



Barbara J. Bitter

September 19, 1932 - November 22, 2012

Barbara J. Bitter, 80, died at 4:10 p.m. Thursday, November 22, 2012 at St. Anthony's Health Center. Born in Litchfield on September 19, 1932 she was the daughter of the late John L. and Helen (Long) Bitter. Barb attended Knox College and Brown's Business School before accepting a job in Litchfield with Prudential Insurance Company. She later was transferred to Springfield and eventually to Alton where she retired after over 40 years of service. She was a member of Main St. United Methodist Church in Alton where she was active on numerous committees over the years. Barb was a past board member of the Oasis Women's Center in Alton and a long-time volunteer with the Caravan Resale Shop.

Surviving are her sister; Betty Lewis of Belleville, IL, four nieces and nephews; Francis Benard (Ed) of Brisbane, Australia, John Lewis (Nancy) of Chandler, AZ, Mark Lewis (Jeannie) of East Moline, IL and Sara Klappert (Rainer) of Marienhagen, Germany, eight great nieces and nephews; Annemarie Bartels (Heinrich), Sharon Benard, William Benard (Alexis), Anton Benard (Liz), John A. Lewis (Suzanne), Stephanie Mayhead (Darren), Michelle Young (Michael) , Ariana Klappert, and her best friend; Marlene Toppe of Alton. A memorial service is pending at the Main St. United Methodist Church in Alton with burial in Elmwood Cemetery in Litchfield. Memorials may be given to 5A's or the Memory and Aging Project at Washington University School of Medicine.

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Barbara J. Bitter*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Barbara J. Bitter*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *Such a shock to read of Barb's death! We were Pru. co-workers in the 60s & 70s. She was a great example and a cheerful lady. My sympathies to her family. I was Donna Bauser at that time. A million years ago.*

Donna Broyles Mariner - January 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Barb was always an outgoing and caring person. She always made sure everyone around her was happy. She will be missed. I know she is watching over me.*

Carolyn Boyd Wilkerson - December 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ *Barb was a dear friend. She was always working at the church, Main St. UMC. I remember the Sunday morning she talked me into entering the service with our hard hats on to encourage participation in our workdays for Habitat for Humanity. Her enthusiasm and encouragement helped to build that house and see to its dedication. Barb instigated a program of the congregation buying and PLANTING trees to border the Mission Distribution Center at Springfield. Missions was in her heart, especially locally such as Caravan and the women's center. Toppe, Vicky and I shared her last trip to our great joy: Upper Michigan and the fall colors. It was a trip of a lifetime. Why? Barb took an interest in people. You knew she loved you and your families. We were each encouraged. I would say you have been, as well. For to know Barb was to know one who helped the down-trodden, who lifted the fallen, who shared with the needy. May we be likewise. Amen.*

Rev. Sharon R. Potter - December 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ *So sorry for your loss. Barb was one of my favorite customers when I worked at magic mirror hair salon in upper Alton many years ago. Very sweet person. she will be missed.*

Pamela Stutz - December 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *I am saddened by Barb's passing but I truly know she is in the loving hands of our lord. Barb was my manager at Prudential for 26 years and she taught me more about kindness, life and understanding than anyone I know. She was my awesome mentor and I will never forget her as my friend.*

Donna Stock-Phillips - December 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ I am deeply saddened to hear of the loss of such a wonderful person. When I was younger I would come each summer to visit my Auntie T and her neighbor Barb.

Barb was a vibrant person who was always there to lend a supportive hand or word. I always admired Barb for her admiration to her family, friends, church and various roles as a volunteer when duty called.

Barb, I know that you are in a better place but want you to know that you made a lasting impression on me with your teachings. I thank you. You will be missed. I will forever treasure the memories.

Dearest sympathy to your family.

Love always,

Dawn Boyd Watt

Dawn Boyd Watt - December 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Barb was was of the kindest neighbors one could want. She was an animal lover and that is how we became acquainted! She was a very warm, kind hearted person. I feel blessed to have known her!! She will be missed!!!

Jill Trudell - November 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Barb was a dear friend. She had a positive outlook on life and was passionate about caring for others and providing equal rights for all. She embraced every situation as an opportunity--a chance to do something good, to make a difference. She will be missed.

Carol Laird - November 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ *Barb was a very special woman who will be missed. I want others to praise her life and celebrate her death! She is going to a better place and she will not be suffering any longer.*

Pastor Nick Richter - November 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ *The great privilege I had as one of Barb's many close friends was during her final decade here. As Barb often said of others, she herself was a real light. I will always remember and love her as an incredible business mentor, an immeasurably generous friend, a pure lover of animals far and wide, and an overall "thoughty" person (her original word!). Barb, we loved you and will always love you so very much. -Kerry*

Kerry Smith - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *When I moved to the US eighteen years ago, Barb and Toppe were both wonderful friends and great buddies to me. After some months of regular visits Barb agreed to refer to her study as "Sharon's room" forever :) We were very fortunate to have her unfailing warmth and generosity.*

Sharon Benard - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ When I married Fran, and joined the Lewis family, I had the feeling that the male members of the Clan were still a little wary of their new African in-law.

Not so the female members. Betty, Barb and Sara immediately adopted me and made me feel very welcome.

Barb was always very supportive and interested in what I was about. As I got to know her better, I came to admire, and love her for her sterling qualities.

She was always good natured and positive, and with her I could do no wrong, except on one occasion, when in her presence, I gave my daughter Sharon, a ribbing about female drivers. Barb positively bristled. She could see no humour in my male chauvinism!

Barb, we miss you.

Ed

Ed Benard - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GU

“ I was so blessed to have had the opportunity to have met Barb and get to have her enlighten my life. Every day she made me and so many others feel so special and loved. My daughters friend at the age of 23 went to heaven the same day. I know Barb was there to put her arm around her and rub her shoulders and say we are going to do this together. Thank you for teaching me to be a better person each day by who you were. You will be in our thoughts always!

Georgiann Ursch - November 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ I will sorely miss her as she always treated myself and everyone she came into contact with,with the ultimite respect and kindness.I learned alot from her in the time we spent together at The Prudential and will never forget her.She will always hold a special place in my heart.

Dave Swan - November 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS, GOD BLESS

SUSAN OETKEN - November 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ A great person that I always admired as she worked hard at Main St. UMC. in many areas of service to the Lord. She will be missed but now smiling from heaven.

Janice Phillips - November 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ I am so sorry for the loss to those left. I know Barb is in safe arms for all eternity.

Linda Weaver - November 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ My deepest sympathy to Marlene and all of Barb's Family. She was a kind and dear soul to all who met her.

Carolyn Bolch - November 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ I miss you, My Best Buddy.

M Toppe - November 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM