



Laurie J. Bruce

February 5, 1956 - February 26, 2026

Laurie Bruce, beloved wife, mom, grandma, sister, cousin, neighbor, and friend, passed away peacefully on Feb 26, 2026 at the age of 70.

Laurie was born on February 5, 1956, to Leo and Lois Tilch. She grew up in Royal Oak with her two sisters, Kathy and Mary Louise, and graduated from Saint Mary's.

She started her long career as a pharmacy technician in Detroit at Sinai Hospital, where she met her dear husband Tom. Together, they started their family in Hazel Park, Oak Park, then Berkley for the last 40 years where they raised their four daughters. Always full of laughter and love, they enjoyed camping, family gatherings, and the simple gift of being together.

Outside of work, she found joy with her hands in the soil and the sun on her face. Her garden was a reflection of her spirit: vibrant, nurturing, and eclectic. Whether cultivating bright blooms, sharing hunks of perennials with neighbors, or offering gardening tips to her daughters, she found deep happiness in helping things grow.

Above all, Laurie loved people, and deeply valued every single relationship old and new. She had a gift for making others feel seen and valued. Family gatherings, conversations with friends, and even chance encounters became

meaningful moments in her presence. Laurie's compassion, generosity, and gentle humor will be remembered by all whose lives they touched.

Laurie is survived by her daughters, Sarah Bruce-Damore, Katie (Jon) VanBrocklin, Emily (Rich) Schlanderer, Jenny (Ben) Foster; grandchildren, Ash, Jon, Richard, Harrison, and Jack; sisters, Kathy Browning and Mary Louise (Tom) Allen; as well as many cousins, nieces, and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Tom, her parents, and son-in-law Eric Damore.

The family will receive guests from 1 PM until 8 PM at the William Sullivan & Son Funeral Home at 705 W. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI. Laurie will lie in state on Wednesday from 10:30 AM until the time of mass 11 AM at our Lady of LaSalette Church, 2600 Harvard Rd Berkley.

Though deeply missed, Laurie's legacy lives on in every life cared for, like every seed planted - reminders that love, like a well-tended garden, continues to grow.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your favorite charity to honor her passion for taking care of others, or plant a tree. An option to purchase a memorial tree can be found through the flowers and gifts button at the top of Laurie's obituary page. A suggested organization is the Berkley Educational Foundation, at <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/HUmCbA?vid=1oz9ku> <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__fundraise.givesmart.com_form_HUmCbA-3Fvid-3D1oz9ku&d=DwMFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDIlvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=o5nj33FYrqP8ChmEIUoopA1LzXe109QJU6eVqjT4N7Y&m=h0Mtc5pfXHYcHngnpE08dx8PKE_n99Hj1kwaOLcdmAa3zK5lX8QtQ5TCf_bTv49Y&s=Lqf8C2ypomBOn5p9lxeyDhgikPY5dcyppmYYA1S6BRq8&e=>

Please share a story of Laurie, or leave a tribute to her family at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com

Cemetery Details

Oakview Cemetery

1032 N. Main Street
(south of 12 Mile Road)
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 3. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Instate At Church

MAR 4. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church
2600 Harvard Road
Berkley, MI 48072

Funeral Mass

MAR 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church
2600 Harvard Road
Berkley, MI 48072

Tribute Wall

AJ

“ Laurie will be missed greatly. She made me feel welcomed in the neighborhood when I moved here two years ago. I looked forward to seeing her working in the garden and we would chat it up and make each other laugh every time. 😊 She was a ray of sunshine.

april jaakkola - March 13 at 02:10 PM

AJ

“ April J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

April J. - March 13 at 01:59 PM

BF

“ Barbara Floyd lit a candle in memory of Laurie J. Bruce



Barbara Floyd - March 06 at 08:13 PM

BA

“ Bonnie A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

Bonnie A. - March 04 at 05:26 PM

LD

“ Laurie D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

Laurie D. - March 04 at 09:46 AM

KK

“ *Katie K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.*

Katie K. - March 04 at 08:39 AM

AM

“ *Angela M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.*

Angela M. - March 04 at 07:56 AM

EC

“ *Emili C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.*

Emili C. - March 04 at 02:09 AM

GK

“ *Gail K. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.*

Gail K. - March 03 at 07:55 PM

SO

“ *Susan O. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.*

Susan O. - March 03 at 12:43 PM

DF

“ *Debora F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.*

Debora F. - March 03 at 11:59 AM

DF

“ *Debora F. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Laurie J. Bruce.*



Debora F. - March 03 at 11:59 AM

JT

“ *Jackie and Mark Toth purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Laurie J. Bruce.*



Jackie and Mark Toth - March 03 at 11:03 AM

JT

“ *Jackie and Mark Toth planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.*

Jackie and Mark Toth - March 03 at 11:03 AM

PD

“ *Penelope D. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.*

Penelope D. - March 03 at 10:16 AM

SP

“ *Susan P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.*

Susan P. - March 03 at 12:39 AM

RS

“ Rikki S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

Rikki S. - March 03 at 12:13 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

March 02 at 06:18 PM

LB

“ My deepest sympathy to Laurie's beautiful daughters and family. I have had the pleasure to have known Laurie for almost 33 years. I lived across the street from her in Berkley for 9 years. I worked with her at Beaumont for several years. She was a beautiful human. She will be missed greatly 🙏❤️❤️

Laurie Bologna - March 02 at 02:47 PM

SS

“ Sam, Bob, and Stevie purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Laurie J. Bruce.



Sam, Bob, and Stevie - March 02 at 02:24 PM

JB

“ Janet B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

Janet B. - March 02 at 02:20 PM

TF

“ The Sutherland family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Laurie J. Bruce.



The Sutherland family - March 02 at 12:53 PM

JM

“ Sending love and condolences to Laurie’s family. I’ve been blessed with so many great memories with her, especially in our younger years. My favorite memory was the year of the bicentennial— Laurie, Mary Louise, and myself decided to take a month and pack up Laurie’s Chevrolet to see the USA!!! What a trip of a lifetime. Stops included family and friends all across the country. We tried to camp for a lot of trip but after one encounter with snakes in the dessert, the camping became a big Nope unless we were desperate! We saw the Grand Canyon in all its splendor (Laurie thought it could use a splash more color), the Rocky Mountains, and made it to the Pacific Ocean up to San Francisco where we literally stumbled on the filming of a Clint Eastwood movie....an amazing time. Here we are, on the cusp of another anniversary of this country and while it’s terribly sad that she’s not here for this one, I find solace in knowing she’s with “her Tom”. She loved her girls more than life itself and I’m sure you all knew that. Luckily in our older years, we both worked at Beaumont so I would run into her occasionally or we would get the gang together for lunch or dinner. I asked her one time for some flowers to transplant and reminded her I did not have the same green thumb that she had do she loaded me up with Shasta daisies, black-eyed Susan’s, and some pretty purple flower that I’ve managed to maintain for several years— she knew to give me the lowest maintenance flower possible. The world lost a good one—I hope you will find peace in the days ahead—Janet Dixon Millard

Janet Dixon Millard - March 02 at 12:41 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

March 02 at 11:07 AM



“ Your friends at Stantec Consulting purchased the *Pretty Please* for the family of Laurie J. Bruce.



Your friends at Stantec Consulting - March 02 at 11:06 AM



“ Your friends at Stantec Consulting planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

Your friends at Stantec Consulting - March 02 at 11:06 AM



“ Raven Harris lit a candle in memory of Laurie J. Bruce



Raven Harris - March 02 at 10:40 AM

RH

“ My heart aches for you and your family during this incredibly difficult time.

I am sure that Laurie was such a beautiful soul from the stories I heard about her. I wish I could have met her. Her love lives on in each of the ones you became close with, in the values she taught you, in the warmth you show others, and in the strength you carry even now.

I know there are no perfect words for a moment like this. I just want you to know that you are not alone. I am here for you—to listen, to sit in silence, to cry, to remember her, or to hold you up when the days feel too heavy. Grief comes in waves, and however you feel is okay.

May you find comfort in the beautiful memories you shared, in the laughter, the lessons, and the unconditional love she gave so freely. A mother's love never truly leaves us—it becomes part of who we are.

I'm holding you close in my thoughts and prayers.

With all my love.

Raven

Raven Harris - March 02 at 10:40 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Laurie J. Bruce.



March 02 at 09:11 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Laurie J. Bruce.



March 02 at 08:49 AM



“ The VanBrabant children (cousins) and their children have planted 5 trees in honor of Laurie a tribute most befitting her memory.

Her talents as a gardener, her sense of humor, kindness and compassion are just a few of the many things we remember about Laurie. She will be missed by family and friends alike.

For Sarah, Katie, Jenny, Emily, Kathy, Mary Louise and their families: may the cherished memories of her soothe your grief and help soften the hard edges of her loss. She will remain in all of our hearts and therefore will remain in our lives.

The VanBrabant Family - March 02 at 12:04 AM



** for Sarah, Katie, Jenny, Emily, Kathy, MaryLouise and their families:*

The VanBrabant Family - March 02 at 12:13 AM



As we all held vigil for our mother (Laurie's aunt) in the waiting room at the hospital, without being asked, Laurie brought a deli tray for our entire family. That small comfort is just one example of her compassion and kindness.

The VanBrabant Family - March 02 at 08:26 AM

SV

“ Shelly V. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

Shelly V. - March 01 at 10:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

March 01 at 09:13 PM

PM

“ Peggy & Mike planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

Peggy & Mike - March 01 at 05:07 PM

PM

“ Peggy & Mike purchased the Simply Elegant Spa thiphyllum for the family of Laurie J. Bruce.



Peggy & Mike - March 01 at 05:07 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

March 01 at 05:04 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Laurie J. Bruce.*



March 01 at 05:04 PM



“ *Laurie was more than a neighbor of 40 years — she was a steady, kind presence in my life and a true friend. As someone in a wheelchair, the world can sometimes feel rushed or distant, but Laurie always had time. She truly saw me. She would stop for long chats, and we could talk for hours about everything — the old days, how Berkley has changed over the years, and whatever project she and Tom were working on next.*

Her garden was always a masterpiece to me. I loved giving her my “tips” on flowers, and she graciously listened as though I were the expert. And Tom would patiently accept my advice about not climbing quite so high on the ladder. Those small moments of laughter and connection meant more than she probably ever knew.

Laurie had a rare gift — she made people feel valued simply by giving her time and attention. I will be forever grateful for her kindness, her warmth, and the way she made our little corner of Berkley feel like home.

*She will be deeply missed.
With sincere gratitude,
Cris McCue - neighbor and friend*

cris mccue - March 01 at 11:12 AM

LY

“ Lorraine Yoskovich lit a candle in memory of Laurie J. Bruce



Lorraine Yoskovich - February 28 at 10:54 PM

HC

“ Heather C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

Heather C. - February 28 at 07:16 PM

AZ

“ Amy Z. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

Amy Z. - February 28 at 06:31 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Laurie J. Bruce.



February 28 at 04:49 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

February 28 at 04:49 PM

DD

“ Doug And Donna DeBastos lit a candle in memory of Laurie J. Bruce



Doug and Donna DeBastos - February 28 at 03:58 PM

EP

“ To the Bruce girls~ I am so sorry for your loss. Your mom was the kindest and friendliest to us all. Thinking of you and sending all the hugs.
~Evone

Evone Perez - February 28 at 03:15 PM

EP

“ Evone P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

Evone P. - February 28 at 03:11 PM

GT

“ Gale T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

Gale T. - February 28 at 03:06 PM

TB

“ My deepest condolences to Laurie's family and friends! She was a wonderful friend in high school and I have great memories of our times together. A very special, kind soul. Rest in peace my old friend

Thomas Bell - February 28 at 01:59 PM

LY

“ To the Family, I am so very sorry for your loss. Spending time with Laurie this past summer meant so much to me. We shared long talks on the front porch, laughed endlessly, and created moments I will always hold close to my heart. Her friendship was a true gift, and I feel incredibly lucky to have had her in my life. She was always there for me, without hesitation, and I could talk to her about anything. I will miss her deeply and carry her kindness, love, and friendship with me always.

Lorraine Yoskovich - February 28 at 01:38 PM

BC

“ Oh girls, I am so very sorry about your beautiful Mom! I was your neighbor when you were little (3038). Your Mom & Dad were always so sweet and helpful to me. I recently ran into your Mom and we were trying to get together for lunch. May God rest her sweetly.

Betsy Connolly - February 28 at 01:01 PM

SA

We remember you :). Thanks, Betsy

Sarah - February 28 at 01:50 PM

DS

“ Daniel S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

Daniel S. - February 28 at 09:43 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.

February 28 at 09:00 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Laurie J. Bruce.*



February 28 at 09:00 AM



“ *Lorraine Y. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Laurie J. Bruce.*

Lorraine Y. - February 27 at 06:22 PM