



Barbara Lee Kay

July 29, 1942 - September 24, 2021

Barbara Lee Kay of Maple City, Michigan passed away on Friday, September 24th, 2021 at the age of 79. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and active member of her community. Barbara was born in Neenah, Wisconsin to Richard A. and Dorothy M. Wolterding (later Dorothy Berggren). She met her husband, Richard Kay of Wheaton, Illinois, in 1967 in Deerfield, Illinois. They were married in Waupaca, Wisconsin in 1969 and moved to Cary, Illinois, eventually settling in Barrington, Illinois for the next 25 years. Barbara was a graduate of Neenah High School in Neenah, Wisconsin in 1960 and Michigan State University in 1964. She loved being in the theater club and always reminisced about the different musicals she performed in. After graduation from college, she went on to teach first grade at South Park School in Deerfield, Illinois. In 1971 she left teaching to become a full time mother to her three daughters. She re-entered the world of education in 1978 as a teacher at St. Marks Preschool in Barrington, Illinois and then became an Early Childhood teacher in the Barrington School District and later earned her Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from National Louis University. She and Richard retired to Glen Arbor, Michigan in 2001.

Barbara was always devoted to children's education. For several decades she taught Sunday School or ran the children's room at her church. Even in her retirement she volunteered at the Glen Lake Public Library to lead the weekly "Stories and More" for kids and was affectionately known as "Miss Bonnie". In 2010 she opened a drop-in arts and crafts studio for young kids called Smocks, in Glen Arbor. She spent her summers giving the gift of arts and crafts to young children for the next ten years.

Barbara was active in the Glen Arbor Women's Club, Friends of the Glen Lake Library and the Glen Lake Garden Club. She loved spending her time traveling, reading, visiting art museums, going to Broadway shows and cheering for her beloved Green Bay Packers. Barbara loved holidays and hosting gatherings for her family and friends.

Barbara was always at home "on the lake". Her childhood home was on Lake Winnebago in Wisconsin, and her retirement home was on Glen Lake in Michigan. She was always happiest when she was on the water.

Barbara is survived by her husband, Richard and her three daughters, Lisa (Ryan) Primmer of Darien, Connecticut; Wendy (Joe) Harrop of Waukesha, Wisconsin, Heidi

(Joakim) Kay Esaiasson of Traverse City, Michigan; and her seven grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Dorothy, her step-father, Roy Berggren, and her brother, Douglas Wolterding (of Woodbridge, VA).

There will be an informal outdoor Celebration of Life in Barbara's honor on Saturday, October 2nd at 1 PM at Old Settler's Park (8802-8806 Dunn's Farm Rd., Maple City, MI), just down the road from their home in Glen Arbor.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her honor to:

Glen Lake Community Library, 10115 W. Front St., Empire, MI 49630

Comments



“ Send BEAUTIFUL Flowers Locally to the family of Barbara Lee Kay. Express your condolences, giving comfort and support. [Click here to view selections on our website](#)”

Send Flowers - September 27, 2021 at 12:00 PM



“ Hi, I worked with Bonnie years ago at the Barrington Early Learning Center at Woodland. So sorry for your families loss. In my thoughts and prayers.”

Grace Rapach - October 06, 2021 at 12:16 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Dick and family of Bonnie.
Jackie Nilson”

Jackie Nilson - October 14, 2021 at 12:12 AM



“ Dick,

We are so very sorry for your loss. You and your family are in our prayers.”

Diane and Mike Mazurczak

Mike Mazurczak - October 06, 2021 at 07:43 AM



“ Our daughter Beth called us from her home in Wollongong, Australia to tell us the sad news that Bonnie had died. We had known Bonnie since 1979 when we moved to Barrington and Beth and Wendy were in kindergarten together (Mrs. Schlobohm) at Grove Avenue School. In fifth grade both girls joined the band, Beth on flute and Wendy on clarinet, and we were part of a special group, "Band Parents". Even though we moved from Barrington in 2001 we still exchanged Christmas cards with the Kays every year, so we kept up on what they were all doing. We were so sorry to hear of her passing at such a young age.

Dick, Lisa, Wendy and Heidi.....we are sending you our heartfelt condolences and hope that you find comfort from all your many friends.

Leslie and Jim Mayland

Leslie Mayland - October 03, 2021 at 01:15 PM



“ My heart goes out to Bonnie's family. I was fortunate to work with her for many years as an Early Childhood Teacher in Barrington. She touched so many lives and taught me so much. She will be missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

Jill Henning - October 01, 2021 at 06:14 PM



“ Kristin (Skurla) Holm purchased White Reflection Orchid for the family of Barbara Lee Kay.



Send Flowers - September 30, 2021 at 08:32 AM



“ My sincere sympathy to Dick, Heidi & families. I have fond memories of Bonnie as my daughters' teacher & as a co-worker at Woodland. She was a lovely woman. Praying your happy memories bring you comfort & peace. Hugs to all.
Lonnie Smith

Lonnie Smith - September 29, 2021 at 11:45 AM



“ We have so many happy memories of Bonnie at band functions and celebrating the 4th of July. Her presence lit up any occasion. Our deepest sympathies go to Dick, his dear girls and their families.
Gail and Joe Collier

Gail Collier - September 28, 2021 at 10:37 PM



“ My sincere and heartfelt sympathy to Dick, Lisa, Wendy, Heidi, and their families. We have maintained our friendship since we met as Barrington High School parents. Bonnie led an admirable life with her commitment to family and to education. She will surely be missed by many friends and all of the Kays.
Much love from Janet Bell

Janet Bell - September 28, 2021 at 07:23 PM



“ When I was new to the Empire, Glen Arbor area, Bonnie welcomed and included me like family. “Come to the Christmas sing at my house! Come to Dune Climb pitch in!” It felt too good being around Bonnie to ever turn down an invite- even the chore of painting the Smocks cabin was fun under her leadership!
When I had to leave the area Bonnie hosted a luncheon in my honor.
I learned a lot from her about making the effort to bring people together.
Thanks Bonnie,
Margaretpaskins Young

Margaret Young - September 28, 2021 at 04:27 PM



“ I'm so sad to hear of Bonnie's passing and am sending so much love to Mr. Kay, Heidi, Wendy, and Lisa. I have so many wonderful memories both in Barrington and "Up North" with the Kay's, who were cherished friends of my family and especially my parents, Keith and Sue Meyer. I hope you all can find some peace in this sad time and feel the love from the community and all of the special friends and family that Bonnie loved on over the years.

Love,
Tracy Meyer

Tracy Meyer - September 28, 2021 at 01:28 PM



“ My condolences to you Dick and your daughters and families. I am deeply saddened to hear of Bonnie's passing. She was a beautiful person and we had many fun times in high school. I will miss her Christmas letter of the goings on of your family. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Marsha Schmidt - September 27, 2021 at 10:18 PM



“ A real class act, who was loved & admired by EVERYONE at Neenah High School!

Jill Bylow Mickey

jill bylow mickey - September 28, 2021 at 11:50 AM



“ So sorry to hear about Barbara's passing. We knew her from being in Florida and she was a lovely woman. She will be sorely missed!

judy & Jack Bratt - September 27, 2021 at 09:00 PM