



Diane Marie Bender

October 9, 1945 - September 22, 2023

Diane Marie Bender, 77, Ponte Vedra, FL, died September 22, 2023 at home surrounded by her loving husband and daughters. She was born in Hunter, North Dakota, daughter of the late Ellsworth William and Thelma Burkholder. The experience she gained from a variety of jobs provided an opportunity with GMAC Financing in Fargo, ND. She worked her way up to various management positions. While still in Fargo, she married husband, David, in September of 1984. Her job took her to St. Louis and Atlanta before retiring in 2000 after 20 years with GMAC. They moved to the Jacksonville, FL area in 2001. She was a member of The Village Church.

Diane was a true lover of life and a longtime survivor of four different cancers along with eight surgeries on a hip, dating back to 2005. She enjoyed so much in her life including travel, plants and orchids, playing cards, jewelry, creating a jewelry business, dancing, photography, acquiring shoes for any occasion, stained glass, assisting cancer charities and much more. She, along with her husband, Dave, loved to entertain and spend time with family and friends. Diane had a unique ability to put smiles on peoples' faces whether she knew them or not.

She is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 39 years, Dave Bender, Ponte Vedra, FL; two daughters, Dawn Petersen (Steve), Hunter, ND, Dana Roberts (Matthew), St. Augustine, FL; sister, Beva Hansen, Fargo, ND;

grandchildren, Daxton Morgan and Leigha Trnka; and 4 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Diane was preceded in death by a grandson, John William Petersen.

A celebration of her life will take place at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, October 21, 2023, at The Village Church with Pastor Alan Liphart officiating. A visitation, beginning at 10:30 a.m., will precede the service. A light lunch will be served following the service. If you are not able to join us in person, the service will be live streamed here: YouTube:<https://www.youtube.com/c/TheVillageChurchatWorldGolfVillage>

Condolences can be made by visiting her tribute page at www.stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Diane's memory to the American Cancer Society (https://donate.cancer.org/?campaign=search&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=%5BB%5D+-+American+Cancer+Society&utm_term=american%20cancer%20society&gad=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwmvSoBhDOARIsAK6aV7iZXJFfFJf51vTq3SvDN3NzGEC_6q3WEOz0hlqASmpRjGQGqjOGjOoaAs5gEALw_wcB) or to the Forward Foundation of Fargo, North Dakota, Forward Foundation/Bank Forward benefiting children in small towns in North Dakota and Northwest Minnesota (<https://www.bankforward.com/forward-foundation>)

St. Johns Family Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **21**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

The Village Church
4229 Pacetti Road
St. Augustine, FL 32092

Tribute Wall



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Diane Marie Bender*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - October 16, 2023 at 05:35 PM

LA

“ *I am so truly sorry as I just found this out. I worked with Dave for many years and Diane was such a true inspiration to me. Hugs and prayers to your entire family. ❤️*

Lori Angell - December 19, 2023 at 05:24 PM

MW

“ *Michael and Tonya White purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Diane Marie Bender.*



Michael and Tonya White - October 18, 2023 at 06:12 PM

LS

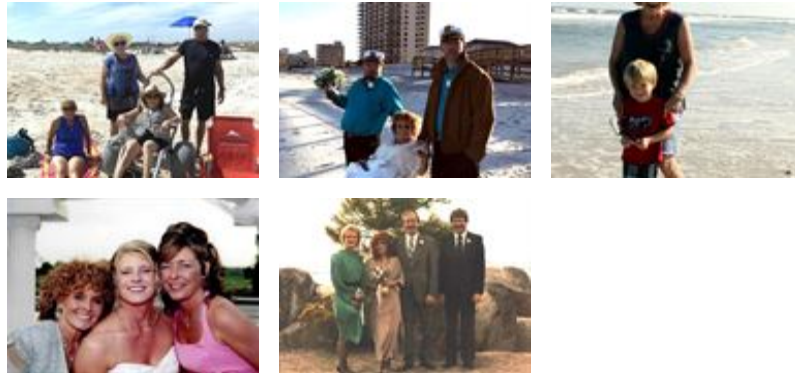
“ *Love, Linda and Sharon purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Diane Marie Bender.*



Love, Linda and Sharon - October 18, 2023 at 03:41 PM



“ 6 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - October 16, 2023 at 05:36 PM



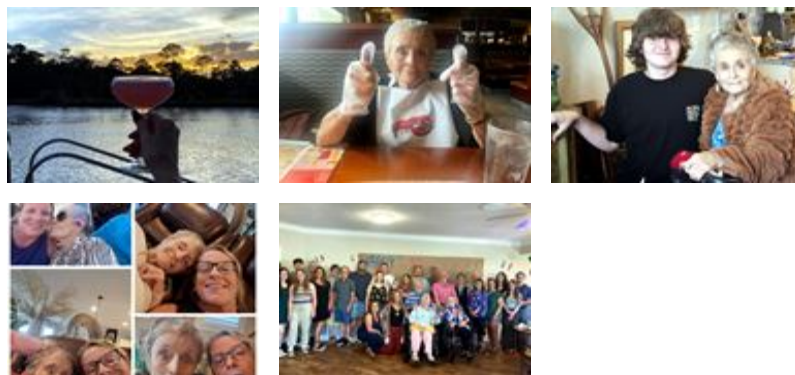
“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of Diane Marie Bender.



October 15, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ 73 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - October 13, 2023 at 01:14 PM



“ 8 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - October 13, 2023 at 10:27 AM

JT

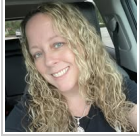
“ *Diane was a great-great friend whom we will miss dearly. We have many wonderful memories of Di that we will always cherish and remember.*

She fought long and hard and overcame so many battles, always looking at the bright side of life.

Di, we love you.

Mo and Jim

jJim and Mo Taylor - October 12, 2023 at 04:35 PM



“ Sending millions of prayers and my deepest condolences and sympathies to David and the family. Diane was the sweetest person and had a very kind heart that touched so many souls. She always had a smile on her face and she will be greatly missed! She and I shared the love of gemstones as a hobby and we had so much fun playing in her jewelry business and learning more about the stones!! She loved making her customers so happy and had to go above and beyond and dress up their purchases with a gorgeous leopard jewelry B-Dazzle wrapping and bag!!! We had so many memories together and many dinners and I will always miss bringing her a Kit-Kat for her freezer as she loved eating it cold like me!! Until we meet again someday in Heaven my beautiful and amazing friend, as all of Heaven is rejoicing as the angels welcome her home in the loving arms of our Savior, Jesus, who has said “well done, my good and faithful servant”.

Missing you so much always!!! Xoxoxx
Love, Lorie Bush

Lorie Bush - October 12, 2023 at 03:18 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Diane Marie Bender.



October 12, 2023 at 09:00 AM

TG

“ I had the pleasure of meeting beautiful Diane through Sharon Brereton on our visits to St. Augustine. We spent fun times together. Diane was a beautiful lady. She was fun to be with. We had great times together and will be remembered always. Our sincere condolences David to you and your entire family. Bob and Terri Gioiosa

terri Gioiosa - October 09, 2023 at 08:42 PM

MT

“ I had the pleasure of working with Diane at GMAC Fargo. She will be missed. Melanie Flan Trites

Melanie Flan Trites - October 04, 2023 at 02:34 PM

DH

“ Read of Diane's passing in The Forum. Sincere sympathy to everyone.
Roger & Donna Hentges

Donna. Hentges - October 04, 2023 at 08:36 AM