



Barbara Ann Thompson

January 27, 1947 - November 2, 2020

Barbara Ann Brooks was born January 27, 1947 in Royal Oak Township, Michigan, to the late Marie White Robinson and George Washington Brooks, Sr. The youngest girl in the family, Barbara grew up in Detroit under the watchful gaze of her older brother and many elder sisters.

Barbara had a deep love of learning (which lasted her entire life) and she excelled in school, graduating from Murray-Wright High School in 1964. While at Murray-Wright, she met her future husband, Art Thompson. The two married soon after high school and traveled as a military family, living for extended periods in North Dakota and Turkey. During this time, Barbara and Art welcomed their firstborn, Arthur Brian, into the world. Two years later, they were surprised to learn they would be parents again, and welcomed their daughter, Karen Linette. Barbara and Art were married for 13 years.

Barbara's love of learning was insatiable, and in her adulthood, she was determined to go back to college and complete her degree. She proudly earned her bachelor's degree from Wayne State University in 1992.

Barbara's professional career had two phases, the first of which was 35 years spent rising through the ranks with Michigan Bell-Ameritech-AT&T, working on accounts across the Midwest. In 1998, she survived a brain aneurysm and stroke – and her recovery was so notable that, after a long recovery period, the doctors at the University of Michigan declared her one of their “miracle” patients. She realized that much about her had changed. She ultimately retired from her position with the phone company to counsel other brain injury survivors as an independent living specialist for Disability Network Oakland & Macomb, a role she served in for 17 years. She took great pride in her status as a survivor and enjoyed sharing her comeback story with others whom she thought it might inspire and encourage. She also served as vice president of the Wayne-Oakland chapter of the Brain Injury Association of Michigan.

A student of the world, Barbara loved to travel, and over the course of her life made extraordinary trips to West Africa, China, and nearly all of Europe, as well as traversing much of the US, including Hawaii and Alaska.

Barbara was preceded in death by her mother, Marie Robinson; her sisters, Jessie Hunt and Evelyn Lewis; her brothers, Richard Brooks and Alfred L. Brooks, Sr; and her dearest

companion, Allen Wright.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her son, Arthur Thompson (Marcia); her daughter, Karen Isble (Andrew); her sister, Carolyn McCutchen; her sister-in-law, Diann Brooks; her former husband, Art Thompson; her grandchildren and step-grandchildren, Brian Michael Williams, Nicole Thompson, Kira Thompson, Ariel Isble, Kaelan Isble, Sarah Herzog (Ryan) and Stephanie Koens; her special nephew and niece, Tony McCutchen (Yvette) and Michelle Horsley (Leslie), and many, many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and her congregation at Northwest Unitarian Universalist.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made in her memory to the Brain Injury Association of Michigan

Cemetery

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery

21661 East Fourteen Mile Road
Clinton Township, MI, 48035

Events

NOV 11 Visitation 04:00PM - 06:00PM
Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd, Southfield, MI, US, 48075

NOV 12 Family Hour 09:30AM - 10:00AM
Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd, Southfield, MI, US, 48075

NOV 12 Funeral Service 10:00AM
Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd, Southfield, MI, US, 48075

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services - November 12, 2020 at 09:56 AM



“ Barbara was a beautiful person inside and out. Her warm, loving energy will be missed. The lord has reclaimed an angel from earth. She will be missed. Lynn Kasmer

Lynn Kasmer - November 18, 2020 at 11:00 AM



“ Barbara was a force to be reckoned with despite what life sent her way. She never gave up or gave in to her own personal battles and spent many years helping others at Disability Network Oakland & Macomb. As a former co-worker of Barbara's, I am sad to hears of this loss. May God rest her soul and my thoughts and prayers go out to her family, friends, an co workers. Give Yolanda a hug for me Barb!

Dorie Bawks

Dorie Bawks - November 12, 2020 at 12:17 PM



“ Peggy Cofield lit a candle in memory of Barbara Ann Thompson



Peggy cofield - November 12, 2020 at 11:01 AM



“ I worked with Barb at DNOM. I admired her zest for life. I greatly enjoyed hearing stories about her adventures. Her spirit was supportive and laughter contagious. I acknowledge your pain and loss. Gina Schafer

Gina Schafer - November 12, 2020 at 10:14 AM



“ Greetings from Cleveland,
Thank you for the opportunity allowing us to attend this virtual service. Barb will be greatly missed by us and her NWUU Community.
Karen Maidment / John Richards

John Richards - November 12, 2020 at 10:06 AM



“ To Barbara's family and to all her friends, we will surely miss her smiling face at NWUU church. Her good nature and willingness to volunteer endeared her to this community. She was funny and kind. I am glad I had a chance to know her.
Linda Gobeski, NWUU church

Linda Gobeski - November 12, 2020 at 06:17 AM



“ Dear family of Barbara
i knew Barbara from a support group at NWUU church. i wanted to express my heartfelt condolences to your family. She had a very sweet and gentle personality which made her very lovable. I am sad that she has left us.

Eva Leventer - November 11, 2020 at 10:28 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann Thompson.



November 11, 2020 at 08:03 PM



“ To the family of Barbara Ann Thompson we are so sorry to hear about the passing of Barbara. We knew her through our membership in the UU church. From our early days there she always stood out as a joyous person with a wonderful smile. She was a blessing.

Ron & Gloria Loyd - November 11, 2020 at 07:28 PM



“ I knew Barbara from my affiliation with the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church. She always had a smile and a kind word and I looked forward to seeing her there. I admired her long working career, her triumph over ill health (a miracle indeed) and her willingness to get out and do things. I will miss Barbara.

Martha Spear - November 11, 2020 at 06:08 PM



“ Barb had such a dynamic personality and flair for life. Barb was my vice president lending her expertise in staying focused when the group would get off track. Your mom always would lend a ear if someone needed to talk. She left behind some mighty big shoes to fill.
She is truly missed. RIP BARB

Linda Euashka - November 11, 2020 at 05:27 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann Thompson.



November 10, 2020 at 04:10 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann Thompson.



November 10, 2020 at 06:00 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann Thompson.



November 09, 2020 at 10:40 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann Thompson.



November 09, 2020 at 03:56 PM



“ To the family of Barbara, we are so sorry for your loss. Barbara was an integral part of our Attitudinal Healing community, and beloved by all of us. We will remember her bright smile and her loving energy forever. On behalf of the Attitudinal Healing Community, our deepest condolences. Laurie Pappas and AH.

Laurie Pappas - November 09, 2020 at 08:36 AM



“ Susan T. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Barbara Ann Thompson.



Susan T. - November 08, 2020 at 09:11 PM



“ I did not know this young lady but because of her health problem and her survival she helped many people. We don't know what God has in store for us. Our reaction to what befalls us can be a blessing for us. This young lady was blessed and blessed others in spite of the difficulties. God have mercy on her soul and may her legacy comfort those who knew her.

Mary Ellen Clark - November 06, 2020 at 03:15 PM



“ My deepest condolences to all of the family. Sending prayers and strength to you. I am so sorry for your loss. -Kara Correa

Kara Correa - November 05, 2020 at 02:21 PM



“ Sending warm thoughts to Karen and her family during this difficult time...

Mitchell Spann - November 05, 2020 at 01:42 PM



“ Barbara's smile and sharp sense of humor will be missed. She was an important part of our church community.

Colleen McInerney - November 05, 2020 at 01:39 PM



“ Sandra Campero purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Barbara Ann Thompson.



Sandra Campero - November 05, 2020 at 01:18 PM



“ I send my deepest sympathy to the family of Barb. I met Barb in the winter of 2017 when she facilitated a program through her employer, Disability Network Oakland & Macomb. She so impressed me as a strong advocate for people with disabilities. Barb treated us with such respect and understanding. At the end of the program, we were chatting. She suggested I apply for a position with Disability Network and 3 years later, here I am. I was not working for 6 years due to my disability. This has made a huge impact on my well-being. She changed my way of thinking and for that, I am forever thankful! In our short time in contact, I learned a lot from Barb! So I guess you can say that she has left her footprint. Peace and prayers, Mary Adragna

Mary Adragna - November 05, 2020 at 11:21 AM



“ I am incredibly saddened to lose such an inspirational woman. I loved her joy in living. She will be missed.

Melissa - November 05, 2020 at 11:14 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann Thompson.



November 05, 2020 at 10:36 AM



“ Arthur, your mother was an amazing woman. I am grateful to learn of her life. I am sorry for your loss. She will be missed.

Amy Kerkstra - November 05, 2020 at 07:28 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. This year has been tough without losing a loved one. Will be praying for you all.

Tim Lillis

Tim Lillis - November 05, 2020 at 07:10 AM



“ I was so saddened to hear of her transitioning. We shared many good times together. I will miss her smiles, her hugs and her wonderful personality. She enjoyed life and made a “miracle” comeback after her brain aneurysm that I shall never forget. Barbara was a strong woman, a fighter who fought back being in a wheelchair and using a walker after her aneurysm to walk unassisted in record time! Her recovery was an inspiration to others and Barbara’s “never give up attitude” showed others what they could accomplish. Heaven has gained another Angel who will stand out from all the others with her purple wings.

Priscilla Danielson - November 11, 2020 at 07:18 PM