



## Cecilia S. Brister

November 15, 1958 - October 8, 2020

When people think of strength, their first thought usually is not of a 5-foot Irish woman with a love for wine and knitting blankets. A woman whose nails were always painted, and who had a phone case for every holiday. This does not begin to scratch the surface of who Cecilia Brister was to the people who know her best, because to them, she was a warrior.

Cecilia Brister was born in Long Branch, NJ on November 15th, 1958. She had a rough start losing both parents at a young age, only to be raised by her older sister Carol and husband Jake Broyles. She met her future husband, Edwin R. Brister, in high school and the two of them instantly hit it off. They were married, shortly after graduation, on August 4th, 1979 and that love for one another continued for her to her very last breath.

Cecilia worked in banking as a teller right out of school and would ultimately retire as a Branch Manager of the Bank of America in Bradley Beach, NJ. She had many great experiences and made many lasting friendships along the way.

Four years ago, Cecilia was diagnosed with cancer. As devastating as that news was to her and everyone around her, she decided to fight to the very end. She was an amazing woman who masked her tears with smiles and laughter, and never let you see the pain she felt inside. She was always

available to help those in need and never let her illness define her. Between Chemo and Radiation treatments, she made pumpkin bread and did crafts with her grandchildren. She used her free time to knit dozens of beautiful blankets for family and friends, while catching up on all her favorite tv shows. When she had to say goodbye to her beautiful long hair as a result of those treatments, she decorated her bald scalp with intricate Henna tattoos.

Cecilia loved to laugh with family and friends, whether it was on her boat during the summer months, or around a fire pit in the back of their Pemberton Ave home in the winter. She loved to decorate for the holidays, her favorites being Halloween and Christmas, and cooking Thanksgiving feasts. Family was her life, and even if she had only known you for a short time you became a member of that circle.

Cecilia is survived by her older sister Carol Broyles and family; her husband Edwin R. Brister Sr.; her two sons Edwin R. Brister Jr and Benjamin J. Brister; her daughters in law Romanette and Debbie; her four grandchildren Liam, Cassidy, Nico, and Harley; as well as many nieces and nephews, cousins, and adoptive children from around the neighborhood. She was a rare soul that will forever live in the hearts of those whose lives she touched. Her light could never be extinguished, because she spent a lifetime passing it on to those whose paths were lucky enough to cross hers, making their futures that much brighter.

A memorial visitation to celebrate Cecilia's life will be held 4-8 PM on Friday, October 16, 2020 at Bongarzone Funeral Home, 2400 Shafto Road, Tinton Falls, NJ 07712. For online condolences, please visit Cecilia's memorial page at [www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com](http://www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com)

\*\*Due to the continued public health concerns of Covid-19, please know that there is an occupancy limitation which may cause a wait time, please be respectful of your time visiting. Masks must be worn on the nose and mouth inside the funeral home at all times.\*\*

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

OCT **16.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bongarzone Funeral Home  
2400 Shafto Road  
Tinton Falls, NJ 07712  
(732) 918-6200

# Tribute Wall

AS

“ Alan And Karen Statmore lit a candle in memory of Cecilia S. Brister



Alan and Karen Statmore - October 16, 2020 at 07:42 AM

AS

“ Dear Ed and family, we are sorry for your loss. We will miss our beautiful friend. Celie will always be remembered as the most beautiful person full of life and always smiling. The strength and love of life she had was amazing. You are all in our prayers. Sincerely Alan and Karen

Alan and Karen Statmore - October 16, 2020 at 07:37 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Cecilia S. Brister.



October 15, 2020 at 10:08 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Cecilia S. Brister.



October 15, 2020 at 09:52 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cecilia S. Brister.



October 14, 2020 at 06:25 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Cecilia S. Brister.



October 14, 2020 at 06:20 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Cecilia S. Brister.



October 14, 2020 at 09:07 AM



“ JuliaCupo lit a candle in memory of Cecilia S. Brister



JuliaCupo - October 14, 2020 at 08:51 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Cecilia S. Brister.*



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October 14, 2020 at 08:44 AM



“ *Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Cecilia S. Brister*



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**Bongarzone Funeral Home** - October 14, 2020 at 05:57 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Cecilia S. Brister.*



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October 13, 2020 at 12:29 PM



“ *Sunny Memories was purchased for the family of Cecilia S. Brister.*



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October 13, 2020 at 11:47 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cecilia S. Brister.*



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October 13, 2020 at 09:29 AM



“ *While I never met her in person our church family has prayed for her since her battle with cancer began. May God send His strongest and bravest angels to provide comfort to family during this time of loss.*

*Dan Cooper, Minister  
Pitman Road Church of Christ*

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**Dan Cooper** - October 13, 2020 at 07:09 AM



“ *Nicola, Mackenzie, Madison, Mary & Larry purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Cecilia S. Brister.*



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**Nicola, Mackenzie, Madison, Mary & Larry** - October 12, 2020 at 08:22 PM

LS

“ Heaven has gained a beautiful angel. Ed, Eddie and Ben, our prayers are with all of you during this difficult time. Every year Ceil and I would compete to see who could get their holiday decorations up first and she always won!! We will miss her beautiful smile.

*With love, Louis, Betsy, Christopher & Tyler Schuff*

Louis & Betsy Schuff - October 12, 2020 at 06:07 PM

MV

“ Mike and Amy, Dick and Jacque Vincent purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Cecilia S. Brister.



Mike and Amy, Dick and Jacque Vincent - October 12, 2020 at 05:26 PM

CM

“ I am so sorry that she's gone! I worked with her at central jersey bank for many years. To this day I make her famous pumpkin bread. I still have the card with the recipe on it that she gave me many moons ago. May she Rest In Peace. I'm so glad that our paths crossed 🙏

Colleen Macgregor-Oliver - October 12, 2020 at 05:12 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cecilia S. Brister.



October 12, 2020 at 04:52 PM

DS

“ *Cecelia was always the most pleasant person you would come in contact with. Ed and her were a god sent to each other. Sending prayers and much love to Ed and the entire family. So sorry for tge loss of Cecelia.*

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**Donna Davis Schweikert** - October 12, 2020 at 04:24 PM

CP

“ *To My Nephew Ed and family, I am so saddened to hear of your loss of Cecilia. She was one of God's Shining Bright Stars her on Earth and so she shall be in Heaven. My heart goes out to all of my Brister family and the Ingledue/Broyles family's. Love you Always,*

*Auntie Cathee and family in Lacombe, Louisiana*

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**Cathee Naylor-Price Presley** - October 12, 2020 at 04:06 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cecilia S. Brister.*



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October 12, 2020 at 03:48 PM

CM

“ *My dear Aunt Celie. I love you and I will miss you. You touched our lives in so many ways. May God bring a peace and comfort that only He can give to all of us who will miss you so deeply. Thank you for your strength. I will keep that with me in my heart forever as I remember you. You were fierce and my warrior. I love you.*

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**Clarissa McNamer** - October 12, 2020 at 02:18 PM



“ *Heart's Companion Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cecilia S. Brister.*



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October 12, 2020 at 02:09 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cecilia S. Brister.*



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October 10, 2020 at 07:53 AM