



Barbara Gayle Helms

March 22, 1941 - June 8, 2022

Barbara Gayle Helms was a loving daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. She left this world on June 8, 2022 at the age of 81. Barbara married David Lee Helms shortly after graduating high school on November 29, 1959. Together, they had three children: Valerie, Michelle, and Mark. After the passing of David in November of 1990, Barbara married Arthur James Helms on July 11, 1992, gaining Gregory, Artina, and Andy as children. Art preceded Barbara in death last year on January 10, 2021.

Barbara was born on March 22, 1941 to Chester Emery and Cora Fern Quesenberry in Winnipeg, Missouri. She grew up in Dixon, MO and was the eldest of seven siblings. She attended Dixon High School where she graduated as valedictorian in 1959. After graduation, Barbara and Dave moved to Lamar, Colorado for Dave's collegiate pursuits. They welcomed their first child, Valerie, in 1960 and later settled in Southern California, where Michelle and Mark were born.

Working in the education field ran in her family. Her father retired as the superintendent of schools in Dixon, MO. Barbara made a career working in the administrative end for public schools, where she was a purchasing agent for LA County School District and subsequently a purchasing manager for Azusa Unified School District. She retired from this career when she decided

to relocate to Crocker, Missouri in order to marry Art. Although retired, she remained busy driving school buses for Art's business, working for the local tax office, and being a member of the choir at First Baptist Church of Crocker.

As a young woman, Barbara enjoyed singing, sewing, reading, boating, waterskiing or even just floating on the lake while reading her book. She, Dave and the kids spent many family outings along the Colorado River. Later in life, she was most at peace sitting in the front room with Art, enjoying the sights and sounds of the local wildlife while they sipped their morning coffee. She especially enjoyed the birds and foxes, even naming a few of them. Counting the number of bird feeders they purchased over the years would be next to impossible! Being involved with her extended family and having their kids, grandkids and great-grandkids over filled her heart with joy. Most meaningful to Barbara was her relationship with Christ. She accepted Him as her Savior in her early years and grew even closer to Him as she aged.

Barbara is survived by her children and their spouses: Valerie Allevi of Mission Viejo, CA; Michelle and Michael Gaddie of Lake Forest, CA; Mark and Toni Helms of Liberty Lake, WA; Greg and Terri Helms of Hot Springs, AR; Artina and David Vincent of Pell City, AL; and Andy and Deatte Helms of Crocker, MO. She is also mourned by her six siblings and their spouses: Karen and Claude Massie of Pomme de Terre, MO; Roger Quesenberry of Kansas City, MO; Rhonda and Roger Langendoerfer of Washington, MO; Jim and Carrie Quesenberry of Springfield, MO; Chuck and Becky Quesenberry of Lake Lotawana, MO; and Jan and Robert Caskey of Ozark, MO. Over the years alongside both David and Art, Barbara grew to know, love, and inspire 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Barbara was preceded in death by her two husbands, David Helms and Art Helms; her parents, Chester and Fern Quesenberry; and her grandson, Zachary David Lee Helms.

Barbara was a very loving, kind, caring and generous person. She was always willing to lend a helpful hand whenever and wherever necessary. She loved celebrating birthdays and holidays with family, preparing her famous brisket for dinner, and biscuits and gravy for breakfast. Barbara was surrounded by loved ones at her home as she joined our Creator. She was deeply loved and will be profoundly missed by those who love her.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, June 25 2022 at First Baptist Church in Crocker, Missouri. Visitation will begin at 11:00AM with services following at noon. Interment will follow directly afterwards at Antioch Cemetery, also in Crocker.

Cemetery Details

Antioch Cemetery

Crocker, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church - Crocker
Crocker, MO

Service

JUN **25**. 12:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church - Crocker
Crocker, MO

Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Barbara Gayle Helms*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - June 29, 2022 at 03:11 PM



“ *Barbara Gayle Helms*

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *I had the coolest big sister in the world. Growing up though, Barb seemed more like an aunt as they lived in California and we were in Missouri so we saw each other two or three times a year.*

Barb was caring and loving, she was sincere and honest. She was an awesome cook and a great listener. Oh and could she sing, I loved to hear her sing. Once she married Art and moved back to Missouri, we spent a lot of time together. She loved to play games, but don't think for a minute that she was just playing a game, she wanted to win. She was fiercely competitive and settled for nothing but the very best, as long as she did her best, it was ok.

We had sisters' weekend and they were so fun, Just the four of us, we would laugh, maybe shed a tear or two, but all that mattered was that we were together. And then we would have the family Thanksgiving and the seven of us would be together. The seven of us were together for sure twice a year and that was so special. Barb had a special bond with each one of us and that was very special. We had the most awesome big sister in the world.

And now, now I am almost jealous. She is in heaven, her final reward for a life well lived. But it was not how she lived her life, it was her personal relationship with Christ that got her to heaven. I am certain she heard well done thy good and faithful servant and I am certain she was met by those who have gone before. And now, she is singing in the best choir ever.

I am going to miss her but I am so glad she is in heaven and no longer in pain. We all have big shoes to fill but I hope that when she looks down at us, she will smile. And when it is time for me to pass on from this life to the next, I know that she will be there waiting to welcome me home.

I love you Barb and until we meet again may we make you proud.

Jan Quesenberry Caskey - July 02, 2022 at 08:25 PM

TS

“ I met Mrs. Helms as a child hanging out with Valerie, Michelle and Mark. Friday nights was a ritual at the Helms house in the den watching the Brady Bunch followed by the Partridge Family. She introduced me to flour tortillas rolled with heated butter. She was always welcoming whenever I came over. I believe the last time I seen her was at my wedding. I feel fortunate that she left a footprint in my childhood and young adult life. She will always be Mrs. Helms to me, even as an adult I couldn't bring myself to call her Barbara. I felt I would be disrespecting her somehow.
My heartfelt sympathy to her family. Praying that God's love enfolds and comforts you. She was a beautiful woman with a kind and gentle soul and a laugh that would put a smile on your face.

With love,

Toni Silva

Toni Silva - June 22, 2022 at 12:17 AM

LD

“ Such a beautiful commentary on a beautiful woman. As a cousin who lived far away, I always knew of Barbara but only came to know her in the past 20 years. Even so, I'll miss her kind spirit and her infectious laugh that I could almost hear as I read the obituary. Until later, Barbara!!

Linda Daniel - June 21, 2022 at 07:27 PM

PG

“ Pulaski County Camp Gideons lit a candle in memory of Barbara Gayle Helms



Pulaski County Camp Gideons - June 21, 2022 at 11:58 AM