



## Maureen K. Bernhardt, 66, of Ashby

October 15, 1958 - June 25, 2025

ASHBY: Maureen K. (McDonald) Bernhardt, 66, of Ashby, formerly of Stoughton, died Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at UMass – Memorial Hospital, Worcester following a brief illness.

Maureen was born in Brockton, October 15, 1958, a daughter of the late William J. and Ruth M. (Crimmins) McDonald and has resided in Ashby for thirty four years.

She grew up in Stoughton and was a 1976 graduate of Stoughton High School before furthering her education at Fitchburg State College.

Maureen recently retired from the Gardner School System where she worked for several years as the Title 1 Reading Specialist. Prior to that she had worked in the kindergarten and first grade levels at The Holy Family School also in Gardner.

Maureen enjoyed swimming, camping, spending time outdoors, a good car ride and most importantly any opportunity to be with family and friends. She enjoyed her time spent at the family summer home in Morgan, Vermont with endless days on the banks of lake Seymour. An accomplished musician, Maureen played the French horn in several bands including the Townsend and Lunenburg Military Bands.

She leaves her husband of 34 years, Frederick P. Bernhardt; her son, Andrew P. Bernhardt and his fiancé, Ashley Plosonka of New Ipswich, NH; her daughter, Casey E. Gilroy and her husband, Reed of Rindge, NH; three brothers, William J. McDonald of Whaley, Daniel H. McDonald and his wife, Mary of Peabody, Gerald F. McDonald and his wife, Ann of Stoughton; her sister, Nancy Cunniff and her husband, Jack of Weymouth; five grandchildren, Meghan Denis, Thomas Denis, Owen Gilroy, Andrew Bernhardt, Jr. and Luke Bernhardt.

A graveside service will be held 11:30Am Saturday, July 19, 2025 at Glenwood Cemetery, Ashby. Followed by a celebration of life at Townsend VFW at 1pm.

The Anderson Funeral Home, 250 Main Street, (Rte 119) Townsend Center is assisting the family with arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Glenwood Cemetery

763 Main Street  
Ashby, MA 01431

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUL 19. 11:30 AM (ET)

Glenwood Cemetery  
763 Main Street  
Ashby, MA 01431

## Celebration of Life

JUL 19. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Townsend V.F.W. Post 6538  
491 Main St.,  
Townsend, MA 01474

# Tribute Wall

KM

“ Kristen M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Maureen K. Bernhardt, 66, of Ashby.

Kristen M. - July 19, 2025 at 10:27 AM

TE

“ The gals from Gardner elementary purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Maureen K. Bernhardt, 66, of Ashby.



The gals from Gardner elementary - July 16, 2025 at 02:45 PM

TE

“ The gals from Gardner elementary planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Maureen K. Bernhardt, 66, of Ashby.

The gals from Gardner elementary - July 16, 2025 at 02:45 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Maureen K. Bernhardt, 66, of Ashby.



July 14, 2025 at 03:26 PM

RA

“ We are shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Maureen. She was such a vibrant presence to all who knew her. Her big beautiful smile could light up a room. Our thoughts and continued prayers are with you all as you navigate the waters ahead. Sincerely, Rick and Ruth Anderson

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**Rick and Ruth Anderson** - July 07, 2025 at 10:57 AM

CL

“ So sorry for your loss, There are no words..  
Charlie L.

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**Charles Leach** - July 02, 2025 at 12:30 PM

JD

“ Maureen was a vibrant, loving and giving person who we had the pleasure of knowing since our days together in the Fitchburg State (College) University band. She always lit up the room with her smile, warmth, and humor.  
Her passion for teaching and love of her students was always evident throughout her career. Family was always her top priority and she lived life to the fullest when she was surrounded by their presence.  
Our heart fell sympathies are with her husband Fred, their children and grandchildren.  
We are deeply sadden at the sudden loss of such a wonderful person taken far too soon from all of us who had the privilege of knowing her.

With Sympathy,  
John & Sharon DeCicco

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**John & Sharon DeCicco** - July 01, 2025 at 02:17 PM

SC

“ Steph Curtis (GES math coach) purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Maureen K. Bernhardt, 66, of Ashby.



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**Steph Curtis (GES math coach)** - June 28, 2025 at 03:07 PM

SC

“ Steph Curtis (GES math coach) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Maureen K. Bernhardt, 66, of Ashby.

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**Steph Curtis (GES math coach)** - June 28, 2025 at 03:07 PM

ER

“ We are so sorry for your loss. We send our deepest condolences.

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**eric** - June 28, 2025 at 02:31 PM

CH

“ *Shocked and saddened is how I feel.  
I have known Mrs Bernhardt since my twins had her at Holy Rosary for kindergarten, they just graduated and since they had her I was subbing at Elm St School and out of no where there she was. It was awkward at first but as time passed we started chatting and a fun, always hilarious amazing friendship happened.  
When we worked together at Gardner elementary school you could hear her through the halls screaming "Lanciani is in the house" 😊  
I would always come back with just her last name.  
I am heartbroken because that lady had worked very hard just to retire and was really looking forward to it with her husband. Lots of breaks together she would show me pictures of her floors being redone, pictures of her daughters home.  
Truly heartbreaking that she doesn't get that chance to just retire and enjoy her family.  
I know she couldn't wait to have that time.  
I am also sad that I didn't know she was sick.  
I would have made effort to find her.  
Thinking of your entire family and truly sorry for your huge loss!  
Way too young!!  
Blessings Bernhardt!!  
Love and will miss you!*

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**Chris** - June 28, 2025 at 01:44 PM

GM

“ *I'm very sorry for your loss, Fred. May she rest in peace.*

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**GARY MORIN** - June 28, 2025 at 09:19 AM



“ *Maureen was a wonderful person she was kind friendly and caring. I love talking to her during her Lunch duty. She was so nice to the Lunch lady crew always making sure the kids said thank you when they grab there lunch. she was a very super nice person. i will miss her. My prayers and Condolence to all her family Friends and co workers. God gain another Angel you will be miss Maureen ,*

**Ivette Sapeg** - June 27, 2025 at 11:31 PM



“ *Maureen was a personal friend and member of the Fitchburg High School Alumni Band. Her friendly smile and warm heart will be missed by us all. Condolences to Fred and those closest to her.*



**William Williams** - June 27, 2025 at 04:01 PM



*Sending hugs and Prayers! Maureen was so kind I worked with her at Ashby Elementary and Rainbow childcare. She was a good friend and Coworker . I enjoyed talking with her about the trips to Vermont. She will be missed!*

**Vicki G.** - June 28, 2025 at 12:22 PM

BC

“ Remembering Maureen brings a wave of warmth to my heart. She was more than just a co-worker—she was a true friend, a compassionate educator, and someone who radiated kindness in all she did. Maureen had a special way with her students; she taught not only with knowledge but with patience, humor, and an open heart. Her classroom was a place where children felt seen, heard, and loved.

As a colleague, Maureen was someone you could always count on. Whether it was a quiet word of encouragement, a helpful hand, or a shared laugh after a long day, she made even the hardest days better just by being herself. She believed in the power of community and showed us every day what it meant to lead with empathy and grace.

Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched—students, families, and fellow teachers alike. I will miss her deeply, but I carry her spirit with me in every act of patience, kindness, and dedication we bring to our work.

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**Barbara Coulombe** - June 27, 2025 at 02:21 PM

JR

I'm so sad to hear of Maureen's passing. She has always had a special place in my heart and I will miss her smiling face. I'm so sorry for your loss Fred and family. She loved you all so much and spoke of you fondly.

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**Jane R** - September 07, 2025 at 09:17 PM

MM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Mary McDonald** - June 27, 2025 at 09:50 AM