



Dena Beth Knutson

September 8, 1964 - May 15, 2025

Dena Beth Knutson
(nee Lyle)

Mrs. Dena Beth Knutson (Lyle) a beacon of love and compassion, passed away on May 15, 2025, at the age of 60 after succumbing to complications of a stroke at St. Joseph's Hospital in Joliet.

Born on September 8, 1964. Dena lived a life characterized by her unwavering dedication to family, and the well-being of children. Dena's own family was the cornerstone of her world. She is survived by her husband, Todd, and their children: Joe, Anthony, Myia, Jeremie, and Madison Knutson. Each of them carries a part of Dena's spirit, her kindness, and her unwavering support. Her love for her family was the wellspring from which she drew her strength, and in turn, she was their rock, their guiding light through life's challenges and joys. Her brother Todd Lyle (Laura), survives. She was preceded in death by her father, Louis, mother Diane, grandfather Erlan Cobb and grandmother Hilda Cobb and many cousins and her foster children and their children.

Dena was a proud alumna of Gardner-South Wilmington High School, continuing her education at Joliet Junior College before earning her Bachelor of Arts in Teaching from Illinois State University. Dena's passion for education

was not confined to her own learning; she dedicated herself to nurturing the minds of the young, fostering a love for knowledge that would last a lifetime.

In her personal life, Dena's heart was as open as her home. She and her husband, Todd Knutson, embraced the role of foster parents with grace and boundless love. Together, they provided a safe and nurturing home to over 100 foster children throughout their marriage, a testament to their shared dedication to making a positive difference in the world. This was Dena and Todd's proudest achievement in their life.

As a mother, Dena was not only a caretaker but also a champion of her children's dreams. Dena always championed the underdog, fighting for their wellbeing with a passion that was both inspiring and humbling. She instilled this same sense of justice and courage in her children and all those she fostered.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Memorial visitation will be held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Friday, May 30, 2025, from 2-6 PM. Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 PM

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find us on Facebook.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Homes & Crematory
401 E. Main St., Braidwood, 815-458-2336
www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY **30**. 2:00 PM (CT)

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home
401 East Main St.
Braidwood, IL 60408
(815) 458-2336
info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com>

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Tribute Wall

CA

“ Dena served with Safe families with a heart full of compassion and a deep commitment to others. She opened her arms and heart to those in need, offering not just care, but dignity and hope. Her unwavering kindness and quiet strength made a lasting impact on every life she touched. I will miss her dearly.

Carrie - May 29, 2025 at 01:56 PM

JE

“ Dena and I just went to the Smoky Mountains in March. We had a wonderful time. We shared many laughs and stories. I'm so glad we did that. We never know how much time we have here. My condolences to Todd and the kids. She loved you all very much.

Judi Enix - May 29, 2025 at 01:54 PM

DM

“ Dena was a great friend and a caring neighbor we all will miss you The Maze Family



Deanna Maze - May 26, 2025 at 04:25 PM

MS

“ We are saddened to hear of Dena's passing 💔 Todd -you and your family are in our thoughts at this difficult time-Bill & Mary Jo (Michalowski) Shain and family

Mary Jo Shain - May 23, 2025 at 03:37 PM

VT

“ Dena was such a great person and did so much for everyone! It was a joy seeing you every month and our talks about the kids and life itself. You are loved by so many people and you will be missed!



Vickie Townsend - May 22, 2025 at 10:54 AM

TR

“ Theresa (Lewis) Ragan lit a candle in memory of Dena Knutson



Theresa (Lewis) Ragan - May 21, 2025 at 03:44 PM

PP

“ I remember her picking me up for church with Maddie and we were just talking about everything people we didn't like and listening to country music and after church we got lost because she made a wrong turn somewhere or on Halloween I went over there and me and her talked while Maddie was getting ready still Dena was an amazing lady and mother and she will forever be missed.



Piper Passini - May 19, 2025 at 05:11 PM

MA

“ *Dena was a very sweet and caring lady. I meet her when I was taking care of her Mom. They both were the kindest people I ever met. She loved her children and children in General. She will be missed. My prayers are with her family.*



Mandy - May 19, 2025 at 03:27 PM