



Barbara Jean Brabant

July 1, 1954 - February 21, 2026

The beautiful Barbara Jean Brabant, age 71, passed away on February 21, 2026 from Alzheimer's disease. She was loved and adored by her family. She was born on July 1, 1954 in Florence, Alabama to Harrison and Jean Cassel. The family moved to Wyandotte, MI and this is where Barbara was raised. She was a gifted ballet dancer and went to ballet school in Washington, DC. Then she attended college at Michigan State University and received her nursing degree from Grace Hospital School of Nursing in Detroit.

On September 30, 1978, Barbara married William Brabant at the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica. The couple made their home in Royal Oak and ultimately moved to Troy, where they have resided for over thirty years. For 48 years, Barbara and William loved going on many walks together, always holding each other's hands.

She is the loving mother of Bill Brabant, Laura Brabant and John "Jack" (April) Brabant. Proud grandmother of Forest, Vivian, Jude, Marigold, A.J. and Rhys. Dear sister of Larry Cassel, the late Dean Cassel, David Cassel, and Glenn Cassel. She was a sweet, gentle, and kind aunt and friend to all.

Barbara was a beloved and respected ballet teacher and examiner teaching the Cecchetti method to all ages, including teachers. Dancing ballet was her passion and brought her so much joy. She was an avid reader and loved to

bake. Her greatest joy was being a mother and she was a devout Catholic. She will be remembered as a warm, caring woman with a tender heart. Her presence was always calming and she moved with grace.

Visitation Wednesday, 3-8 pm, with a rosary and sharing of memories service at 6 pm at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd. (4 blocks E. of Woodward), Royal Oak. Funeral Thursday, in-state 9:30 am until time of Mass at 10 am at National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, Royal Oak. Interment will follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Cemetery Details

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

25800 W. 10 Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48033

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **25**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Rosary and Sharing of Memories Service

FEB **25**. 6:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

In State at Church

FEB **26**. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica
2100 12 Mile Rd
Royal Oak, MI 48073-3910
(248) 541-4122

Funeral Mass

FEB **26**. 10:00 AM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica
2100 W. 12 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Tribute Wall



“ *Barb was a classmate n grade school (Wyandotte). She was always a quiet but friendly person, smart, talented, and just someone you liked without question. I recall she and another classmate were quite close. barb referred to her as "Bethy" (Beth Busch). My condolences to her family. Wishing the Lord's peace and comfort to them.*

Carolynn Björkman - March 20 at 06:05 PM

LB

Awe thank you for sharing about my Mom Carolynn. I remember she would talk about Beth Busch and their close friendship growing up. Sending love~

Laura Brabant - March 26 at 02:20 AM

DT

“ *How sad that such a lovely person has passed. She brought happiness and joy to so many!*

Dr. Kathleen Tenniswood - February 27 at 09:50 PM

“ I met Barbara September of 2022 two weeks before I went to the Philippines to visit my family. The first time I met her I said she's a very nice lady with slight strong personality. I give her a shower once a week and her husband Bill use to pick me up from my other Job and take me to their house to give her a shower. I'm always looking forward to see her every week and when I left to visit my country and came back I told her I got married and she was shock and told me she was happy for me and so on and so fort. Barbara and I always say I love you every time I come visit her and before I leave. Barbara and I always give her husband Bill a hard time because I always tell him she is the queen of the house hold and she loves that. When Barbara was start declining, two years ago I started took over her medication pill box to fill it up every week because she can't do it no more and she ask me and her husband if I can do it for her and I told them Id love to without a hesitation. Every time I gave Barbara a shower she's always looking forward to see me because I am her Sunshine of the day thats what she always says and cant wait to tell her how my week was and we can talk for hours and hours. Barbara is like a mom to me cant wait to her I love you and a kiss and a hug and she walk out to the door and wave goodbye for me. One time I brought her a fried chicken from Filipino restaurant with peach cobbler pie and rice and she love it and she made me buy again one time. Last Nov. of 2024 I made some Turkey for her and her husband for thanks giving dinner because she wants to see how I cook Turkey Breast in a Crock pot for Thanks Giving. So I came I showed her how to do it and she said that easy and I said yes. Barb don't like me to say Yea she always tell me its a Yes not Yea and I said ok. She love it when I Curl her hair every shower done and cut her bangs , cut her Finger and Toe nails. I love Barbara so much and even if I am two or Three hours away and she calls me I always come and see if she need help. And every time I am going away like out of state Barbara and Bill call me and make sure I made it to my destination, and if I didnt answer my phone by the time I get to where I went I will be in trouble. I love Barbara so much, I lost my mother a long time ago from Lung Cancer and Losing another one like a mom to me its

devastating, it hurts But I know shes in a good hands up there and this time I know she is happy up there and smiling. No more pain all she have is Peace. Barb I love you so Much and someday I will see you on the other side of life and please when that day will come, Please greet me with your warm loving hug with a kiss on my cheek because thats what I am going to miss from you. Always remember you will be in my heart all the time I love you till next time.

Cathy Hardwoodward - February 25 at 02:56 PM

LB

Dear Cathy~ Thank you for making my Mom feel so fresh, clean, & good! That was important to her. When I helped you I saw your attention to detail & we appreciate that. I love the turkey story because she always made a fabulous Thanksgiving dinner for us, even if we were going someplace else for Thanksgiving. Thank you for treating her like the Queen she is. + Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above +

Laura Brabant - February 28 at 07:50 AM

CH

“ *Cathy Hardwoodward purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Barbara Jean Brabant.*



Cathy Hardwoodward - February 25 at 02:00 PM

JC

“ *Joe, Jenna, Gianna & Audrey Cairo purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Barbara Jean Brabant.*



Joe, Jenna, Gianna & Audrey Cairo - February 25 at 01:09 PM

BL

“ *The Family of Barbara*
I have such lovely memories with Barbara working on Cecchetti Council of America. Ballet events for many years. She was aa elegant lady, wonderful ballet teacher and a beautiful person inside and out. She is surely missed.
Bethany Lenhart CCA

Bethany Lenhart - February 25 at 12:11 PM

LB

Bethany- I remember my Mom talking about you. Thank you for sharing your kind words. I loved dancing ballet with her.

Laura Brabant - March 26 at 02:23 AM

CZ

“ *I remember sharing many study halls with Barb and Patty McGuire at Michigan State University. They made my transfer from community college to university seamless. Barb was always there with a kind word and a smile. Cyndy Zuzga*

Cyndy Zuzga - February 25 at 12:05 PM

WS

“ *With love from Tony & Kim Spaniola purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Barbara Jean Brabant.*



With love from Tony & Kim Spaniola - February 24 at 11:47 PM

PC

“ Prudy Cassel purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Barbara Jean Brabant.



Prudy Cassel - February 24 at 10:00 PM

AW

“ *"Ms. Barbara" was precious and kind, and my favorite ballet teacher! She taught me from age 10 to age 18. Always soft spoken and encouraging. Thanks to her, I had scholarships to dance in college as well! My favorite memory is when she hired me to help teach a class in a different city...a high honor! She picked me up from class and I enjoyed our chats on the way to the 2nd studio. She is missed!*

Anne Walters - February 24 at 09:38 PM

LB

I absolutely loved our drives to Dance World together. Thanks for sharing. Laura Brabant

Laura Brabant - February 25 at 01:30 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Brabant.*



February 24 at 06:47 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Barbara Jean Brabant.

February 24 at 06:47 PM



“ From everyone at J.H. Bennett purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Barbara Jean Brabant.



From everyone at J.H. Bennett - February 24 at 12:30 PM



“ Jan, Angela and Richard purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Barbara Jean Brabant.



Jan, Angela and Richard - February 24 at 11:17 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Brabant.



February 24 at 11:15 AM

CC

“ *Connie Cassel purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Barbara Jean Brabant.*



Connie Cassel - February 24 at 09:30 AM

CC

“ *Connie Cassel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Brabant.*

Connie Cassel - February 24 at 09:30 AM

CG

“ *May perpetual light shine upon you aunt barb and prayers of comfort and love for the Brabant family.*

-charlie

Charlie Goode - February 24 at 09:22 AM

LB

Thank you Charlie. Love her so much 🙏✨💕

Laura Brabant - February 25 at 01:34 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Brabant.*



February 23 at 08:32 PM