



Gwendolyn "Gwen" Ingalls Brandt

October 3, 1932 - May 14, 2026

Gwendolyn "Gwen" Ingalls Brandt, 93, of Palmyra, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully on the evening of Thursday, May 14, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. She was, to all who knew her, a light in this world.

Born in Stambaugh, Michigan on October 3, 1932, Gwen was a proud "Yooper" and the daughter of the late Dr. Robert E. and Kathryn (Carroll) White. After graduating from Northwestern University in 1953 with her BSN, she devoted over 40 years to caring for others as a registered nurse. Nursing was never merely a profession for Gwen—it was a reflection of her character. She had a servant's heart, always present and always giving, making sure everyone around her felt seen and loved.

In 1955, she married James G. Ingalls, and together they built a full and loving home with seven children. When Jim passed away suddenly in 1974 at just 43 years old, Gwen faced the unimaginable with a quiet strength. She returned to nursing and raised all seven children on her own for 8 years, never losing her warmth, her humor, or her faith. Those formative years, spent largely on Locust Grove Road in York, PA, were a testament to her resilience.

On May 1, 1982, Gwen married Donald N. Brandt and moved to Palmyra, PA. The two were best friends—inseparable, like peanut butter and jelly, always ready for the next adventure. Together, Gwen and Don explored the world with

a spirit that few could match. They hiked the Grand Canyon seven times, conquered a significant portion of the Appalachian Trail, camped atop Half Dome in Yosemite, hiked the Chilkoot Trail in Alaska, and went deep sea fishing for halibut. They trekked through some of the country's most breathtaking landscapes—such as Big Bend, Bryce Canyon, Death Valley, the Grand Tetons, and Denali—and loved the parks so much they even worked at the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone.

As much as Gwen loved their adventures in their camping van, the Roadrunner, her greatest adventures were the everyday moments—crowded holiday tables, graduations and recitals, back scratches, afternoon naps, and mountains of laundry to fold. She was a mother not only to her own children but to many others who found their way under her roof, with a gift for making people feel at home and making them laugh. Her humor and steady calm in the face of adversity were a comfort to everyone around her.

Gwen's faith was her foundation. As a devoted member of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, she found great purpose in the Prayer Shawl Committee, lovingly knitting shawls wrapped in prayer for those who needed comfort.

She loved the slow, warm melodies of Neil Diamond, a good book, and anything with a splash of color. She had a legendary sweet tooth—her nightly bowl of mint chocolate chip ice cream was non-negotiable, and she absolutely loved M&Ms. If you knew Gwen, you knew there were always M&Ms within reach.

Gwen is survived by her devoted husband, Donald N. Brandt; her six children: Patrick J. Ingalls of York; Robert E. Ingalls, husband of Lisa, of Hershey; Catherine I. Douts, wife of Charles, of Washington Boro; Carolyn I. Wood, wife of Robert, of Maryland; Mary I. Lochtie, wife of Robert, of Bellingham,

Washington; and Peggy I. Rhine, wife of Gary, of Cornwall. She is also survived by three stepchildren: David J. Brandt, husband of Paula, of Palmyra; Barbara A. Kreider, wife of Robert, of Annville; and Crystal J. Brandt of Palmyra; as well as eighteen grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

In addition to her first husband, Gwen was preceded in death by her son, Michael J. Ingalls; stepson, Michael D. Brandt; and two sisters, Carol W. Piper and Dorothy W. Erickson.

A public visitation will be held from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 125 Spruce St., Annville, PA 17003. A Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 11:00 AM, followed by burial. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in her memory. Kreamer Funeral Home, Annville, is handling arrangements.

Gwen leaves behind a legacy of generosity, kindness, resilience, adventure, and faith. She will be deeply missed and forever loved. Rest easy, Gwen—or as you'd say, just rest your eyes.

Previous Events

Public Visitation

MAY **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
125 S. Spruce St.
Annville, PA 17003

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
125 S. Spruce St.
Annville, PA 17003

Tribute Wall



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gwendolyn "Gwen" Ingalls Brandt.



May 24 at 12:01 AM



“ Anne C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gwendolyn "Gwen" Ingalls Brandt.

Anne C. - May 22 at 07:26 PM



“ I had the privilege of knowing Gwen for more than 35 years, and from the very first moment, she welcomed me with warmth and humor. When we first met in Harpers Ferry, as she sat overlooking the Shenandoah River, she greeted me with a smile and a lighthearted comment about the size of my feet that instantly put me at ease – and made us both laugh. That moment set the tone for a lifelong relationship built on mutual respect, kindness, and genuine affection. She was a truly good woman who brought people together and made everyone feel comfortable in her presence. I will always be grateful for the bond we shared and for the many memories we created together.

Bob Wood

Bob Wood - May 21 at 06:37 PM

CW

“ Mom, you taught us so much - how to be there for others, how to show up in both adversity and celebration with grace, wit, and answers. Just one example of mom's "answers": during my sophomore year, I came home for Christmas break longing to quit college. However, mom thoughtfully found a job for me in a candy factory in downtown York, PA. After 3 "fun" weeks of long hours, standing, catching and bagging taffy in a factory with bars on the break room windows and no one talking during lunch, I eagerly packed my bags and headed back to college.

Your love and giving heart will stay with me forever, Mom.

Carolyn "Carney" Ingalls Wood - May 21 at 10:10 AM

GI

“ Greg Ingalls (Cincinnati, Ohio), Nephew, Cousin to Gwen and Family. When we visited Gwen and family in York PA, it was such a joy to hang out in the country setting and feel so welcome with unlimited activities and open spaces. Miss those wonderful trips and will always be remembered.

Greg Ingalls - May 19 at 08:05 PM

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“ Chris & Stephanie Ingalls (Seattle) purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Gwendolyn "Gwen" Ingalls Brandt.



Chris & Stephanie Ingalls (Seattle) - May 19 at 04:46 PM

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“ Chris & Stephanie Ingalls (Seattle) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gwendolyn "Gwen" Ingalls Brandt.

Chris & Stephanie Ingalls (Seattle) - May 19 at 04:46 PM

PG

“ Sincere condolences and heartfelt gratitude for Gwen's faithful service to the nursing profession.

Respectfully,

*PA Capitol Region Nurse Honor Guard
pacrnhg@gmail.com*

PA Capitol Region Nurse Honor Guard - May 19 at 01:52 PM