



Barbara J. Blacker

July 28, 1934 - June 5, 2024

Barbara J. Blacker

Age 89

Kalamazoo formerly of Gobles

Passed away Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at Edgewood Health and Rehabilitation in Three Rivers. Barbara was born July 28, 1934 in Lawrence, daughter of the late Glenn and Mary Sweet. Barb had lived and worked on the family farm for many years. She was a very hard working woman and always stayed busy. She enjoyed sewing, gardening, canning, cooking and baking. She was a master of puzzles, many of which are hanging in frames to this day. Barbara was a mother to many and was always willing to open her home to anyone in need. She was loved by anyone she crossed paths with and will be missed by all that had the opportunity of knowing her. More than anything though, Barb loved her family and cherished every moment spent with those she loved.

Surviving are her children, Eldon L. (Deanna) Henry Jr. of Hawaii, Patrick M. Henry of Oshtemo, Sherrie L. (David) Jacobs of Milan MI, Kathy J. (Bill) Lamb of Lake Wales FL, Jimmie Blacker Jr and Penny Worden; grandchildren, Chad, Jessica, Kaleb, Jeremy, Heidi, Heather, Shannon, Sarah, Josh, Lindsey, Stefan and Chelsea; several great and great great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Eldon L. Henry Sr and Jimmie Blacker, her parents, brother Leon C. Sweet along with 2 infant siblings.

Following her wishes cremation has taken place. A graveside service will take place at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to the Gobles Chapel, D. L. Miller Funeral Home, www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Cremation

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

SJ

“ *Sherrie Jacobs lit a candle in memory of Barbara J. Blacker*



Sherrie Jacobs - June 11, 2024 at 09:41 AM

SS

“ *Sherri Smith lit a candle in memory of Barbara J. Blacker*



Sherri Smith - June 10, 2024 at 07:16 PM

KL

“ Mom..my BFF..my Louise..there are no words for how I feel right now. I've lost my best friend. And while I have no doubt that I will see you again in God's glorious world, I need you here with me right now. I can't let go. Not right now. I know we had a full life here in Florida for 31 years, but I need you to hold me and tell me this will be okay. I know that we'll be together again, but I need you here with me right now, to rub my back and hold me close and tell me this too must pass. That I need to be strong and keep going. To get my hinny busy and keep doing Gods work until I'm called Home. I know that you have no more pain and suffering. You have no more confusion and definitely no more of where you've been for the past few years.

I've been through every emotion possible in just a few days. Hurt, anger, selfishness, denial. You're my Louise. We were going to grab each other's hand and drive that blue camero over the Grand Canyon. LOL I'll always and forever be your Thelma.

We had a lot of great times the 31 years you lived in Florida with me. With Bill. With the kids, (Bud and Lindsay). The grandkids, (Sierra and Braden). My stepdad, (Jimmie Blacker Sr.). You were a part of everything. School activities, grandkids births, so many cookouts I can't even count. We celebrated every holiday together. Sent balloons up, (when you could still do that), for grandma, and Uncle Leon, and Jim). Christmas concerts at Celebration.

(Remember, we didn't know the roads and it was late, I took a wrong turn, couldn't reach Lindsay, so baha'd across the median, did a u-ie and we got back on track?) We were always together, you and I. Even when you worked 26 years at Bok Tower Gardens. On my days off I'd come sit and talk with you or visit with both you and dad (Jim) after work.

You helped me rehab baby animals and not just squirrels, bunnies or raccoons, you actually helped me feed 17 babies at one time.

You and Jim both, loved to have the babies visit.

We dressed up for the part and had Mothers Day brunch at The Tea Room. In big floppy hats and our best clothes.

Your specialty was that, besides grandma Sweet, you were the best seamstress I've ever known. You made our clothes, you made

curtains for my bedroom window growing up, you taught me everything you knew. (Thank you for that mom). You made so, so, so many quilts with me. Together you and I would boggle things around and finally figure out placing of photos and design. Together, you and I made so many crafts, wreaths, and quilts. Something I will cherish forever. For as long as I'm alive. Thank you mom, for giving me unconditional love. For always being there for me no matter how far apart we were. Thank you for instilling in me the values of life and love and friendship. Thank you for growing with me all of these years and just being beautiful you. For shaping me into the woman I am today. For giving me everything you are, every bit of what's right, for me to hold onto, use, and cherish for the rest of my life. I love you mom and I miss you so much it hurts. I know I have to keep my head up and keep plugging, to keep moving forward, keep living life...but right now I want to miss you. I just want to be selfish a while longer. God, please take good care of the beautiful lady you needed more. She means the world to me. (As for jobs, she worked for Bell South in the early 70's, Gobles Casket Company side by side with my dad, (Eldon L. Henry Sr), H & R Woods Specialties, side by side with my dad, Danford Creek Apartments as manager, Meijer (Marking & Receiving), as well as The Upjohn Company and Bok Tower Gardens. She excelled at everything she did. She was the kind of person you'd want to meet and the kind of woman I want to be. She loved unconditionally, held her tongue when need be, (I won't), and had no enemies. Mom, I promise I'll add memories later on. Right now I just need this time to mourn my loss of you. I know that you know how much I love you. I'll see you again. I believe that you can see everything going on down here. But you don't get upset over things because you can see God working and I can't. I love you 💕 Kathy & Bill

Kathleen Lamb - June 08, 2024 at 04:30 AM

BW

What a lovely tribute to your Mom, Kathy. We share your grief and send best wishes to you and your family.

*Sincerely,
Barb and Ron Wirgau*

Barb and Ron Wirgau - July 08, 2024 at 10:01 PM

KL

“ *Kathleen Lamb lit a candle in memory of
Barbara J. Blacker*



Kathleen Lamb - June 08, 2024 at 02:50 AM

BB

“ *This obituary forgot to mention her other children, Penny Worden
and Jimmie Blacker Jr.*

*I am her granddaughter and will miss her terribly! I wish her family
knew how much she loved us too. 🥹*

Brittany Blacker - June 06, 2024 at 03:10 PM