sonia Bulmann - February 26, 2021 at 07:16 PM

TL

Iraena,

*Met her at Gould Battery and Myra met Roger at Gilster-Mary Lee-----
----what a couple, Iraena seem to always be happy and very proud of
her children. Myra and I offer our sincere condolences to the family on
the loss of one heck of a woman.*

Ted & Myra Lease

THEODORE G LEASE - February 27, 2021 at 02:02 PM

CM

*I will miss her so much. We were neighbors & we had coffee alot
together & had such good conversation. Rip good friend.. My
condolences to the family..*

Carla Morefield - February 27, 2021 at 05:43 PM

RM

*Iraena I met and worked with Iraena at GMB. Nice lady and good
friend.Hope life was good for her.sorry for your loss Tonia.*

raymond mayo - February 28, 2021 at 02:32 PM