



Barbara Ann Patterson

September 18, 1945 - April 3, 2021

GARDNER - Barbara Ann Patterson, 75, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, April 3, 2021 at UMass Medical Center in Worcester. She leaves her two children, Shaun A. Suhoski of Athol and Laura Morgenstern of Gardner; six grandchildren, Chelsea Suhoski of Waltham, Nicholas Suhoski of Ashburnham, Brandon Suhoski and Joshua Suhoski both of Athol, Liam Morgenstern and Aiden Sbrega both of Gardner; two brothers, Donald G. Patterson, Jr. of Ga and Thomas Patterson of Westport; four nephews and one niece, Ken, Dennis, Scott, Garth and Jenny Patterson. Barbara was predeceased by a daughter, Cara A. Suhoski. She was born in Altoona, PA, on September 18, 1945 a daughter of the late Donald Sr. and Mona (Smelser) Patterson. She graduated from Gardner High School and earned a BS from Fitchburg State College. She worked as a family services coordinator for the Head Start Program for over 30 years at Mount Wachusett Community College and the former Coleman Street School in Gardner. She was a longtime member of the First Baptist Church in Gardner and was very involved in politics in her youth leading the area campaign to elect former Congressman Robert Drinan and others. She was a co-founder of ENDECO, an environmental group in the early 70's. In her retirement years she was frequently seen at her favorite bench at Dunn's Park with her prized Boston Terrier and loyal companion, Jingle. Barbara's funeral will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. with a calling hour prior at 10:00am in the First Baptist Church, 14 High Street, Gardner, MA 01440. A private burial will follow. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the First Baptist Church of Gardner. To leave an online condolence please visit, <http://www.mackfamilyfh.com> The Mack Family Funeral Home, 10 5 Central Street, Gardner, MA has been entrusted with Barbara's funeral arrangements.

Cemetery

New Cemetery

Ashburnham, MA, 01430

Events

APR 17 Visitation 10:00AM - 11:00AM

First Baptist Church
12 High St., Gardner, MA, US, 01440

APR 17 Funeral 11:00AM

First Baptist Church
12 High St., Gardner, MA, US, 01440

Comments



“ So sorry for your loss. Deepest condolences.

Marci Sbrega - April 17 at 09:01 PM



“ Barbara and I were friends for years. After Cara passed away, we would sit by the hour together on the beautiful memorial bench at Cara's resting place. She loved all her children and spoke highly of all of you, her grandchildren and her brothers whom she grew up with. Barbara was a "feisty" woman was never afraid to speak her opinion! I'll never forget her. We shared our love for Jesus. Rest In Peace, Barbara, you're truly home now. With love and condolences, June Coombs April 17, 8:30 a.m.

June Coombs - April 17 at 08:38 AM



“ My mom, Linda LaPenas, a friend since childhood, sends her love and condolences. She saw her not too long ago, and she had bought some ice cream bars, and she told my mom "Don't tell Shaun." Lol

Lisa Marion - April 13 at 02:36 PM



“ Please accept our deepest condolences on your loss.. You are in our thoughts and prayer

Robert & Louise Morgenstern & family

Louise D Morgenstern - April 09 at 02:10 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Deanna Cooper - April 09 at 12:44 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Deanna Cooper - April 09 at 12:42 AM



“ Losing anyone is tough; losing your Mom is beyond this. I am so very sorry for all of you. I am sending air hugs and positive vibes to heal from your loss/ I am sending love and healing thoughts to all!

Harris TMarie - April 08 at 09:20 PM



“ Dear Shaun and Suhowski Family,

Please accept my deepest condolences on your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Andrea Cabral

Andrea Cabral - April 08 at 02:43 PM



“ I was saddened to learn of Barbara's passing. We became good friends when our children were young and sometimes would take them to Hampton Beach. We stayed in touch over the years sharing good times and challenging ones. Barbara always had an opinion and was happy to share it; she could be very loquacious! She was kind and compassionate and a thoughtful and generous friend. She was a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

Katherine Shippee Simonds
Wendell, North Carolina

Katherine Simonds - April 08 at 07:47 AM



“ Memories

Memories are moments frozen in time,
Trees that stand firmly rooted amidst the storms of life.
They comfort us like the warmth of a crackling fire,
And soothe us like the sweetest lullaby.

Memories are sacred promises never to forget our beloved.
To treasure eternally the love and laughter we shared.
Each memory is a link in the chain of life,
A chain that can never be broken because it is made from love.

Mountains may crumble and fall into the heart of the sea,
But our memories will stand—
Strong and solid forever.

Anonymous

Memories of my extraordinary friend and mentor, Barbara. Too many to describe; some defy description and some will remain forever in our hearts.

I met Barbara and her former husband Chet when I was 14 as a youth in custody at the facility formerly known as the Protestant Youth Center (PYC) in Baldwinville, MA. My “crime” was running away.

Barbara and Chet became house parents at PYC around 1971. Their time there became the genesis of my wonderful relationship with Barbara and Chet and their family throughout their lives.

Barbara’s keen sense of humor and her ability to really listen has not only touched me, but everyone she came into contact with. She always made me feel special and I can still hear the echo of her delight exclaiming, “DEANNA!” whenever I called.

We managed to stay in touch with each other throughout the years, whether I lived in Australia, Korea or the many states I resided in for a short time because of missionary work. I followed her from Ashburnham to Edgell St., Snake Pond Road, and beyond.

Every time I traveled back to the East Coast to see my family in Spfld,. I never missed going to Gardner to see Barb. It was always as if time never passed, we were just as close as ever. Many adventures took place during those brief yet significant visits.

At her cottage in Snake Pond Rd., I slept in her porch. She said in her inimitable way, “I don’t want to wake up and find you staring at me.” I did indeed wake up but instead of staring at Barb, I looked outside in shock. During the night a Nor’easter had dumped 4 feet of snow. We were stuck in her place at Snake Pond Rd. and took it in stride. That was the last time I saw Cara.

A few years back, my husband and I took a trip to New England to see friends and family and there we were at Barb's door at her apartment. We met Jingle and spent as much time as we could with her. I thought I would see her again . . .

I could write a book of the numerous funny times, sad times, and the many philosophical discussions we had about the purpose of life. But one memory stands out among the fun, the jokes, and the ups and downs of our lives.

I was with Barb a few years after Cara passed. We shopped and had just gotten back into her car. A lady came up and she and Barb spoke for some time, although I didn't understand the content at that time but I clearly remember Barb saying, "I forgive you."

She then explained to me that the woman was the person who Cara had been (drinking or doing drugs) with on that fateful day when she had the accident and subsequently died. Barbara didn't just believe in Jesus; she sought to live his teachings to the best of her ability.

To my recollection, her favorite songs were, "Danny Boy," and "All I Want is a Room Somewhere . . ." Her symbol was the turtle. Jingle meant everything to her as did her family. I consider myself part of her family and am blessed to have so many strong and solid memories of our times together.

Deanna Cooper

Deanna Cooper - April 07 at 02:37 PM



“ Sorry for the loss of your mom, Shaun and Laura.

Lisa Marion - April 07 at 02:03 PM



“ Barbara always greeted you with a smile and asked how you were doing , then she would ask about your family . She was a caring person and a joy to be around

Nancy Hawke - April 09 at 11:26 AM



“ I met Barbara when volunteering at Head Start where she was working. Our friendship grew over the years. I remember how much she loved all of her children. She spoke very highly of all of you. She also spoke of her childhood and her close relationship with her brothers. We shared a deep respect and love for Jesus. When Cara died, I went with Barb when she picked out the Memorial Bench where she and Cara now rest. We spent many an afternoon together sitting on that bench. Know that your mom is at peace and loved all her family with all her heart. I'm very sorry for the loss of your mom, Shaun and Laura and to all her family. June Coombs

June Coombs - April 16 at 08:00 PM