



Barbara J. Johnson

March 3, 1947 - October 18, 2023

Barbara Jean Whitley Johnson

3/3/1947-10/18/2023

My life began on March 3, 1947. I was born in Fulton County to J.C. and Juanita Whitley at the farmhouse of my Grandma and Grandpa Whitley. I was welcomed to the world by a sister Rose and a brother Jim. My sister Connie joined us a couple years later.

During my Junior year of High School, I met the love of my life, Mervin, whom I married on October 6th, 1968 and it was one of the best days of my life. We welcomed 2 beautiful daughters, Julie and Jill. A son was brought into our lives when Julie married Mark Ludlum and we loved him like he was our own. Our proudest accomplishment in life was being parents and we knew our life was truly blessed.

My Mother and I opened Barnitas Beauty Shop in 1967 and I continued to do hair for the next 54 years. My ladies were never clients, they were family. Most of "the girls" have left this world already, and I will be happy to see them again. In 1986 I began my 37-year career at Mason District Hospital as a CNA. I loved taking care of patients so much, I decided to become a nurse, graduating in 1995. I was blessed to work with so many great people and all of you have a special place in my heart.

As much as I loved being a Mother, Merv and I were blessed with four beautiful grandchildren, Tyler and Matt (Miranda) Ludlum, Tanner (Donovan)

Hannum, and Kylie Harris. Our Grandchildren showed us a love we never knew existed and the love grew with the addition of two Great-Grandsons, Zane Hannum and Mace Ludlum.

Sadly, life does not go without heartache, but heartache only comes from true love. I lost my father, mother, my sister Rose and my brother Jim. My greatest loss was when Merv was called home 21 years ago. I have missed every day. My life on earth is now over, but please don't be sad for I am in Heaven reunited with my husband and all the loved ones I lost along the way. I, quite simply, had a blessed and glorious life that I am eternally grateful for.

My life will be celebrated at Hurley Funeral Home on Saturday October 21st at 11:00 am, with visitation an hour prior. Interment will be at Laurel Hill Cemetery immediately following the service.

Memorials can be made to The Church of Christ in Havana. Online condolences can be left for my family at www.hurleyfh.com.

Hurley Funeral Home in Havana is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Laurel Hill Cemetery

1105 E Laurel Ave
Havana, IL 62644
(309) 543-2986

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Havana
217 North Plum Street
P.O. Box #648
Havana, IL 62644
(309) 543-2244
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Funeral Service

OCT **21**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Havana
217 North Plum Street
P.O. Box #648
Havana, IL 62644
(309) 543-2244
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Tribute Wall

LR

“ *Barb was a wonderful lady. She was my landlady for 5 years while I worked at Havana Power Station. Sending thoughts and prayers to Jill.* ”



Liz Rainwater - October 24, 2023 at 06:23 PM

ES

“ *so sorry to hear of Barbs' passing she was the nicest person and so caring of others . We went to school together . God bless all her family. from Earla ((Suddeth) Shaffer.* ”

earla mae shaffer - October 23, 2023 at 12:30 PM

JT

“ *jennifer trimpe lit a candle in memory of Barbara Johnson* ”



jennifer trimpe - October 23, 2023 at 10:14 AM

EL

“ *Eileen Long lit a candle in memory of Barbara Johnson* ”



Eileen Long - October 23, 2023 at 03:08 AM

BS

“ I'm truly sorry for your loss she was a wonderful lady and I will miss seeing her. My prayers go out for all the family.

Brian Silva - October 22, 2023 at 08:55 PM

AN

“ Barb was a blessing to all that knew her!

angie - October 22, 2023 at 07:47 PM

MC

“ I was in high school with Barb and Merv, more people should be like them. Barb was quite in school, but I could make her laugh. She and Merve will be sadly missed, but I know where they are. My sincere condolences to her family.

mike coker - October 22, 2023 at 06:18 PM

RQ

“ RON BARB QUINONES lit a candle in memory of Barbara Johnson



RON AND BARB QUINONES - October 21, 2023 at 11:27 AM

TR

“ Tonya Ray lit a candle in memory of Barbara Johnson



Tonya Ray - October 21, 2023 at 01:25 AM

LS

“ Our very deepest sympathy to Barb's family. I knew the Barb, Jim & Connie from high school in Lewistown and My husband knew Mervin & Barb as he grew up in Havana. It's a small world for us to have known such wonderful friends. They are all together now. God's Blessings to everyone. Lorenda and Alvin Spilker.

Lorenda Alvin Spilker - October 20, 2023 at 04:50 PM

JC

“ Julitta Carpenter lit a candle in memory of Barbara Johnson



Julitta Carpenter - October 20, 2023 at 01:41 PM

PG

“ So sorry for the loss of someone who beauty was soul deep. I had longtime acquaintance with Barb, Mervin, and family and many memories of conversations. God Bless her, and those she leaves behind to miss her.



Patricia Gilbreath - October 20, 2023 at 12:33 PM

LC

“ Lori Canada lit a candle in memory of Barbara Johnson



Lori Canada - October 20, 2023 at 11:15 AM

LM

“ *Lynne McDaniel lit a candle in memory of Barbara Johnson*



Lynne McDaniel - October 20, 2023 at 10:57 AM

ES

“ *Elva Stigall lit a candle in memory of Barbara Johnson*



Elva Stigall - October 20, 2023 at 10:07 AM

NE

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Barb's family. She was a beautiful lady, inside and out.*



Nancy Elliott - October 20, 2023 at 09:46 AM

DW

“ *Sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family* ❤️🙏



Dan and Chris Wilson - October 20, 2023 at 09:35 AM

ML

“ *Melody Lynn lit a candle in memory of
Barbara Johnson*



Melody Lynn - October 20, 2023 at 09:05 AM

LH

“ *larry Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of
Barbara Johnson*



larry and Mary Hundt - October 20, 2023 at 08:44 AM

KF

“ I cannot express how lucky I was to have not only worked with Barb for many years but to be able to call her a friend was truly an experience. So many fun times and funny stories, always smiling and pleasant. She always made us laugh with her practical jokes and to this day hands down made the best potato soup ever. Always wearing her white nursing cap and making coffee for Dr. Yetter in the morning when I wouldn't...sorry doc. Barb, you were one of a kind and too good to be roaming this earth with us. I thank God that he did allow us to have you for all of these years. For those of us that had the pleasure of knowing you, you should know that you truly had known an angel. Now take those wings my friend and fly, Merv has been waiting for you, probably tan as can be waiting patiently for you to come home. Love you my friend.



Kris Fowler - October 20, 2023 at 06:31 AM

TK

“ Barb was a very sweet and kind woman with a great sense of humor! Still remember the time she hid in a linen cart at work and scared the crap out of someone reaching in the cart to get fresh linen!

Teresa Kline - October 19, 2023 at 08:37 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Barbara J. Johnson.*



October 19, 2023 at 08:10 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Barbara J. Johnson.

October 19, 2023 at 08:10 PM



“ *One beautiful and classy soul! She is now truly fulfilled. She will be missed by many. Oh, I know She touched many lives & I was fortunate to have her in mine! Be at Peace! May her family have peace, strength & Comfort! Sincere condolences, Lisa*



Lisa Jill Thompson - October 19, 2023 at 08:08 PM



“ *I was blessed to have known Barb & Marv via MDH. A beautiful couple, dear sweet spirits. May they enjoy their reunion in their eternal home*



Deborah Smith - October 19, 2023 at 08:03 PM

JR

“ *Barb was one of a kind! She encouraged me to become a nurse when I would tag along with my Grandma during her weekly hair appointments. Barb and Merv would frequently buy my lunch at MDH when I was a struggling student working as a telemetry tech. Barb would let me start all of her IVs at the hospital, she loved to teach! I learned more from Barb than I probably did in 4 years of nursing school! She was always encouraging me, an amazing mentor. I know my Grandma was in the heavenly welcoming committee! They were the best of friends. I pray the Holy Spirit brings comfort during this sorrowful time. Barb leaves an amazing legacy! Death can not separate what remains in our hearts!*

My deepest condolences,

Julie Bohannon Roat

Julie Roat - October 19, 2023 at 08:02 PM

PZ

“ *The world lost one of the kindest, most caring people that ever lived. I'll never forget working those nights with Barb and the rest of the crew at MDH; the long days of going to nursing school together; the girl's fishing trips to Minnesota....oh my....and did she ever have an onery sense of humor! It was really surprising in one so soft-spoken and sweet. We'll all miss you, Barb....but I know Merv will be thrilled to see you again.*

Pam Peterson Ziegler - October 19, 2023 at 06:54 PM

EL

“ Ed Diana Lind lit a candle in memory of Barbara Johnson



Ed and Diana Lind - October 19, 2023 at 06:27 PM

LW

“ Lori Wright lit a candle in memory of Barbara Johnson



Lori Wright - October 19, 2023 at 06:20 PM

JK

“ Jessica K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara J. Johnson.

Jessica K. - October 19, 2023 at 06:13 PM

PZ

“ Pam Ziegler lit a candle in memory of Barbara Johnson



Pam Peterson Ziegler - October 19, 2023 at 06:07 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Barbara J. Johnson.*



October 19, 2023 at 05:38 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Barbara J. Johnson.*



October 19, 2023 at 05:32 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Barbara J. Johnson.*


October 19, 2023 at 05:32 PM



“ *Barb was the sweetest person. She was always kind, helpful and so sweet to everyone. My condolences to her family.*

Lynne Shoemaker - October 19, 2023 at 05:15 PM


DB

“ *Barb will be missed and I know she is Mervin and the others! She was a beautiful little lady* 



Donzia and Jack Boggs - October 19, 2023 at 05:12 PM

DW

“ *Sorry for your loss Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family* 



Dan and Chris Wilson - October 19, 2023 at 05:08 PM