



## Barbara Kay Bentley

September 30, 1943 - March 12, 2025

Dateline: Alton, IL

Barbara Kay Bentley, 81, died at 6:49 a.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at her home. She was born September 30, 1943 in Carrollton, IL, the daughter of the late Leonard and Freda (Jeffers) Patton. Barbara was a member of Main Street United Methodist Church in Alton. She was a retired elementary teacher in the Alton School District after 25 years of service. She loved arranging and growing flowers, gardening, and playing with her granddogs. Barbara traveled to all 50 states, 9 Canadian Provinces, 37 countries, but her favorite of all was Rocky Mountain National Park. On August 15, 1965 in Hillview, IL she married Ray Bentley, and he survives. Also surviving are one son, Jayson Bentley (Janice) of Lake St. Louis, MO, and one daughter, Melinda Bentley of Jefferson City, MO, one brother, Edward Patton (Patricia) of Chatham, IL. Graveside services are private at Pine Tree Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the 5A's Animal Shelter. Gent Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Additional information and an online guest book may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

DS

“ Mrs. Bentley was a phenomenal kindergarten teacher. As one of her students at Mark Twain Elementary, I can confess that she was objectively and subjectively my favorite educator during my K-12, AAS, BS, MS, and Doctoral program experiences.

*I graduated Alton High School in 2002, but always reflected on the impact she made my first year of school as a kindergarten student of hers.*

*Her heart, mind, and passion for true education has guided me throughout my personal and professional career.*

*Sending love to her, her family, former students, and my classmates at Mark Twain Elementary School.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Dr. Christopher E. Reynolds, Sr.*

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**Dr. Christopher E. Reynolds, Sr.** - March 27, 2025 at 09:07 PM

CD

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Barb's passing. Not only was she my 2nd-grade teacher, but I also had the pleasure of working with her in my early years with the Alton School District. She had such a sweet personality. My condolences to Ray and family members on Barb's passing.

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**Cathy Droste** - March 22, 2025 at 12:20 PM

DR

“ *Mrs Bentley was one of the sweetest people I knew . My son had her as a kindergarten teacher. Best teacher ever. So sorry for your loss prayers to you all.*

Donna Reynolds - March 19, 2025 at 12:13 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Kay Bentley.*



March 18, 2025 at 02:09 PM

BF

“ *Our most sincere condolences for your loss. My mother, Marjorie Beane, as did I, appreciated your musical contributions for so many years. We wish you peace and send our sympathy.*

Belinda Feezel - March 16, 2025 at 10:59 PM

BB

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Barbara's passing. Our condolences and prayers to her husband, children and the rest of her family.*

*Bernie and Jo Bax*



Bernard and Jo Bax - March 13, 2025 at 12:55 AM

KB

“ *So sorry Ray, Jayson, Melinda and family! Prayers for all of you!*

Kelly and Michelle Bachman - March 12, 2025 at 11:07 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Barbara Kay Bentley.*



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March 12, 2025 at 06:41 PM



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

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March 12, 2025 at 06:41 PM



“ *Barbara was one of the kindest, sweet people I have ever known. I was blessed to have her as a dear friend . Ray, Jayson, and Melinda, I am so very sorry for your loss and will keep you in my prayers. Love, Judy Clark*

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**Judy Clark** - March 12, 2025 at 06:23 PM



“ *We met Barbara and Ray shortly after moving next door to their daughter Melinda. She was always kind and took time to speak with us. A very wonderful and vibrant woman she will be missed. Blake & Michelle Sinclair*



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**michelle sinclair** - March 12, 2025 at 06:22 PM