



Barbara S. Gravenkamp

May 25, 1940 - December 3, 2024

With heavy hearts, we share that Barbara S. (Loder) Gravenkamp, 84, a 61-year resident of Yreka, passed away December 3, 2024, at Fairchild Medical Center in Yreka after a brief illness and hospitalization. Barbara was born May 25, 1940, in Inglewood, CA, to Justin and Bertha Loder, who preceded her in death. She was the eldest of three daughters and is survived by her sisters, Ann Enge of Bakersfield, CA, and Mary Carrillo of Chino Hills, CA.

Barbara spent many childhood summers in Missouri visiting her extended family. She graduated from Downey High School in 1958 and was subsequently employed at North American Aviation where they were building the Apollo Spacecraft that landed on the moon. Barbara married David Gravenkamp in 1961, had their first child while living in Southern California, and Barbara settled into her mother and homemaker stage of life. They moved to Yreka in 1964 and were parents to four children who will miss her very much: Alan Gravenkamp of Lodi, CA; Carol Diekmann (Robert) of Fair Oaks, CA; Andrea Castel (Tony) of Sacramento, CA; and Nancy Weinzheimer (Karl) of Rancho Cordova, CA.

Barbara was a long-term member of the Yreka United Methodist Church, singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School, and assisting with leadership of the high school Methodist Youth Group for several years in the 1970s. She was also a Girl Scout Leader for many years and always took an active role in

the lives and interests of her children. After their divorce in 1979, Barbara began working as a kindergarten teacher's aide at Gold Street School, and later Evergreen School, where she enjoyed interacting with young children and meeting new people, a job she held into the 1990s. She also became a certified Home Health Aide in the 1980s and assisted many elderly and disabled people throughout Siskiyou County during the 1980s and 1990s. Many teenagers found their way to Barbara's house when their own home lives were difficult. She temporarily housed these teens for a few days, or even years. Everyone in the neighborhood called her "Mom G," as she opened her door to everyone.

She enjoyed camping with her children, parents, and extended family. We share many happy memories of playing cards and fixing campfire meals at Gerber Reservoir, Kangaroo Lake, and Indian Mary campgrounds. She was also a trusted pet sitter for many decades, caring for dogs and other animals while their owners were on vacation. She loved animals, especially her own big Saint Bernard dog, Gretel, who was a neighborhood favorite through the 1970s. Barbara obviously loved all people and animals, and she was cherished by so many.

Barbara is survived by her loving sisters and her four children, mentioned above, as well as her grandchildren, Alaina Gravenkamp, Shea Burch (Cody), Lori Diekmann, James Diekmann, Anna Castel, Amy Castel, Max Weinzheimer, Wes Weinzheimer, Jonathon Brown, and Timothy Brown. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Barbara's family would like to extend heart-felt gratitude for the many neighbors, caregivers, and her granddaughter, Shea, who helped her when they were not able to be with her, especially over the past few weeks. At Barbara's request, no services will be held, with a private gathering of family members to be held in the future.

Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Girdner Funeral Chapel - April 27 at 03:34 PM

BG

“ *In memory of a wonderful mother and grandmother. We will love and miss you always.*

Barbara Gravenkamp's children and grandchildren - December 10, 2024 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ *Christina, did uncle Sammy know her*

Teresa Casey la Sala - December 08, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *I have some great memories of spending time with cousin Barbara. We would either spend time at Grandma and Grandpa Loder's house in Council Bluffs or her parents house in Downey California. I was also able to meet her family at her parents 60th wedding anniversary. My deepest thoughts and prayers go out to her family*

John Walsh - December 08, 2024 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ I remember sending and receiving Christmas Cards from Barbara for many years .. I loved seeing the pictures of family she sent .. Rick loved exchanging cards and letters .. sending much love , big hugs and prayers to all the family

*Theresa Loder (wife of Rick Loder Sr)
Rick was also born in 1940 (October 5 th) and Rick and I were also married in 1961 (March 16 th)*

Theresa Loder - December 07, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ I'm so sorry to hear the passing of Barbara. Sending my deepest condolences and prayers to the family. 🙏❤️🙏

Cheryl Garrigan Kapler - December 07, 2024 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ Sad news. She was always such a sweet friendly person to me.

Earlene Gibson - December 07, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ I am so sorry for all of her family. I remember when they moved in next door to us on Oak Street. Loved their player piano and watched as each new girl was brought home from the hospital. Barbara also played the organ at our Wedding in 1972! Such a nice lady!! Very fond memories of our neighbors! 🗄️❤️❤️🗄️🗄️

Charlene Barry Jones - December 07, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ I didn't know Barbara, but I know that she raised some wonderful kids. I'm so very sorry for your loss.

Amy Lorentz - December 07, 2024 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ I was one of the many strays that Miss Barbara took in over the years and stayed in touch with her as best I could. She gave me love and advice when I was at my worst and needed it most. I will miss our friendship and conversations, my heart felt condolences to the family. Rest in peace Miss Barbara

Michael Brogan - December 07, 2024 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ What I will always remember about Aunt Barb, is the time we all went to her parents' house in 1974. That was probably the first time I met any of my California family. She was so fun, and loving, and I immediately knew I was her favorite. She raised an amazing group of cousins into the loving people they've become today. I am forever grateful for the influence she had on her children and the pride she felt in raising such kindhearted, compassionate adults.
I love you, Aunt Barb

Love "Kimmy" ❤️

Kim Gravenkamp - December 07, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ ❤️ Huge hugs to the family. I was so lucky to be part of the Girl Scout experience with her. Meeting day was always a great day. A lot of great memories.

Cathie Buker Sabados - December 07, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Barbara was such a good friend to my family and an important person in my life as a teenager. She will always be remembered for her kindness.

Carol Sewell - December 07, 2024 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ *A tree of remembrance in memory of Barbara Gravenkamp. Loved by all who knew her.*

Karen Gravenkamp - December 07, 2024 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ *We have lost a great one. RIP*

Randal Jones - December 07, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *What a wonderful lady. A gift to those who knew her*

Carol Hockaday Forneris - December 06, 2024 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ *What a wonderful sweet lady! Sorry for your loss. So many good memories of her and girl scouts.*

Tish McCollom - December 06, 2024 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ *You were loved by so many Mrs Gravenkamp. Thoughts and prayers to your family & many friends*

Laura Healy - December 06, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel*

A Memorial Tree was planted for Barbara Sue Gravenkamp - December 06, 2024 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ I have so many great memories from Girl Scouts with Mrs Gravenkamp. My heartfelt condolences to her beloved family.

Karen Healy Eller - December 06, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ So sorry to hear this, she is a nice lady ❤️🙏❤️

Janine Ling Kimball - December 06, 2024 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ So very sorry for your loss. 🙏🙏

Kristen Naylor - December 06, 2024 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ Such a sweet and wonderful lady! My heartfelt condolences to her family.

Lisa Fowler Robustellini - December 06, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Oh one of my favorites 💔😭 sending my sincere condolences to the family 🙏

Corey Middleton - December 06, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Our love and prayers are with the Gravenkamp family. So sorry for your loss.

Jonetta McClure Crovelle - December 06, 2024 at 12:00 AM



“ *Prayers and condolences to her family! A special lady!*

Liz Hockaday - December 06, 2024 at 12:00 AM