



## Darla Kay Brzezinski

March 7, 1958 - October 4, 2024

Darla Kay Brzezinski, of Charlotte, passed away unexpectedly on October 4, 2024, on a camping trip at her beloved Lake, Lake Leelanau, at the family cabin camp Kabbaboo, where she spent so many happy days. She was 66. Darla was born in Germfask, Michigan grew up in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and graduated from Newberry High School. After high school and a couple odd jobs, she began a dedicated career with the State of Michigan, first with the Liquor Control Commission and later with the Office of Retirement Benefits, before retiring in 2010.

Outgoing and friendly, Darla was the kind of person who could make anyone feel at ease. She was a "comfort person" - always thinking of others and ready to lend a hand. But those who knew Darla well also knew she had strong convictions and a straight forward way of expressing them. With Darla, there was no gray area - you always knew where she stood, and she wasn't shy about speaking her mind.

In her younger years, Darla was quite the pool shark, earning both trophies and respect with her sharp eye and steady hand. It was in the late seventies, standing near a jukebox, that she met Dale, the love of her life. They were married in 1982 and went on to raise two sons, Jason and Michael, together. The family shared many camping trips to the family camp overlooking Lake Leelanau, where Darla's love for the water blossomed. She adored life at the lake, spending long afternoons on the pontoon, flip-flops on her feet, watching the swans glide over the water.

After retirement, Darla and Dale traveled together, checking items off their bucket list. One of her most cherished memories was swimming with dolphins, an experience she described as pure joy, captivated by their grace and playful spirits. In more recent years, after grandchildren came along, Darla's world revolved around them. She loved nothing more than spending time with her family, especially the little ones, watching them grow and creating memories to last a lifetime.

Darla also had a passion for Bingo, and in recent years, she and her dear friend Desi would travel to new destinations just to enjoy a good game. Her friendly competitive spirit and laughter made her a joy to be around.

Darla will always be remembered for her kindness, her fierce love as a mom, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and the countless lives she touched with her warmth and generosity. She leaves behind her loving husband of 42 years Dale, her son Jason (and wife Natasha) and daughter-in-law Jessica, her grandchildren, Makala Coolidge, Jason Riley Brzezinski, Calie Brzezinski, Danny Paul Brzezinski, Zackery McKinley and Zoe McKinley; great-grandchildren, Hadley Coolidge and Adalynn Cordray; brother John Zitnik, sisters Lisa Johnson and Tera Fields and many cherished friends. Darla was preceded in death by her youngest son Michael in 2012.

Friends are encouraged to support Darla's family at visitation Tuesday, October 8, 2024 from 2-4:00 PM and 6-8:00 PM at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. Guests are encouraged to stay for the Rosary at 7:30 PM which will be followed by an evening Remembrance and Affirmation service where some of the family's best stories of Darla will be shared. Friends and family are also invited to join the Brzezinski family the next day for the Funeral Mass celebrated at 11:00 AM Wednesday, October 9, with a visitation at 10:00AM at St. Mary Catholic Church in Charlotte with Rev. Fr. Dwight Ezop Celebrating. For those unfamiliar with the Catholic Mass or Rosary, guides will be provided to help you follow along and understand the significance of each part.

While Darla may no longer be with us, we're sure she's found the ultimate

Bingo hall up above - and knowing her, she's already won the jackpot...BINGO!

If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to St Mary Catholic School. Family and friends are encouraged to share remembrances and condolences online in Darla's Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com). The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte, MI.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W Seminary St  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Visitation

OCT 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W Seminary St  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Rosary and Affirmation Service

OCT 8. 7:30 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W Seminary St  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Funeral Mass

OCT 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church  
807 St. Mary Boulevard  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Darla Kay Brzezinski*



**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - October 07, 2024 at 09:25 PM

BC

“ *Bill-Nan Joo, Ernest-Nan Young Clements purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Darla Kay Brzezinski.*



**Bill-Nan Joo, Ernest-Nan Young Clements** - October 07, 2024 at 09:11 PM

AR

“ *Andrew & Joanne Haas & Uncle David Rataj purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Darla Kay Brzezinski.*



**Andrew & Joanne Haas & Uncle David Rataj** - October 07, 2024 at 08:11 PM

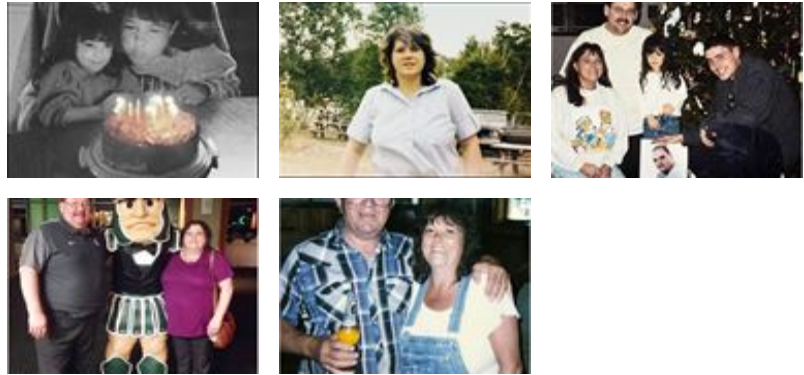


“ Andrew & Joanne Haas & Uncle David Rataj planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Darla Kay Brzezinski.

Andrew & Joanne Haas & Uncle David Rataj - October 07, 2024 at 08:11 PM



“ 47 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - October 07, 2024 at 05:19 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Darla Kay Brzezinski.



October 07, 2024 at 04:59 PM

LF

“ Love Bryan & Rhonda Brzezinski & Family purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Darla Kay Brzezinski.



Love Bryan & Rhonda Brzezinski & Family - October 07, 2024 at 09:40 AM



“ Garden Accent - A heart of gold stopped beatin g... was purchased for the family of Darla Kay Brzezinski.



October 06, 2024 at 08:41 PM

LL

“ Love you, Dewy & Linda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Darla Kay Brzezinski.

Love you, Dewy & Linda - October 06, 2024 at 08:41 PM

BM

“ Barry & Barbara Mazurek purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Darla Kay Brzezinski.



Barry & Barbara Mazurek - October 06, 2024 at 05:50 PM

CB

“ Sending you all love and light now and in the days to come. Love you all, Aunt Carol



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**Carol Brzezinski** - October 06, 2024 at 03:41 PM

JS

“ Jeff Smith lit a candle in memory of Darla Kay Brzezinski



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**Jeff Smith** - October 06, 2024 at 02:17 PM

CB

“ Chuck Brandon lit a candle in memory of Darla Kay Brzezinski



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**Chuck Brandon** - October 05, 2024 at 06:42 PM