



Marilyn L. Barber

JUL 26, 1930 - MAY 16, 2021



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Marilyn L. Barber

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Marilyn L. (Blakey) Barber, age 90 of Centerville, Iowa passed away Sunday, May 16, 2021 at the Golden Age Care Center in Centerville.

She was born on July 26, 1930 in Frederick, Oklahoma, the daughter of James and Alta (Bellmon) Blakey. Following her high school graduation, Marilyn received her bachelors degree in Education from Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma. She would later earn his Masters Degree in Music Theory from the University of Iowa. Marilyn was united in marriage to Donald Barber in 1952 and to this union, the couple celebrated four children, Michael, John, Paul, and Phillip. Donald preceded Marilyn in death on March 27, 1999.

Marilyn spent most of her thirty-nine years of teaching in the Centerville Community School district, beginning in Centerville in 1970. She was a longtime music and choral director at the Howar Junior High Middle School, along with teaching two days a week at the outlying elementary schools in Appanoose County, including Mystic and Cincinnati. Marilyn was an excellent music educator and genuinely enjoyed seeing her students get excited about music. She retired as an educator in 1992.

Most importantly, Marilyn was a lifelong mentor to many church members and attendees at the Centerville Church of Christ. She thoroughly enjoyed the church relationships she established through her efforts of character building and spiritual development. As a longtime member of the Church of Christ, Marilyn believed that her relationship with her Lord and Savior was the most important aspect of her life. Left to honor her memory include her three children, Michael (Annette) Barber of Billings, Montana, Paul (Venessa) Barber of Enid, Oklahoma, and Phillip Barber of Centerville, Iowa; eleven grandchildren; and eleven great grandchildren. Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents, James and Alta Blakey; her husband, Donald Barber; and her son, John Barber.



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Private family graveside services will take place with Rev. Larry Hudson officiating. A Public Celebration of Marilyn's life will take place in the near future. A memorial has been established to the Centerville Church of Christ and may be mailed to Lange Funeral Home and Crematory, 1900 S. 18th St., Centerville, Iowa, 52544. Condolences may be shared online at www.langefh.com or on Lange Funeral Homes Facebook page.

Private Services



Tribute Wall

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Thomas Funeral Home posted:

October 21 at 2:47 PM



Thomas Funeral Home shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



October 13 at 3:16 PM



Sue Malmberg posted:

Mrs. Barber was such an inspiration and one of those special teachers in my life. She was always so kind and patient in working with me in the early days of my work as a student accompanist. My prayers are with her family.

August 3 at 7:00 PM



Tracy Marlo Daugherty posted:

I loved and looked forward to music classes when she taught at the junior high. Always a cheerful person who took time to know each of her students. Sympathy and condolences to her family.

June 25 at 7:00 PM



Debbie Atkinson posted:

My condolences to the family of this great and amazing woman, whose life touched many of us.

June 1 at 7:00 PM



Howard & Debbie Herndon posted:

Marilyn will always be remembered from my growing up years - in camps and rallies. Her love for music was such a blessing. Sympathy to the family. Howard Herndon

May 22 at 7:00 PM



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DN

Deb Nedza posted:

A smile and warmth radiated from Marilyn that truly showed her love for people and gave glory to the One she loved most. Deepest sympathy extended to the family and friends.

May 22 at 7:00 PM

JR

Jeremy Rounds posted:

Marilyn always had a smile when I'd see her at youth rallies, revivals, camps, and when my family would visit the centerville church. She was a great friend and a pillar in the church. God speed and I'll see you again

May 18 at 7:00 PM

RR

Rowena Richey posted:

Filled with the Spirit of Christ That is how I would describe Marilyn. She was an inspiration to me of how to be a Jesus follower, radiating friendship and love to everyone.

May 17 at 7:00 PM

NT

Nellie Thomas lit a candle in honor of Marilyn.

Lit a candle in memory of Marilyn L. Barber

May 17 at 7:00 PM



JV

Jan Vinzant lit a candle in honor of Marilyn.

Lit a candle in memory of Marilyn L. Barber

May 16 at 7:00 PM



SM

Stephanie Grim(Micetich) posted:

Have the greatest memories of her teaching music in Jr high, she treated all of us like gold. Blessings to her family. May she fly high.

May 16 at 7:00 PM



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NB

Nancy Bennett posted:

My mother, Mildred Adamson, loved getting to know her as a friend and loved her Bible studies at Shamrock Heights.

May 16 at 7:00 PM

BB

Brenda Barber posted:

Marilyn was the best Mother in law a person could have. She was there for me and my husband her son John when he got ill. Was there for me after John passed away. I will always cherish ur memory

May 16 at 7:00 PM

PS

Patricia Starr posted:

She was the best music teacher. I took piano lessons from her. She will be greatly missed

May 16 at 7:00 PM

RP

Ronda {Wood} Peek posted:

Prayers and hugs to the family. She was a great ,kind music teacher at the howar jr high when i was attending there.

May 15 at 7:00 PM

MB

Marcia Benjamin posted:

I always enjoyed reading, but Mrs. Barber taught me to love and have a passion for Literature and to read deeper than the words on the page. She showed her students Jesus without ever saying His name. Her love of her students was genuine and unconditional. I do not remember anyone ever disrespecting her....nor do I have any recollection of her ever raising her voice. I doubt Mrs. Barber ever knew how deeply she impacted the lives of her students. She was a special lady!

May 15 at 7:00 PM



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MS

Margie Stewart posted:

Marilyn was such a great teacher, wife and mother. I'm so sorry to hear of her passing as my thoughts go out to her families and especially Jake and Josh and their families! May she Rest In Peace and be free from all pain. She will truly be an Angel in Gods choir!

May 15 at 7:00 PM

RH

Rebecca Sue Hinkle posted:

She was a wonderful woman!!

May 15 at 7:00 PM

KC

Krishna (Doll) Carlyle posted:

Mrs. Barber was always such a good friend and mentor to me. She was my piano and vocal coach, my unspoken teaching mentor and my guide for how to live life as a Christian woman. Her grace, patience, and belief in me gave me the confidence I needed to do the things I love. I pray for peace and comfort for those who mourn her passing, but there is no doubt in my mind that she is in the presence of God watching over all of us and interceding on our behalf. She will be greatly missed.

May 15 at 7:00 PM



Media

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Thomas Funeral Home shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 3:16 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Marilyn by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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