



Barbara Ann (Stansfield) Sweeney

May 9, 1930 - July 29, 2021

Barbara Ann Sweeney (Stansfield), age 91, of Lawrence, MA passed away on July 29, 2021. Her daughters and son were with her. She was a devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. A hard and dedicated worker, she would only miss work if she was extremely ill. Often working two jobs to provide for her family as a single mother most of her adult life. She never owned a car and would walk back and forth to work five days a week, often working Saturdays and nights for extra income.

Born to Elizabeth (Nagle) and Ernest Stansfield, Barbara grew up in a cold water flat on Woodland Street in Lawrence. Her father called her Peaches and she enjoyed working with him in the garden. She was a graduate of Lawrence High School and did well in math, accounting and science studies. She wished to go to nursing school but her family could not afford the tuition.

She immediately went to work full-time to help support the family household. Beginning a long career of working in downtown Lawrence at stores such as AB Sutherland, Gentry's and Fanny Farmers Candy Store.

She married her high-school sweet heart and true love James Welsh in 1948. Together they had two daughters Janice (Cerullo) and Cynthia (Sirois). Barbara's world dramatically changed when her husband died of cancer in 1952 at age 22, leaving her to singlehandedly raise two young daughters, ages 2 and 1. A decade later she married Robert Sweeney who she lost when he was killed by an intoxicated driver in 1975. Despite many personal hardships, Barbara carried on and provided for her family.

She was an avid reader and loved to read detective novels, watch mysteries and she read a newspaper everyday. She perfected the art of the nap and always slept soundly. She made excellent banana nut bread. She loved to have a cup of tea in the morning and at night, often accompanied by pastry or bread that would be topped with an amazing amount of butter. She sang in the choir at the United Methodist Church for many years. She took great pleasure in seeing her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She beat

Covid in the early spring of 2020.

She is predeceased by her sister Dorothy Savoie and brothers Ernest, John and William Stansfield, her son Philip Wrigley and her son-in-law John Sirois. She is survived by her daughters Janice, her husband Joseph Cerullo, and Cynthia Sirois, her son Michael R. Sweeney and his wife Laura, grandchildren Gwen, her mother Pamela, and Stanley Sweeney, Jay Cerullo, his wife Heidi, and Eric Cerullo and his wife Carla. Great grandchildren Kaylee, Jake, Olivia and Sophia. In lieu of flowers, the family has set up a scholarship fund to provide opportunities to young women from Lawrence to pursue their dreams of a medical career. Barbara's dream of being a nurse, while deferred, will be realized by other young women helped by her memory. Donations can be made to the Barbara Sweeney Scholarship Fund, PO Box 1184, Andover, MA 01810. In the alternative donations can also be made to MI Nursing Restorative Center, 172 Lawrence Street, Lawrence, MA 01841-3849.

Services will be private and arrangements are under the direction of the John Breen Memorial Funeral Home, Inc., 122 Amesbury Street, Lawrence, MA. For online condolences and other information please visit us at <http://www.breenfuneralhome.com>.

Comments



“ Auntie Barbie you were the perfect carat with an ideal cut, a brilliant color and flawless clarity! Peace and love from your niece Cathy.



Catherine Savoie - August 03, 2021 at 10:38 AM



“ Janice, You and your family are in our thoughts at this difficult time. We hope you will take comfort in all your happy memories of your mother.
Mike & Kathy Deloge

Kathy Deloge - August 03, 2021 at 09:48 AM



“ Janice, Cynthia, Michael and Family

Very Sorry for your loss.

Your Mother was a beautiful, compassionate, caring woman. She always had a smile on her face.

Last time I saw her was at Dr. Tom Torrisi's office and it was before Christmas a few years ago. She was with Janice and I told her, "seeing and hugging her was the best Christmas present ever for me.

You all are Blessed to call her "Mom".

Love and Prayers to All

Mary Lou Nichols

Mary Lou Nichols - August 02, 2021 at 11:46 AM



“ A resilient, independent, strong, loving and charismatic woman that I was blessed to have as a beloved Aunt. She would lite up the room wth her laughter and was always full of life! I love you Auntie Barbara. Please give my Dad a hug for me in heaven.

Karen Olsen - August 02, 2021 at 07:50 AM



“ I'll miss Barbara very much. She was like a mom to me. A sweeter heart I will never know. To Janice, Cindy, Michael, Jay, Eric and the rest I wish you fond and happy memories as this wonderful woman watches over you all now.

Love,
Pamela Sheehan

Pamela Sheehan - August 01, 2021 at 09:46 PM



“ Janice, Cindy, Michael and all the family. I'm going to miss your mother so very much! She was "Ma" to me - like a second mother. Too many fond memories to mention, but all will remain in my heart forever.

Love,
Pamela Sheehan

Pamela Sheehan - August 01, 2021 at 03:13 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann (Stansfield) Sweeney.



August 01, 2021 at 02:53 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann (Stansfield) Sweeney.



August 01, 2021 at 02:44 PM



“ Janice, We are so sorry to hear of the passing of your Mom. Our condolences go out to you, Jay & Eric. Jay was like a son to us. Your mom will be in our prayers. Bob & Kathy Giurado

Bob Giurado - August 01, 2021 at 09:30 AM



“ We knew Barbara from our days at United Methodist Church. She always greeted us warmly whether it be at Sunday service, church fairs or other activities we all participated in. She was caring, always inquiring about the family & she always said something that would make you laugh & brighten your day. Barbara will be missed by all who knew her.

Linda & John Medwid



Linda Medwid - August 01, 2021 at 08:42 AM