



Barbara J. Dickman

January 6, 1934 - April 16, 2014

Barbara J. Dickman, age 80, died April 16, 2014 at Oak Crest of Holland.

Barb was born January 6, 1934 to Dirk (Doc) and Lillian Bloemendaal in Zeeland, MI where she lived most of her life. She graduated from Zeeland High School, attended Lake Forest College where she was a member of the Alpha Phi sorority and graduated from Northwestern University, Chicago, IL where she earned her BS in Nursing. She worked as a registered nurse at Allegan Hospital and the University of Michigan Hospital. Barb married Lawrence F. Dickman on June 8, 1956. Together Larry and Barb owned and operated the Dickman Insurance Agency from 1960-1990.

Barb was very involved with a number of organizations including the American Legion Auxiliary Gilbert D. Karsten Post #33, PEO Chapter Y, the STOP Colon Cancer Foundation for which she served as a board member, the Michigan Centennial Farm Association, of which she was president for 6 years, the Michigan Tree Farm Association, the Michigan Forestry Association, Oceana County historical societies, Planned Parenthood and the Girl Scouts. Barb had also been chairwoman of the Zeeland Planning Commission and was a lifelong member of Second Reformed Church.

Barb had many interests including current events and local government, history, genealogy, reading, classical music and traveling. She especially

enjoyed spending time at her centennial farm in Mears, MI and entertaining friends there. Barb was proud that the family farm received Tree Farm of the Year and Centennial Farm of the Year awards. But most important to Barb was her family. She took tremendous delight in all of her children's and grandchildren's interests and always challenged them to aspire to greater heights. Barb had a great zest for life and will be missed tremendously.

Barb was preceded in death by her beloved husband Larry in 2000, and siblings Dirk and Bill. Surviving are Barb's three children and four grandchildren: Thomas and Jill Dickman of Reno, NV, Sarah Leybourne of Muskegon, MI and her children Anthony and Nicholas, and David and Sherri Dickman of Zeeland, and their children Jennifer and Ross; siblings Betty and John Walters of Rockford, MI, John and Jean Bloemendaal of Maine, and Mary and Bud Ferguson of Holland, MI; sisters-in-law Kari Bloemendaal and Audrey Bloemendaal, both of Holland, sister-in-law Mary Lirones of Saline, MI and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A memorial celebration of Barb's life will be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, April 19 at Second Reformed Church. Visitation will immediately precede the celebration from 12:30-2:00 and the family will also greet friends for a time of fellowship and refreshments afterwards. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Larry and Barbara Dickman Fund at the Holland/Zeeland Community Foundation. Cremation has taken place. The family would like to sincerely thank the wonderful staff at Oak Crest for the loving care they provided.

Tribute Wall



“ *Barbara J. Dickman*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *So sorry to hear the news. I have warm memories of family gatherings and feasts in Zeeland and at the farm. Barbara was always a large part of her many activities, as the listing of her accomplishments and leadership shows. It is the passing of an era.*

Margaret Lirones - CA - Niece - May 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sorry to hear of your Mom's passing Sarah. Sound's like she lead a very active and rich life as a Student, Mother, Grandmother, RN, Girl Scout leader, and ran the insurance business with your Dad. Sounds like she also had many wonderful friends and the people at Hospice took great care of her. My Husband Larry took his Therapy Dog Dusty a Golden Retriever there (until he passed away in 2009) to visit with the patients there. They loved to go there! Hoping in this difficult time you will feel God's presence around you. Karen Barkel-Rynbrandt*

Karen Barkel-Rynbrandt - Zeeland, MI - school classmate of Sarah - April 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *As a member of the Northwestern University family of alumni, my heartfelt condolences to you for the passing of your loved one, Barbara Dickman. May God prove to be a refuge and strength for you as spoken of at Psalm 46:1, during this time of sadness and sorrow, and give you the peace to endure this difficult time.*

P.J.Gaddis - Chicago, IL - Northwestern Univ Alum - April 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

(P)

“ I surely remember Barbara! And Tom and Sarah and David. I always found Larry a great conversationalist and provocateur. And Barb was into the classics, and service. In recent years I got to know and appreciate Bill, her brother. I have continued an association with Audrey, Bill's wife, at the Warm Friend. I have sent Barb's obituary to my friends in Melbourne, Australia, Kamil (Artemis) Mukhtar, to whom I was introduced through Bill. Sharon and I have visited the Mukhtars often when visiting our daughter Leslie in Melbourne. He has such fine memories of the Bloemendaal family, for taking him in as a Hope student back in the 50s. I brought special greetings to Audrey from them when we returned from there in February of this year.

(Rev.) John Kleinheksel - Holland, MI - former pastor - April 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ As former neighbors of Barb and Larry, we were saddened to hear of her passing. She was always generous and kind to us and we enjoyed living by her. What great role models they both were for us as we were starting our marriage and family. She will be remembered fondly.

Matt and Tami Chalmers - Zeeland, MI - Former neighbors - April 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ Dear Family, Steve and I send our sympathy to your family. We enjoyed being able to spend time in Michigan with Barbara and Larry. Peace to you all. Love, Nancy and Steve

Nancy and Steve Gorobics - Shelby, MI - April 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Barb had a wonderful zest for life. She will be sadly missed by all.

Sharon Gatto - Gowen, MI - friend - April 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *A wonderful neighbor and a dear friend----the world was a better place because of Barb----she will always have a special place in our hearts*

Rod and Wanda Frens - April 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EI

“ *Barb was a true and precious friend. It is an honor to have had her count me as family.*

Ernestine Hambrick - Chicago, IL - April 17, 2014 at 12:00 AM