



Barbara Jane Light

November 3, 1931 - August 18, 2020

Barbara Jane Light, 88, of Bloomington, passed away at Garden Villa on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, after a lengthy illness. She was born on November 3, 1931, in Clarksdale MS. Her parents were the late LeRoy B. Light and Una Ruth Nicoll Light. Barbara's father was a civil engineer who worked in road construction, so the family moved many times and Barbara actually developed a great love for travel! She graduated from high school in Salem IN in 1950, Hanover College in 1954 with a BA in Business Administration, and an MS in Recreation from Indiana University in 1963.

In an era when women were not encouraged to succeed in the workplace, Barbara was a trailblazer and a wonderful role model for those who knew her. Her career spanned many years with the Girl Scouts of the USA, including Tulip Trace Council of Girl Scouts in Bloomington from 1963-68 and 1976-94. During the latter years, she was key in development of Belmont Camp in Brown County. From 1968-74, Barbara was employed as a Girl Scout professional in Heidelberg, Germany, with Troops on Foreign Soil, organizing Girl Scout troops and camping experiences on U.S. military bases. While living in Germany, Barbara really fueled her love of travel to see other parts of the world. Some of the countries she visited over her lifetime were Germany, Spain, Switzerland, England, India, Iran, Nepal, Burma, Thailand, Afghanistan, Jamaica, Sierra Leone, Portugal, Canada, China and Israel.

Although small in stature, Barbara's personality and enthusiasm for life was not only infectious, but extraordinary as well. She loved music and was skilled in the saxophone, autoharp, marimba, hand bells, as well as tap dance. She pursued learning artistic skills: ceramics, woodcarving, and cross stitch. Other interests were hiking, reading, and collecting artwork from the countries she visited. She delighted in all things Snoopy! Another of her great joys was attending games and cheering for Indiana University women's basketball teams. Go Hoosiers!

Barbara was committed to volunteer work in the community. She was in Altrusa International, holding all possible offices. She organized both the Walk for the Cure and

Sing for the Cure locally, securing IU music students and world-renowned performers for the Sing, to raise funds for breast cancer research. Barbara was a 1978 graduate of Leadership Bloomington. She served on the boards of the Monroe County Mental Health Association, the Area 10 Agency on Aging, and United Way of Monroe County, and volunteered with Salvation Army. An active member – and handbell ringer – at First United Methodist Church, Barbara served in mission trips with the church to Sierra Leone in 1990, to Russia in 1995, and traveled the Holy Land/Israel in 1999.

Barbara received many honors and citations throughout her life. Two of her proudest achievements were a 1989 Women's History Month recognition from the Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the development and implementation of Joyous Garde, a Girl Scout program for environmentally at-risk girls in Monroe, Owen and Jackson Counties. She touched lives.

Aunt Barbara had a close, loving relationship with her family and, until she was no longer able to travel, never missed a holiday gathering or other family celebration. She is survived by her sister-in-law, June Light of Coshocton OH; nieces Judith (Dave) Erwin of Tuscaloosa AL; Ruthanna (Hayden) Dalieri of Coshocton OH; and nephew Wayne (Cindy) Light of Coshocton OH. Barbara is also survived by 4 great-nieces, 4 great-nephews, 5 great-great-nieces and 10 great-great-nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Robert Light, and a great-niece, Dawne Kaib.

Very special thanks go to Sharyl, Maria and Jean; caregivers Tiffany and Rachel; Southern Hills Hospice (Susan, Dorothy, Helen and Rick); and staff and neighbors at Bell Trace, Autumn Hills and Garden Villa for their faithful care of Barbara in her declining years.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial contributions made in Barbara's name to: Girl Scouts of the USA - go to <http://www.girlscouts.org> for instructions on donating online or via mail; or Alzheimer's Association, 225 N Michigan Ave, Floor 17, Chicago IL 60601 or <http://www.alz.org>.

A funeral service will be held at Allen Funeral Home and Crematory, 4155 S. Old St. Rd. 37, Bloomington, on Saturday, August 22, at 3 pm. Visitation will be from 1 pm until the time of service. Masks and social distancing are required. Inurnment will be at Crown Hill Cemetery in Salem IN at a later date. Online condolences, photos and memories of Barbara "Chippy" Light may be shared with family and friends at <http://www.allencares.com>.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at <http://www.allencares.com>

Events

AUG **Visitation** 01:00PM - 03:00PM

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Allen Funeral Home and Crematory

4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, IN, US, 47401

AUG **Service** 03:00PM

22

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory

4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, IN, US, 47401

Comments



“ Barbara and I first met through to Girl Scouts when I was a fledgling leader and she was the very supportive professional in the office. So many memories we made together but probably the program that we developed (with others) and the one that effected the most girls (and their parents) was the Family Life Education Program. She was also one of the early members of the Bloomington Breast Cancer Awareness Walk committee (not to be confused with Run for the Cure) ——and I am happy to say that this year the Melody Martin Awareness Award will be presented to her at this years Walk. Done virtually but you might try and tune in on Saturday October 24th.

She was a wonderful woman, a great mentor and I am glad to call her my friend ——

Jan Harnett Mordarski

jan mordarski - September 30, 2020 at 12:02 PM



“ To Family & Friends of Barbara.

Barbara was truly a wonderful, amazing lady. We have so many wonderful memories of Barb.

When my husband Skip became director of the FUMC handbell program in 1989, Barb was already a member, having rang for several years and being one of the original bell ringers at FUMC. As our 3-octave choir grew to 5 octaves, Barb was always to support us. She and Skip had fun when Skip would introduce the choir members and come to Barb saying, “Now, stand up Barb!” And Barb would always say, “Skip, I’m already standing.” It was got a gentle laugh every time. Here is a portion of a photo taken about 1990 with Barb standing between Tom and Vee (who are also both gone now.)

We had later photo of Barb standing between two of our college students in the bell choir at the time. They were over 6 feet tall! Barb may have been short, but no one saw her as small.

Any travels with bells took everyone’s help, and Barb always gave 110%. She coordinated rings at Belle Trace and Meadowood Retirement Center.

As a personal friend, Barb was one of our closest. She asked Skip and I to sing in Sing for the [Cancer] Cure concert. Besides the IU choir, community members could also participate. Skip and I would not say “No” to Barb. It was one of the hardest things that I have ever done. So many tears shed. But “Yes” I would do it again for Barb.

When our daughter Missy gave us a list of who she wanted for her 40th birthday party in 2014, Barb’s name was one of the first on the list. Skip went to Belle Trace to get her and then took home again after the party. Missy died in 2016.

In 2015, as we were leaving Bloomington to relocate to our new home in Florida, we realized that had not said “goodbye” to Barb. I called her as we were getting on I-65 to head south. I will always remember and be thankful that I talked with her.

We have had so many good times with Barb. Her body’s shell may be gone but her spirit is forever. She is an angel with God.

Skip & Liz Sluder





“ I send you my thoughts at this time. I was a volunteer out at Bell Trace and had a chance to meet Barbara there. What an interesting person, with a nice sense of humor. She was quite retiring but when she could be persuaded to talk about her life she was fascinating and it amazed me how she managed to do so much. Her career, her varied interests, her volunteer work...how much she gave to us all. I am so glad that I had a chance to meet her.

Antonia Matthew

Antonia Matthew - August 24, 2020 at 03:29 PM



“ Barb was an absolute joy and an inspiration to many. Our Girl Scout troop had the pleasure of working with her on a project several years ago. She always spoke highly of her family and her time in the Girl Scouts. Barb brought so much energy and joy into a room. I'm sorry for your loss.

Rachel Wheeler

Rachel - August 21, 2020 at 08:45 PM



“ Barbara and I shared laughter, adventure, travel, food and music through 50 years of friendship. Special memories include: becoming comfortable while living and working far from home in Germany; exploring and finding treasures in towns across Central Europe; picnicking in Alpine mountain pastures while enjoying the local cheese and breads, hearing cow bells and church bells in the distance; singing as we drove through beautiful scenery.

Recent memories include the beauty of Brown County Parks: more picnics in the shade and shadows of wonderful trees and hills; more singing and appreciating the art in Nashville.

Thank you Barbara for the many gifts and joys of your friendship which are always close to me,

Barbara Alderson

Barbara Alderson - August 21, 2020 at 06:54 PM



“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Barbara Jane Light.



August 21, 2020 at 06:19 PM



“ I am sorry for your loss. I worked for the Joyous Garde Program with the Tulip Trace Council of Girl Scouts back in 1981-1984, and then again around 1987 for another year or two. I remember Barbara well - with fond memories and a high level of respect. I would often run into her around town over the years - she always remembered me. She truly was a gem of a human being. She will be missed. My condolences to all her family and friends. Diana McGuire Reynolds

Diana McGuire Reynolds - August 20, 2020 at 03:46 PM



“ White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Barbara Jane Light.



August 20, 2020 at 10:57 AM



“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Barbara Jane Light.



August 19, 2020 at 05:39 PM



“ Lavender & White Satin Heart Casket Pillow was purchased for the family of Barbara Jane Light.



August 19, 2020 at 11:57 AM



“ Years ago, as I became a Girl Scout Leader, Barbara was one of the creative instructors involved. I will always remember how she demonstrated the game “Prey & Predator” (at our beloved Belmont), by using her unique size to hide as we tried to catch her. I do my best to duplicate her technique each and every time I teach it to others. She was full of spunk and joy! ~Dinah Fuller

Dinah - August 19, 2020 at 11:28 AM



“ Barbara and I shared laughter, adventures, travel, food and music through 50 years of friendship. Special memories include becoming comfortable living far from home in Germany; exploring and finding treasures in towns across Central Europe; picnics in Alpine meadows with local bread and cheese, cow bells and church bells in the distance; singing as we drove through beautiful scenery. Recent memories include the beauty of Southern Indiana: more picnics, and music and singing as we drove through the beauty of hills,trees, sun and shadows of Brown Co; appreciating the variety of art in Nashville. Thank you, Barbara, for the many gifts and joys of your friendship which are always close to me.

Barbara Alderson

Barbara Alderson - August 21, 2020 at 05:55 PM



“ Barbara was a member of the Art Class at Bell Trace for several years. Her bright spirit and charming wit were always a great contribution. She really enjoyed working in ceramics. I have been missing her and I am grateful she is at peace.

Sandra Tokarski - August 22, 2020 at 02:28 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. I had the pleasure of working with Barbara during my four undergraduate years at IU (64-68) and learning much as I went on to pursue a career as a camping professional with the Girl Scouts.

Nancy Frankel - August 23, 2020 at 11:13 AM



“ Barbara was a regular customer at Stewart’s Hallmark, later Wooden Key Hallmark. She was so pleasant. I did not know most of the details shared in her obituary; she had an interesting, full life. May her light continue in the hearts of those she touched.

Cathy Hiatt - August 24, 2020 at 02:37 PM



“ To the family and friends of Barbara. My Deepest Sympathy to each of you. She was a dear friend of mine from my hometown of Salem, Indiana. We were in Girl Scouts together and she encouraged me to continue working with the Salem Girl Scouts and with the Washington County Girl Scouts as being Camp Director for several years until I moved to Indianapolis. She had a wonderful sense of humor and never talked negative about anyone. What a joy to have had such a wonderful friend. May you RIP dear friend. God bless you, your family and your friends.

Peggy Huffman-Walters - September 03, 2020 at 12:31 PM