



## Linda Marguerite Horen

November 11, 1951 - December 9, 2025

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Linda Marguerite Horen (lovingly known as Mumsey to her daughters) is remembered as often wearing her favorite jeans dress while working on art projects at the kitchen table. She could make snowflakes out of popsicle sticks and reindeer out of toilet paper rolls. Actually, she could find a way to make something special out of pretty much anything that she found, from newspapers to bottle caps to bits of yarn. It was her very own form of magic. One minute, you'd think it's trash, and the next, it would be covered in glitter and hanging on the Christmas tree.

If Linda wasn't at home making art, then she'd probably be alongside her husband at the softball fields with a hat on her head and a cooler of Gatorade at her side to make sure her girls stayed hydrated. She cheered on her daughters in almost any weather, be it rain, freezing cold, or the scorching heat and humidity of a Virginia summer. After games, it would be home to clean softball uniforms and smelly socks. It's amazing when you consider the number of uniforms that she washed. She probably broke a world record for the most number of softball uniforms ever washed by one person. Somehow, she managed to get all the dirt stains out, and, let me tell you, her girls got down and dirty when they played.

Linda didn't start out as a magical artist or a record-breaking uniform washer, though. She was born in Washington, D.C., on November 11, 1951, the first of seven children born to Benjamin and Helen Czarnaski. Linda learned early on how to manage kids as she watched over her younger brothers and sisters. She graduated from Falls Church High School in 1970, went on to take classes at NOVA Community College, and later graduated from George Mason University with a degree in nursing. Before settling down with a job, Linda went on a tour that took her to Egypt, Israel, Rome, and Greece, and she returned with a bunch of souvenirs that eventually became playthings for her daughters. In fact, Linda's daughters turned a lot of her things into dress-up clothes and Halloween costumes, but let's not talk about that.

Linda met the love of her life, Robert (aka Rick), through the local Catholic Young Adults for Christ (CAYAC) group. He first noticed her at a volleyball game, though she left early and rather quickly. Little did he know, she'd ripped her shorts and had quietly sneaked out before anyone noticed the gaping hole. Ripped pants couldn't keep those two apart, however, as he connected with her at other CAYAC events, and their love bloomed. They married on August 11, 1978, and settled down in Springfield, Virginia, where they raised their three girls.

Though she first worked as a nurse, Linda later found a job as a preschool teacher for the Christian Weekday Program (CWP) at Springfield United Methodist Church, which gave her a more flexible schedule for taking care of her wild, tomboy daughters. It was also the perfect job for her because remember how she grew up looking after her siblings? Remember her magical ability to create artwork out of anything? All of those skills could explode into full power at CWP. She was the Ultimate Preschool Teacher!

Eventually, however, multiple sclerosis (MS) struck Linda, and her life changed. There are no words to explain just how horrible that disease is. Even though MS robbed Linda of her physical abilities bit by bit over decades, she continued to find joy in life in so many ways. From singing songs to writing poems to making art for as long as she was able, Linda brought happiness to everyone around her. She had an ability to find a bright side to life, and even when things got challenging, she'd bounce back with movie trivia, or names of all the dogs she could think of, or a softly sung performance of "Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral (That's An Irish Lullaby)" to bring a smile back into our lives.

Linda slipped away quietly on December 9, 2025, for she was never one for wanting any fuss or attention. She just gently stepped into Heaven. She leaves behind so many beautiful, happy memories with her family: her husband, Robert; her daughters Mary (Brian), Carol (Jon), and Ellen (Dan); her seven grandchildren, Ben, Sean, Allison, Will, Lizzie, Cara, and Finn; and her four surviving siblings, Mark, Lisa, Maryann, and Joseph. She now joins her parents, her brother Michael, and her sister Leanne.

Linda's memorial service will be held on January 10, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (<https://www.nationalmssociety.org/>), and help us rid the world of MS.

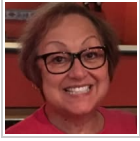
# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 10. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church  
1427 W. Braddock Road  
Alexandria, VA 22302

# Tribute Wall



“ *Linda Councill lit a candle in memory of Linda Marguerite Horen*



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**Linda Councill** - January 10 at 12:17 AM

TS

“ *Our condolences go out to Rick, Mary, Carol and Ellen from the Kauai Smith's. We spent many hours together on the softball fields with Linda and the rest of the family. We cherish our time together and the memories. May she rest in peace. Tom, Sharon, Ryan, and Jessica Smith.*

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**Thomas W. Smith** - December 13, 2025 at 10:00 PM

SS

“ I am so lucky because Linda will forever be my co-grandmother. We shared the excitement, wonder and joy of Will's and Lizzie's births, the laughter at stories of them as toddlers (Will's baby chipmunk cheeks and those two fingers permanently in little Lizzie's mouth) and a phrase we frequently said to each other, "Aren't they the most beautiful children in the world!" Some of my most precious memories come from a time when Lizzie was a baby and Linda and I shared grandmotherly duties at Jon & Carol's house while new mom Carol rested. Together we sang every song we could remember to keep tiny Lizzie asleep as we took turns rocking her, although "She'll be coming round the mountain" was the song we laughed to the most. We made up our own verses to keep it going and, let me tell you, they were super silly! Which brings me to another most special memory - the musical sound of Linda's laughter. Sharing the pride of our two superstar grandkids was also a joy. We boasted to each other because who else could better understand our amazement and pride in their latest accomplishments. And phone calls always ended with, "keep me posted if you hear any new stories!" Linda was the star of Carol's first Wizard of Oz themed baby shower when, with a tiara and a wand, she became Glinda, the good witch. She positively GLOWED as she delivered her lines and the highlight of the entire shower was when the wicked witch, Jon (in green face paint, witch's hat and costume) and "Glinda" spontaneously spiced up their dialogue with some hilarious off the cuff commentary. There were silly tea parties when we made outrageous hats, shared holidays, recipes, and birthday celebrations, and so many phone calls. Linda never missed a birthday, holiday, or anniversary. and almost always she would have composed a poem just for you. My favorite of all her many poems was the deeply moving one about a butterfly. I think of it whenever I see a butterfly, and quite often in between sightings. Family was everything to Linda! Her love of her parents and siblings, stories of her childhood and high school years, tales of her travels as a young woman (she rode a camel to the Great Pyramid!), her romance and all the plans for her wedding, adventures with 3 tomboy daughters from camping to softball, and

*her pride in her nursing degree and career. She must have been a remarkable teacher because she cared so much and gave so much to others. Her ability to make something special, often sparkly and so pretty, out of what others might think was trash WAS truly remarkable! She loved sharing her "finds" with everyone. So it is with joy that I remember the artist, poet, friend, sister, wife, mother, and grandmother who made all of us feel that we were the most important person in the world. She was the most sparkly loving person I've ever known. And the most courageous.*

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**Susan Scheina** - December 12, 2025 at 04:50 PM

LG

*Our Love, Prayers and Condolences to the family and all loved ones of Linda Horen. A beautiful Lady and Family. RIP You'll be remembered and missed terribly. God Bless beautiful Angel.  
Love Lauren and Gwendolyn Lucyshyn 🙏🥹🙏 xoxo*

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**Lucyshyn Family..Lauren and Gwendolyn** - January 10 at 12:53 PM