



Tove Bruning

May 15, 2026

Tove Bruning passed away on May 15, 2026 at the age of 84. She was born in Norway, and came to the United States in 1960. Soon after arriving, she met Preston, who was her husband of 62 years. Tove worked in her early career as a milliner, and for many years as a potter. Tove was a very creative, lively, and thoughtful person. She was known for always putting the needs of others before her own. She was a wonderful mother and Mor Mor. Tove now rests, completely restored, in the arms of her savior, Jesus Christ.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, May 30, at Royal Oak Church. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m., with the service at 11:00 a.m. For those unable to attend, the service will be livestreamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/@royaloakchurch4034>

A luncheon to follow immediately after. Share your memories of Tove at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to St. Anne's Mead Angel Fund Donate Now (<https://wl.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E343898&id=3>)

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 30. 11:00 AM (ET)

Royal Oak Church
411 E. 11 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Tribute Wall

GA

“Tante Tove was the best aunt you could wish for. She was kind, funny, including, thoughtful and just the nicest person. I loved her sense of humour and writing this I hear her laughter with the «aaah» at the end.

She will be greatly missed. I appreciate times spent in Oscars gate, Parkveien, Sildevika, Gabels gate, Royal Oak and the cabins in Drøbak, Vega, and Pensilvania.

As a child I loved getting exciting and unexpected Christmas presents from her, it was a real high light, and at that age that's as good as it gets.

Tante Tove was the kind of aunt you would dream of having, and now telling my friends she's gone, people she's never even met but someone they've always heard of, they tell me how lucky I was to have her. Anyone that was in her life has truly been.

She was kind, thoughtful, funny, and simply one of those rare people who made you feel cared for and who's presence life felt lighter.

Aongside the sorrow lives gratitude for the love, laughter, memories, and privilege of having had someone as extraordinary as Tante Tove in my life.

Rest in peace kjære tanten min.

Gro Alstad - May 30 at 06:16 AM

TO

“ If it wasn't for Tove, most probably my wardrobe would still be only black and white and beige. Tove introduced me to color!! I loved her honesty, her many talents and most of all her kind spirit. I will miss her a lot.

Tolina - May 29 at 08:31 PM

CP

“ Tove was a gifted artist and I enjoyed her yearly shows of her pottery. Her creative bird bath sits in my garden. Every Christmas I hang her beautiful white dove ornaments on the tree.

Cheryl Perkins - May 28 at 10:25 PM

JD

“ To the family of Tove Bruning, I didn't know Tove personally but from the comments she was well-loved, which means she must be well-missed. I'm so sorry for your loss. Please find comfort from knowing that "God is close to the brokenhearted" as Psalms 34:18 says.

julie D. - May 27 at 01:18 PM

PV

“ We came to know and love Pres and Tove when Larry was called to be the Interim Pastor at Royal Oak Missionary Church. Pres and Tove kindly befriended us and stayed in touch by mail over the years. She was a gifted artisan who blessed us with many of her wonderful creations! She also had a great sense of humor and we really enjoyed getting her letters with some really funny cartoons about Norway. She was a faithful servant of the Lord and will be greatly missed. Sorry that we will not be able to attend her Celebration of Life because we will be away. However, you have been and will continue to be in our prayers! Our love, Pastor Larry and Cora

Pastor Larry and Cora VanSlambrook - May 26 at 07:36 AM

ES

“ I will remember Tove`s smile, joy and laughter!
She was a kind and caring person and "the glue" among us cousins
by sending letters - and when in Norway arrange gatherings!

"Kjære Tove! Tusen takk for alle gode minner! Hvil i fred!"

Erik Sørлие

Erik Sørлие - May 26 at 03:53 AM

MM

“ I met Tove at our Nordkap Lodge. She was a lovely lady who was
always happy and kind. She was very committed to attending our
gatherings and events. I am fortunate enough to have a few of her
beautiful ceramic pieces. My condolences to Preston and family. 🙏



Mary Morehead - May 25 at 11:48 PM

CC

“ Lovely Tove! She was very generous in donating her creations to
our Nordkap Lodge Christmas auction annually, with all proceeds
going to our scholarship fund. She and Erika would dress in their
bunads at our events, and share her cultural heritage with all of us.
My condolences to the family: she was a wonderful lady and lived a
long, interesting life!

Carmen Collins - May 25 at 04:46 PM

MM

*I met Tove through our Norkap Lodge. Tove was a lovely lady. She was
always a very happy and pleasant member. I'm fortunate enough to
have a few of her ceramics that she made which are beautiful. My
condolences to her family. 🙏💕🙏*

Mary Morehead - May 25 at 11:42 PM

AS

“ I remember Tove as a dear cousin from my early childhood. Lovely memories from summer holidays with Tove, Dag and their parents at seaside Filtvet will be kept forever. My love for the sea and boats was born there.

I remember that I was very sad when Tove left for USA in 1960. It was a pleasure when she returned to Oslo to marry Pres and to celebrate with the whole family. The couple even came back to confirm their marriage 35 years later. A great party was given by Tove and Pres.

My family also has good memories of Erika and Matt's wedding party. Tove and Pres gave a fantastic party at Detroit Yacht Club and organized a celebration lasting almost a week.

Tove showed her love to her family by visiting Norway every year for a long period of time. She initiated the gathering of cousins, some years also with families. The cousins have kept the tradition also recent years when Tove and Pres could not take the long journey to Norway any longer.

Tove was a very generous person. She brought gifts from US to all of us. Sometimes gifts were fancy items that were not yet available in Norway. Other times she gave us ceramic decorating items from her own production and those we still enjoy.

It has been a privilege to know Tove and we are grateful for everything she did for the pleasure and the benefit of the family. Tove will be membered for as long as we live.

Arne and wife Sigrid



Arne Sørлие - May 25 at 07:55 AM

EA

“ Aunt Tove was a dear one to us all,
I especially remember the America trip that her father (Harry Alstad)
took us kids on (Unni, Erik, Gro) when we were about 10 years old.
Tove, Pres, Erika and Matt made sure we had a great time in Detroit
and at the cottage, Wallenpaupack, while Unni was on a west coast
road trip.

We, our parents, and many others had a great time in Detroit
visiting 10 years later, when Erika and Matt got married.

Those were great chapters in our lives, and we all cherished the
company and the memories.

Tove loved Norway, visited us many times, loved Norwegian flags
and traditions.

Purple was her favorite color. □

Tove's strong laughter, jokes and big smile will be missed dearly, but
will always be with us. 🤔

Thank you for the good memories.

Lots of love from the Alstad family in Norway.



Erik Alstad - May 23 at 04:23 PM

EA

“ 1 file added to the album Detroit



Erik Alstad - May 23 at 12:36 PM

EA

I insisted that I had been drinking Champagne months earlier, something Aunt Tove wasn't so sure of, so at Harry's (Grandpa) and my last day in the US, Aunt Tove decided to bring some Champagne. It turned out, of course, that I didn't like it. Here you can see Uncle Pres successfully hiding my glass of Champagne.

Erik Alstad - May 23 at 04:42 PM

KI

Our dearest Tove will be forever remembered for her gentle spirit, warm heart, and delightful sense of humor. She brought immense comfort and calming peace to everyone around her. With her thoughtful advice and caring nature, she touched countless lives. "Tova Wova" will be deeply missed and cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Sending love and prayers from the memory care staff at St. Anne's Mead.

Kierra - May 25 at 09:33 PM

SS

“ *Tove' lived with our family for awhile when she first came here. We sure enjoyed having her as part of our family. She met and married Pres and they moved on and eventually ended up in Royal Oak MI Years later my Mom and I traveled out to visit . It was a nice memory. ...reuniting with our Norwegian family, We know she will be very much missed.*

Sue Sykes - May 22 at 06:57 PM

CD

“ I'm so thankful to know Mrs Burning. My sister and I grew up with her beautiful daughter, and have so many heart warming memories of all the kindness and talents of the whole family. I'm so sorry for the suffering. I'm very thankful Jesus is comforting her in heaven. I'm so sorry for the loss her family is going through. The memories of her are cherished for sure.

Cindy DePage - May 22 at 05:44 PM

TC

“ Tedrin R Cannon lit a candle in memory of Tove Bruning



Tedrin R Cannon - May 22 at 02:09 PM

TC

“ Hi,I was Tove caregiver and she loved her coffee ice cream,I don't care what was going on she always had time for ice cream. We had so many fun days together laughing , shopping ,and going for walks together she will be missed .I know you're resting peacefully now.Love You ❤️

Tedrin R Cannon - May 22 at 02:08 PM

DC

“ OMG, where to start explaining a many decades friendship with Tove? She was a near neighbor, and our kids grew up in the same time frame, so we considered her and Pres like family. Tove was a wonderful person, honest, kind, thoughtful, talented in an artistic way, always there if you needed her, and she will be sadly missed. God bless you, Tove!

Dale Camp - May 22 at 11:41 AM

SS

Tove lived with my family for awhile. We loved her . She met Pres - after that we saw less and less of her and even less after they married. My Mom and went out to Royal Oak to visit and had a wonderful time . She's left us with many good memories. I'm sure she will be missed.

Sue Sykes - May 22 at 05:44 PM