



Barbara Jean Kasper

November 19, 1944 - January 10, 2023

Tiskilwa, IL - Barbara J. Kasper, 78, of Tiskilwa, formerly of Princeton, IL., passed away from Parkinson's-related complications on January 10, 2023, at Heritage Health in Peru, IL., where she's been a resident since July of 2022. Barb had been battling Parkinson's for over fifteen years but maintained an active lifestyle until last July.

Barb was born on November 19, 1944, in the home of her grandparents in Wyanet, IL where her grandmother was a midwife. Her parents were Arthur J. Schaefer and Eleanor "Jeanne" (Anthony) Schaefer of Tiskilwa (both deceased). Barb was a graduate of Tiskilwa High School, Class of 1962, and attended Illinois State University where she majored in Special Education with an Art minor.

She was married three times: first to John Mehaffey in 1964 (children: Scott and Eric Mehaffey), then to the late Anthony "Tony" Wysocki in 1970 (children: Mike and Chad Wysocki), and then to the late Forrest Kasper in 2000 (stepdaughter: Lynette Borman). She had eight grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

In addition to being a homemaker, Barb worked (at various times) for Ade Chemical, Montgomery Ward, Covenant Children's Home, Princeton High School Special Education Department, Sullivan's Foods Delicatessen, and

Discount Auto - owned by her late husband, Forrest. She made many lifelong friendships through these jobs as well as her volunteerism as a Girl Scouts troop leader and Cub Scouts and Webelos den mother, and through her involvement at The First United Methodist Church of Princeton during the 1970s and 80s, with Women's Circle, Handbell Choir, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School.

Always a champion of the underdog, Barb took in many strays (pets and people) and is fondly remembered by the neighborhood kids (many of whom are now grandparents) as a provider of endless supplies of cheese curls, cookies, and Kool-Aid. Their home on Euclid Avenue was always unlocked and often served as the neighborhood hangout and hideout, including kids from the Covenant Home where she worked, or others who were temporarily unwelcome at home.

In addition to babysitting and a mostly-unpaid daycare service, Barb ran a small-scale zoo complete with gerbils, ferrets, cats, and hound dogs - who sometimes got along better than the kids. A creative personality with a quirky sense of humor, Barb played the baritone and the accordion, sang, crocheted, made hand-painted tees and sweatshirts, and tried her hand at pastel and color pencil renderings. A great- great-grandniece of Charles Dickens, Barb traveled to England in 2012 to meet her distant cousins and curated a "Dickens Museum" in her great-grandfather Dickens's writing desk at her home.

Barb is survived by her sons, stepdaughter, their spouses, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, numerous unofficially fostered children, her brother and sister-in-law and niece, several cousins, Forrest's brother and sisters, several step-nieces and step-nephews, and many close friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held this spring, and in accordance with her

wishes, will be "a party or picnic, with no boo-hooing."

Interment of ashes will be at Mount Bloom Cemetery, along with those of her late husband, Forrest, who was waiting patiently in a box by her recliner for the last seven years.

A graveside service will be held with family, close friends, her beloved kitty, Rosie, and grand-doggy, Max.

Memorials may be directed to the Tiskilwa Historical Society, Friends of Strays in Princeton, or the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

Online condolences may be directed to www.norbergfh.com

Arrangements by Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments.

Tribute Wall

SM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Scott Mehaffey - April 08, 2023 at 10:58 AM

SE

“ I had the privilege to work with Barb at PHS in a special needs classroom. She was a very caring person and absolute joy to work with. Time around Barb never boring. Her laugh was a gift and I will always smile when I think of her. My deepest sympathy to the family.

Sue Edlefson - January 29, 2023 at 04:25 PM

RS

“ Barb was one of my favorite schoolmates at Tiskilwa from first grade thru Tiskilwa High School. Barb was also the first date I had during high school. Her mom, Jean was also a friend as I visited her many times when she shared her tropical fish with my tank several times. Barb was much like her mother, Jean...both easy to like and be friends with as were most of my school mates growing up and attending the Tiskilwa Schools during a simple and great time of growing up and attending school. Barb...you were a "jewel" in many ways. Always liked you and your mom & dad. Barbara you will be missed by myself and many. A true blessing to grow up with. Plan to see you in the near future!

Robert Salsman - January 19, 2023 at 11:41 AM

MG

“ *Awesome obituary. I loved working with Barb at Sullivans. Such an interesting person, but I did not know about Charles Dickens! Condolences and hugs to all.*

Mary Galetti - January 19, 2023 at 08:58 AM

BB

“ *Our deepest sympathy to all of Barb's family. She was truly 'one of a kind' and loved by so many. We enjoyed having her as our neighbor across the "gully"! Many wonderful memories will remain forever in our minds and hearts! RIP Barb. ❤️*

Betty & John Brokaw - January 17, 2023 at 04:19 PM

MM

“ *Our sincere sympathy to the families. Barb always had a quick smile, could make you laugh in a heartbeat and was genuinely happy to see you. I always thought she was the "Life" of our reunions and looked forward to seeing her. Sadly, there haven't been reunions lately so we have all lost touch, but John & Carolyn, please know you're in our thoughts and prayers. Cousins, Marilyn Taylor & Marcia Moore, Bloomington, IL*

Marcia Moore - January 16, 2023 at 09:02 AM

RL

“ *I am saddened to hear of Barb's passing. She was a joy to work with at PHS, and her kids loved her. You all have my deepest sympathies.*

Roger Lowe - January 15, 2023 at 11:37 AM

JC

“ We are so sorry to hear of this condolences to all. I remember Barb being such a good and faithful friend to my sister Joyce when few others were not. She was such a beautiful soul.

Jean Cavada - January 14, 2023 at 09:28 PM

JH

“ My heart hurts.
Hurts for you guys as well...please accept me and my family's deepest condolences. She was the greatest mom ever...putting up with all our schnanagins...oh man the way she took me in as one of her own will never be forgotten...I will love her & all of my distant brothers until we meet again. Why, just why, does the lord take the good ones? I lost my 1st real mother 18 yrs ago I'm still hurting from that and my father in law 2 years ago...the pain is real!! now my 2nd mom wow. I'm so sorry guys...I wish I could be there. I will keep you guys & your family's in our prayers. Please.please tell Eric,and Chad I have them in my prayers. I love you guys. If you guys ever need to talk. Please let Eric & Chad know my contact info please.
Jimmy Hill
Azjimbo94@gmail.com
928-965-1921

Jimmy hill - January 14, 2023 at 08:46 AM

JW

Sending condolence wishes to the family.. I first met Barb when she came to my Beauty Shop in Tiskilwa...years ago..probably 70's.. we have been closer friends in the last 20 years. I went to her home to do her hair, then visit..she always welcomed me. She struggled so these last few years. Glad her suffering is over even though she will be missed! Hang on to the memories.. even though u are sad..at least you had her for longer than some..God Bless

Juanita Wright - January 14, 2023 at 09:32 AM

MR

*God Bless you Cuz! May you rest in peace !
Marie Anthony Roth*

Marie Roth - January 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM

CM

“*Mom, I will forever be thankful for the love and compassion you showed me, the countless meals and those unforgettable nights at the Bureau County Speedway. I have so many great memories spending time in your home with the boys (miss you guys) and although your door was always “open”, you did lock me out when you caught me trying to sneak back in at 0 dark 30. That’s was ok though, we actually preferred using the antenna tower to get off the roof 🥺 You are loved and will never be forgotten.*”

Cory McCullough - January 13, 2023 at 07:28 AM

DM

“*Barb had a heart of gold. She was one of a kind and did not judge on anyone. I had the privilege of knowing Barb when we worked together at Sullivan's Deli and we made some good memories and had a lot of laughs. It is so hard to lose such great friends we made in our lives.
To the Sons and grandchildren, you have my deepest sympathy and know you are all in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time in your lives.*”

Denise Morris

Denise Morris - January 12, 2023 at 10:54 PM

RO

“ *Mom, she was always my other Mom. No matter how old I got, she still was so kind and had the biggest hug for me when I saw her. She raised wonderful children with big hearts, but hers was the biggest!*

Robbie - January 12, 2023 at 08:42 PM