



Barbara M. Loring

September 22, 1956 - June 27, 2023

Barbara Marie Cole entered this world on September 22, 1956, in Albany, New York, and left to a better life on June 27, 2023, in Mercy Hospital, Joplin, Missouri. She was surrounded by family and friends and prayers from a myriad of friends at her passing. She was the second daughter of Charles Franklin Cole and Elenore Maree “McCarthy” Cole. Her older sister is Elizabeth Cole of San Diego, California and her younger sister is Catherine Cole of North Fort Myers, Florida.

Barbara lived a happy, healthy and adventuresome life, until it was ended suddenly by illness. She graduated from Penfield Highschool in Penfield, New York in 1974. By this time, both of her parents were already deceased. She then entered the Special Education Program at State University of New York at Geneseo. That was an elite program that was not easy to be accepted into. She attributes her numerous volunteer hours at Sonyae Development Institution working with profound special needs children with getting her into the special education program. She graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Special Education. Through a circuitous story she moved to Ottawa County in 1980, living first in Wyandotte and then in Miami and began working for the Miami Public School system. With her warm, comforting personality she made many life-long friends including a young lawyer, Ben Loring. On June 23, 1984, they married in Miami. She then obtained her Master’s Degree in Special Education from Pittsburg State University.

Ben and Barbara have two sons, David, who lives with his wife Jenni and Barbara's grandson, Elijah ("Eli") in Tulsa, and Ian, who lives with Barbara's granddaughter Ella in Bentonville. These, along with her godson, Ross Wyant are among her greatest joys. "All children, her children, her grandchildren, her students, all of them have always been her first love and I got the scraps," said Ben, "but that was good enough for me as there was always plenty." In 2010, Barbara was chosen as the Miami Public Schools Teacher of the Year, a rather unusual event for a special education teacher. She retired in 2013, but still worked part-time to transition special needs children into the Miami Public School system.

Barbara was loved by everyone that met her. She enjoyed her many beloved friends, traveling, cooking, and eating. She loved her gardens and birds and butterflies and bees. She loved her morning coffee on the patio listening to the birds sing or the evenings just watching the fireflies in the woods. Also, her dogs and cats and, yes, even her goats. Ben said, "She loved to mow on the farm. It was a special occasion when she would allow me to get on her mower!"

Aside from her teaching and home chores, she currently volunteered her time helping children as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer and is a former Board Member of CASA of Northeast Oklahoma. She also volunteered as a panel member for Graduated Sanctions which worked with youth to divert them from a life of problems with law enforcement. When her sons were Cub Scouts, she was the Den Leader. She volunteered with the Gabriel Project that assisted unwed mothers to give their children a better start in life. She is a member of the Miami Pilot Club, and her favorite projects are Brainminder Buddies, a childhood brain protection program used in the schools and Project Lifesaver a project with trackers for special needs children that might wander off. She regularly took her students to the local and statewide Special Olympics. She was a Sooner fan, but only because of who she married. She had never been to a football game in her life until Ben took her to watch Stanford and a kid nobody ever heard of (named John Elway)

whip the Sooners. And she has been cheering ever since.

Again, Barbara was never involved in politics until Ben. While she was always aware of political realities, she especially hated campaigns. However, every time he signed up, she did whatever was needed from painting signs to knocking on doors (that was how it was done back then), and she never complained.

As a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Barbara never considered herself as an expert on the Christian faith, or even the Bible, for that matter. She just lived a Christian life. As one of her long-time friends said standing bedside at her passing said, "I'm going to quit saying, 'What would Jesus do?' and use 'What would Barbara do?'"

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service. The Rosary will be said Friday, June 30, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. at Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service, followed immediately by the visitation until 8:00 P.M. Her funeral Mass is Saturday, July 1, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. If someone is unable to attend the Mass, it will be live streamed on the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Facebook page. The Mass will be followed by a luncheon for the family and that will be followed by a private interment. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to CASA of Northeast Oklahoma. Pallbearers are Russell Earls, John Myers, Eddie Wyant, Shaun Wright, Dustin Wright, Derek Wright, Erik McAffrey, and Mike Lilly.

Previous Events

Rosary

JUN 30. 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service
122 South Main
Afton, OK 74331
(918) 257-8877
info@brown-winters.com
<http://www.brown-winters.com>

Visitation

JUN 30. 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service
122 South Main
Afton, OK 74331
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info@brown-winters.com
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Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
2515 North Main
Miami, OK 74354
sacredheartmiami@cableone.net
<http://www.dioceseoftulsa.org/index.cfm?load=org&org=51>

Tribute Wall



“ *Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Barbara M. Loring*



Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service - June 30, 2023 at 12:38 PM

SR

I'm going to miss her so much 😭

Stephanie Read - July 01, 2023 at 03:01 PM

DH

“ *My condolences to Barbara family. Barbara dated one of my 6 brothers all thru high school and early college years. So she was really a part of our family for some time. I remember her as a sweet, gentle person with a ready smile. She will be missed.*

Debby Harter - August 08, 2023 at 06:33 PM



“ *Please accept our belated condolences for your loss. Our hearts are saddened for you and your family. Know that you are in our prayers. Your friends Alta & Bill Messbarger*



Alta Messbarger - August 01, 2023 at 12:29 PM

JH

“ Joe Halloran purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Barbara M. Loring.



Joe Halloran - July 11, 2023 at 09:22 AM

JH

“ Joe Halloran planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara M. Loring.

Joe Halloran - July 11, 2023 at 09:22 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara M. Loring.



July 11, 2023 at 09:22 AM

JH

“ Prayers to you, Ben, and your family.

Joe Halloran



Joe Halloran - July 10, 2023 at 04:39 PM

LS

“ *Lindsey Shoemaker lit a candle in memory of Barbara M. Loring*



Lindsey Shoemaker - July 02, 2023 at 07:41 AM

DW

“ *Denise Whitson lit a candle in memory of Barbara M. Loring*



Denise Whitson - July 02, 2023 at 12:44 AM

AS

“ *Barbara was a beautiful soul, a soul that will be missed by all. Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. Love, Alan*

Alan Dale Shepherd - July 01, 2023 at 11:20 AM

RO

“ *Russell O. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara M. Loring.*

Russell O. - June 30, 2023 at 03:03 PM

RG

“ My wife and I are so grateful to Barbara. She was our special needs daughter Courtney's teacher. She was so amazing!!! She was so helpful when my wife was in the hospital. She found it very funny when I tried to wish her a Merry Christmas with a card but accidentally gave her a Hannukkah Card by mistake. Also remember the time she got Courtney to surprise another Special Olympian with a frog.

RUSSELL GRISSOM - June 30, 2023 at 02:50 PM

JC

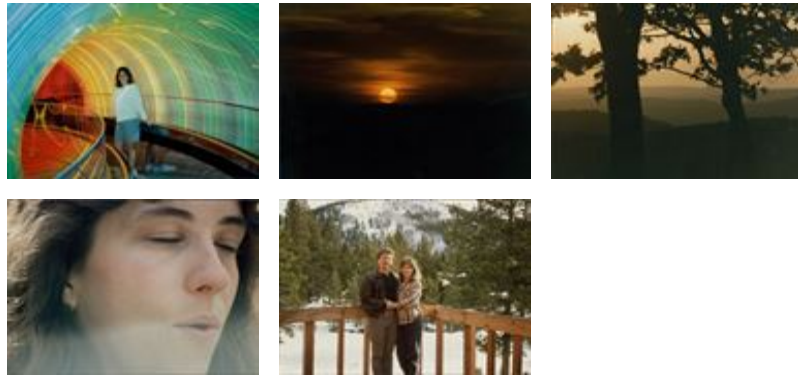
“ Jamie Cantwell lit a candle in memory of Barbara M. Loring



Jamie Cantwell - June 30, 2023 at 12:37 PM



“ 81 files added to the album LifeTributes



Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service - June 30, 2023 at 12:19 PM

DH

“ I worked with Barbara for twelve years at Nichols. She was an outstanding Special Needs teacher who went above and beyond for her students. She was an exceptional lady with a big heart! She was sweet, wise, level-headed, hardworking, fun & funny to work with. For lunch she would often eat bananas that were extremely ripe and had turned black, for which I would always harass her and say, "that just wasn't right".

Debbie Hogan - June 30, 2023 at 09:29 AM

AC

“ Barbara had the soul of an angel! She gave so much to so many! We are all better for having known her! Miss you Barbara till we meet again!

Abbie Cherry - June 30, 2023 at 12:59 AM

AC

“ Abbie Cherry lit a candle in memory of Barbara M. Loring



Abbie Cherry - June 30, 2023 at 12:53 AM

KL

“ All I can say is, if you were lucky enough to have known Barbara in any capacity in this life, you have walked with an angel on earth. Fly high, Barbara, and rest in the loving arms of Ellie and your dad, and all who have passed before us. I love you beyond words. Thank you, and I treasure you in my heart, always.

kathy houghton lentine - June 29, 2023 at 10:30 PM

KL

“ Kathleen L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara M. Loring.

Kathleen L. - June 29, 2023 at 10:04 PM

GL

“ George and lynelle purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Barbara M. Loring.



George and lynelle - June 29, 2023 at 09:38 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Barbara M. Loring.



June 29, 2023 at 09:29 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara M. Loring.



June 29, 2023 at 09:17 PM

LL

“ Barbara taught Billy everything he really loved her she will be greatly missed by many especially Those that she really had a impact on

Ladella Lee - June 29, 2023 at 05:45 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara M. Loring.



June 29, 2023 at 05:40 PM



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

June 29, 2023 at 05:40 PM

BO

“ So sorry for your loss. She was a beautiful soul! I didn't know her as well as most, I met her through my work at Sherwin Williams. She was always so kind & interesting to talk to. May God's peace & comfort be with you during this difficult time.

Becca Osburn - June 29, 2023 at 01:13 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Barbara M. Loring.*



June 29, 2023 at 10:41 AM



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

June 29, 2023 at 10:41 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Barbara M. Loring.*



June 29, 2023 at 10:16 AM



“ *I will always remember you Barbra Loring you where so special to my kids you helped them all the way through school and you where a very special person to my daughter destiney she loves bed you so much nothing will ever be the same without you I will always keep your phone number in my phone under your name*



Lisa bennett - June 29, 2023 at 01:32 AM

LB

I did not mean the word bed I was trying to say destiney and my other children always looked forward to you planning the summer swimming at your house every year we are all so heartbroken I guess God needed a better angel but I wish he wouldn't have chosen you Ben Loring you and your family are in our prayers

Lisa Dawn Bennett - June 29, 2023 at 09:53 AM

DI

Barbara you were one of the nicest people I'd ever met. Fond memories of the DA family. Ben I'm praying for you and the boys. Love you all.

Diane Durborow ❤️

Diane - June 29, 2023 at 01:07 PM

JL

The world has lost a beautiful person. I will never forget Barbara and all her kindness, understanding, and love for the children she taught, my son included.

Jan Lee

Jan Lee - June 29, 2023 at 07:03 PM

TA

Paryers for all Tom Allen

Tom allen - June 29, 2023 at 07:33 PM

CM

With extreme sadness, I am so sorry to hear about Barbara. May God bless and comfort you Ben, the boys and the family.

*Blessings,
Carolyn Hill Marshall and Family*

Carolyn Marshall - July 01, 2023 at 08:47 AM