



Barbara Ann Olsen

April 6, 1959 - June 24, 2023

Once upon a time, there was a curious spirit who chose to enter this world on April 6, in the year of our Lord 1959. She chose the home of William Graham and Susan Elizabeth (Whiteside) Robertson in Santa Clara, California, for her childhood and took on the name of Barbara Ann, because that's what those parents wanted to name her.

She had some sisters, which was good. She had to learn how to share and how to get along with others, and a household of girls is the best classroom. It was when she went to work at a magical place called "Hewlett Packard" that she met a couple other women who introduced her to a handsome prince. Okay, he wasn't a prince, but he was a sailor, and that's pretty close. She knew what heavenly love was like but wanted to experience earthly love. So, Barbara married that fellow, Gregory Neil Olsen, on June 21, 1981, because she heard it sung that when you marry in June, you're a bride all your life.

But as a sailor's wife? Why, a sailor's wife is a queen. And a sailor's queen is that special woman who decides in her heart and mind to marry a sailor and hold his hands through smooth seas and rough weather.

Barbara wanted to know what sacrificial love was like, so she became a mother. First came the Boy – they named him Zachary. Then came the Girl, whom they named Kirsten Leigh. What an experience it was, to be

responsible for two more lives. But she still wanted to know more.

Through the years, she loved friends, family, church family and co-workers. She loved her husband and she loved her children (even when it was hard to do so). But none could compare to the love she experienced next: of her grandchildren. Landyn was first, and for a long time the only. Then came Larec, then Quinten, then Finley, and, lastly, Kinleigh. These grandchildren were the lights of her life and the jewels in her crown.

It was surrounded by books, friends, and family that the curious spirit left this plane of existence on Saturday, June 24, 2023, having learned what she came to learn and loving those she came to love. With the final words, "I love you, too," she bid farewell and was welcomed beyond the veil, into the arms of her beloved Jesus and there she shall live happily ever after.

She was preceded there by her dad, William, and her husband, Greg. Waving goodbye are her mother, Susan Robertson, her kids Zachary (wife Kelsey) of Springfield, MO, and Kirsten (husband Stephen) of Eldon, MO, her sisters Janice DiBenedetto of Santa Clara, CA, Terri Britton of Carmel, CA, and Katherine Chok of Morgan Hill, CA, and her beloved grandchildren Landyn Graham, Larec Olsen, Quinten Austin, Finley Olsen, and Kinleigh Austin.

Now, friends, family, and church family, if you happen to find a groundhog digging around your garden, watch to see if it stops, looks your way, and winks at you. It just might be a curious spirit saying hello.

The End

Tribute Wall



“ Pulaski Camp Gideons lit a candle in memory of Barbara Olsen



Pulaski County Camp Gideons - July 15, 2023 at 06:47 PM



“ Sallee Bonham lit a candle in memory of Barbara Olsen



Sallee Bonham - July 13, 2023 at 04:06 PM



“ HeathandLorrie Haden lit a candle in memory of Barbara Olsen



HeathandLorrie Haden - July 12, 2023 at 02:00 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



HeathandLorrie Haden - July 12, 2023 at 02:00 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



HeathandLorrie Haden - July 12, 2023 at 01:59 PM



“ The family of Barb Olsen is setting up a memorial -You may send to Zack and Kelsey Olsen 933 E Caravan Springfield, mo. 65803. Thank you. Be Blessed.

HeathandLorrie Haden - July 12, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ We are sad for the loss of Barb and send our condolences to her beloved family! I enjoyed working with Barb for the Pulaski Fine Arts Association presentation of the "Wizard of Oz". Many of you will remember that. As I recall, Barb was in charge of costumes and wow there were many costumes. We moved from Waynesville in 2004 but I saw Barb a few times at district and state church events. The last time she was wearing a turbin because she had thinning hair from cancer treatments. She was joyous and hopeful and that's how I will remember her. Cynthia & Dave Bolinger, Warsaw, MO

Cynthia Bolinger - July 12, 2023 at 09:40 AM

CB

“ We are so sad to hear of our loss of Barb. I enjoyed working with her on theatrical performances of PFAA and at Warsaw United Methodist Church. Our condolences to her lovely family. Barb is no doubt holding Greg's hand and smiling down on all of us. We miss you, Barb!! Cynthia & Dave Bolinger formerly of Warsaw, now living near Warsaw, MO

Cynthia Bolinger - July 12, 2023 at 09:27 AM