

Brenna Marie Bauer was born December 15, 1988, in Rapid City, SD, to Linn and Elizabeth (Szymanski) Bauer. The Bauers were living at the Bauer Angus Ranch at Enning, SD, when the Enning/White Owl News headlines “Linn, Beth Bauer get early Christmas present” and indeed they did! Brenna spent her first year on the Bauer Ranch before the family moved to Sturgis. Her sense of adventure was fostered commuting to the ranch with her dad; often in his 1950 Stinson airplane, where her grandparents, Harold and June, doted on their young granddaughter. Brenna was baptized in 1990 at the First Presbyterian Church of Sturgis, SD, where she also attended Sunday School and church. She was confirmed before being ordained as a Deacon in 2006.

In 1991, the Bauers welcomed her brother, Benjamin, and a lifelong bond was formed. She and Ben spent their youth in innocent pursuits of childhood such as picking chokecherries and looking for peacocks and kittens. She grew up helping her dad with farming chores such as irrigation (her least favorite) and driving tractors. Brenna enjoyed vacations with the family, fishing, camping, and playing sports; her true passion being fast-pitch softball. She began playing tee-ball before graduating to slow-pitch softball and lettered in fast-pitch softball for the Scoopers. She also participated in other sports in elementary and middle school. She was an avid baseball fan; her favorite team was the Colorado Rockies. She was an excellent student, very organized, worked on the student newspaper, played the tuba in middle school, took piano lessons for many years, and even a few organ lessons. She was active in Job’s Daughters and served as Honored Queen of Bethel #12. She graduated with honors from Sturgis Brown High School in 2007.

After high school graduation, Brenna attended a small campus of Penn State University where she could have her husky, Bud, with her. She later transferred to Arizona State University and majored in air traffic control and airport management. She loved children and was employed as a nanny concurrent with her studies at both universities. Brenna always had compassion for the disadvantaged whether animals or the people who touched her life. It was while in Arizona that her nurturing nature blossomed as she discovered her passion for fostering dogs with special needs, inspiring her to create “Operation Pawsible K9 Rescue,” finding “forever” homes for over 150 dogs. She worked tirelessly caring for the dogs as well as advertising and orchestrating adoption events while making lasting connections with businesses that regularly donated pet food and supplies. Somewhere along the way, alcohol addiction took over Brenna’s life. She traveled into a deep, dark tunnel from which she could not escape.

Brenna Marie Bauer, 31, died March 27, 2020, in Gillette, WY.

She is survived by her parents, Linn and Elizabeth “Beth”; her brother and best friend, Ben; her aunts, Julee (Lyle) Steinman, Kathryn (Henry) Karrels, Peggy (Dan) Bourdo, and Mary (Bill Martin) Szymanski; uncles, Kent (Sharon) Bauer and Bill (Pamela) Szymanski; many cousins; and her rescued dog, Nala.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, George and Bernice Szymanski and Harold and June Bauer; as well as her huskies, Bud and Maia.

Memorials may be donated to Sturgis Animal shelter, or Women Crisis Intervention shelter.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com).

*The family would like to invite you to join them for fellowship and lunch at the Erskine Club room in the church basement following the service.  
We thank you for your presence and condolences.*



*In Loving Memory Of*

**Brenna Marie Bauer**

**December 15, 1988 - March 27, 2020**



## ***The Final Flight***

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took His hand when I heard His call,  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the end of the day.  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joys.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My Life's been full, I savored much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me Now, He set me free.*



## ***In Loving Memory Brenna Marie Bauer***

### ***Born***

December 15, 1988  
Rapid City, South Dakota

### ***Died***

March 27, 2020  
Gillette, Wyoming

### ***Memorial Service***

Friday, July 23, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.  
First Presbyterian Church  
Sturgis, South Dakota

### ***Officiant***

Pastor Paul Henschen

### ***Musical Selections***

"I'll Never Walk Alone"  
"Amazing Grace"  
"Take Me Out To The Ball Game"

### ***Honorary Urnbearers***

All Family and Friends

### ***Final Resting Place***

At A Later Date  
Bear Butte Cemetery  
Sturgis, South Dakota