

Celebrating The Life Of Barbara Oedekoven



Barbara quietly went home with family by her side on November 28, 2021. She was born in Stafford, KS, on September 21, 1925. She was a middle child of seven born to Daniel & Rosetta (Rose) Smith. She had two older brothers (Bill & Dan), two older sisters (Betty & Bonnie) and 2 younger brothers (Bruce, & Benson). Her father was a preacher and they moved often. So, before she graduated from high school in El Paso, TX, the family had been at several locations in Kansas, Missouri, and Texas. After her high school graduation, her family moved to Gillette, WY, where she met and later married the love her life, Donald Oedekoven. Prior to their marriage, she was able to attend Philips University in Enid, Ok, while Don was completing his tour of duty with the Army Air Corps during WWII. They were married on June 8, 1945. They were preparing to celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary when Don passed away unexpectedly in 2010.

Don & Barbara had five children David (Diana) Oedekoven, Kay (Larry) Orrell, Bruce (Dixie) Oedekoven, Debbie (Keith) Heide, and Chris (Brian) Zahradnicek. Barbara is survived by her children and their spouses and 12 grandchildren: Cynthia Oedekoven, Teresa Oedekoven, Mark (Kim) Oedekoven, Kevin (Sara) Oedekoven, Leslie Leyba, Elizabeth (Stanislav) Vysotsky, Dustin (Jenn) Oedekoven, Matthew (Molly) Oedekoven, Renea Heide Parker, Justin (Stacy) Heide, Brianne (Tony) Prolo, Melissa Zahradnicek and 21 great grandchildren and 3 great great grandchildren and numerous nephews, nieces, and grands.

Preceding her in death are her husband (Don); parents; all her siblings and their spouses; her parents-in-law, (Fred & Nora Oedekoven) and brothers-in-law and their spouses (James & Edna Oedekoven, Elmer & Grace Oedekoven).

Barbara started teaching as soon as she completed her Normal Degree and finally completed her BA in 1962. Her first contract was to teach two boys from the same family but in the negotiations, she was able to take an infant son and a 5-year-old daughter to school and the family sent their 5-year-old for kindergarten. She would happily tell you about her first contract which required her to clean the school-house, and the outhouse, provide water, and build a fire in the stove. When the family moved to Sheridan to provide for high school, she began teaching at Story, WY. She would talk about seeing bear tracks in the school yard there. Eventually she started teaching at Coffeen School in Sheridan. She was very pleased when they moved into the new "snowflake" designed building and did not have to climb out the basement window of the old school building to attend recess. Grandchildren would really wonder when she would say that she taught for over 30 years and never got out of the second grade. Until just recently, new staff at her assisted living would introduce themselves to her as one of her students. It was amazing how she could remember and love so many of them. She was the member of several organizations. A few are: The Big Horn Women's Club, P.E.O., Delta Kappa Gamma, and the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

She retired from teaching in 1980 and she and Don started traveling. In their travel trailer they traveled to Alaska, Nova Scotia and the US east coast to Williamsburg, Indiana and Illinois, Texas and of course the beautiful Big Horn Mountains. They even flew to Germany to visit some of the Oedekovens there. They had a boat and spent a lot of time on many local lakes.

Barbara loved her family and loved spending time with them. Thanksgiving became a very special occasion when everyone would gather at her home, and all would bring something to the table. It is very fitting that she was able to see and visit with so many who came to see her over this most recent Thanksgiving holiday.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
The Lord gives grace and glory;
He withholds no good thing from those who walk with integrity.

Psalm 84:11

September 21, 1925 - November 28, 2021

In Loving Memory Of

Barbara Blenn Oedekoven

Safely Home

I am home in Heaven, dear ones;

Oh, so happy and so bright!

There is perfect joy and beauty In this everlasting light.
All the pain and grief is over, every restless tossing passed;

I am now at peace forever, Safely home in Heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly trod the valley of the shade?

Oh! but Jesus' love illumined every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself to meet me In that way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus' arm to lean on, Could I have one doubt or dread?

Then you must not grieve so sorely, For I love you dearly still
Try to look beyond earth's shadows, Pray to trust our Father's Will.

There is work still waiting for you, So you must not idly stand;

Do it now, while life remaineth ÂYou shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed, He will gently call you Home;

Oh, the rapture of that meeting,

Oh, the joy to see you come!

To Those I Love

If I should ever leave you whom I love

To go along the Silent Way,

Grieve not, Nor speak of me with tears,

But laugh and talk

Of me as if I were beside you there.

(I'd come-I'd come, could I but find a way!

But would not tears and grief be barriers?)

And when you hear a song or See a bird I loved,

Please do not let the thought of me be sad...

For I am loving you just as I always have...

You were so good to me!

There are so many things I wanted still

To do so many things to say to you...

Remember that I did not fear

It was just leaving you that was so hard to face...

We cannot see Beyond...But this I know:

I loved you so -

Tw'as heaven here with you!

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 2:00 pm

First Christian Church

OFFICIATING

Pastor Doug Goodwin

MUSIC

Lead Me Gently Home Father

Hymn Of Promise

MUSIC BY ~ Cindy Shipley

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

All Twelve Of Her Grandchildren.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I will not be in need.

He lets me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul;

He guides me in the paths of righteousness

For the sake of His name.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil, for You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.

Certainly goodness and faithfulness will follow me all the days of my life,

And my dwelling will be in the house of the Lord forever.

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