



Barbara Jeanene O'Rourke

January 11, 1935 - February 1, 2024

Barbara O'Rourke, beloved wife, mother & grandmother, passed away on February 1, 2024 at the age of 89. Born on January 11, 1935, she lived a life marked by kindness, generosity, and a deep commitment to family, church and community.

Barbara, loving wife for 66 years of, John "Jack" O'Rourke, with whom she shared a lifetime of love and companionship. Her legacy lives on through her cherished children: Karen (Dan) King, Michele (James) Jessee, David (Amy) O'Rourke, and Kimberly (Doug) Czerniakowski. Barbara leaves behind her loving grandchildren: William (Elizabeth) Rogers, Bradley (Mei-Ling) Thomas, Joshua (Katiebet) Thomas, Megan Cochran, Jesse O'Rourke, Isaac O'Rourke, Zachary Czerniakowski, Cameron Czerniakowski, Samantha Czerniakowski, Miranda Czerniakowski, and nine great-grandchildren. Barbara is survived by her devoted sister, Lora (the late Robert) Jones, whose companionship brought joy to her life, and preceded by her brother Jerry William Green whose memory she now joins in eternal peace.

Barbara's deep faith and commitment to her spiritual community were evident at Metro Church of Christ, where she and Jack were founding members. Her dedication to the church became a cornerstone of her life, reflecting her unwavering belief and the lasting impact she made within the congregation & community. Barbara could often be found teaching Sunday School and

working with the teen youth group, leaving a lasting impact on the hearts and minds of the young lives she touched. She played an integral role in the Associates of Michigan Christian College, (now Rochester University) serving as president for several years; organizing numerous fundraisers, teaching, and being a gracious role model to many. She generously volunteered in the community dedicating her time teaching adults to read and speak English through Macomb Library Outreach. She was also a successful entrepreneur with Park Lane Jewelry. Her commitment and tireless efforts were remarkable and showcased her enjoyment of helping people as well her industrious spirit.

Barbara and her husband, Jack, shared a love for both of their homes in Michigan and Florida, creating cherished memories with family and friends. Barbara possessed a green thumb and an innate ability to identify and nurture various flowers. Her garden served as a living testament to her profound love of life and her earnest desire to bring beauty to the world. It bloomed in every season, mirroring the vibrancy and warmth she shared with those around her. An avid reader and trivia expert, Barbara's love for books was surpassed only by her passion for learning. Her intellectual curiosity and kind heart endeared her to those around her. Barbara also greatly enjoyed playing cards and games. Her sweet demeanor might momentarily shift when engaged in the friendly competition of winning or losing, adding an extra layer of joy to those cherished moments.

The passing of Barbara O'Rourke leaves an irreplaceable void in the hearts of all who were privileged to know her. However, her enduring legacy of love, boundless generosity, and unwavering commitment to church, family & community service will continue to inspire and uplift those fortunate enough to have been touched by her remarkable life. May she rest in eternal peace, surrounded by the timeless beauty she so lovingly cultivated throughout her journey."

The family has requested that any donations be made to Hopeagainsttrafficking.org and micah6community.com.

Cemetery Details

Utica Cemetery

46325 Shelby Road
Utica, MI 48317

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 8. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Service

FEB 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Metro Church of Christ
40100 Dodge Park Rd.
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Burial

FEB 9. 12:30 PM (ET)

Utica Cemetery
46325 Shelby Road
Utica, MI 48317

Tribute Wall

GL

“ Barbara was one of my Mom's and my favorite people. My Mom was Iris Williams and we all went to church seem's like forever. I bet the reunion in heaven was so exciting seeing all her friends that went home before her. What a wonderful woman who's memory will never fade, Gloria Lynne (Williams)

Gloria Lynne - February 14, 2024 at 01:18 PM

GF

“ Our loving thoughts go out to Michelle, James and all the family at this most difficult time. All our love and prayers, Angie, JT, and Joe Gaietto

Gaietto Family - February 08, 2024 at 11:33 PM

CB

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to Michelle and all the family at this most difficult time. All our love and prayers, Aunt Cindy & Uncle Terry

Cindy Broome - February 08, 2024 at 11:13 PM

LP

“ Love, The Paxtons planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jeanene O'Rourke.

Love, The Paxtons - February 06, 2024 at 11:33 PM



“ *Divine Light* was purchased for the family of *Barbara Jeanene O'Rourke*.



February 06, 2024 at 11:33 PM



“ *John & Joann Coleman Family* purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of *Barbara Jeanene O'Rourke*.



John & Joann Coleman Family - February 06, 2024 at 10:31 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket* was purchased for the family of *Barbara Jeanene O'Rourke*.



February 05, 2024 at 04:18 PM



“ *Andy H.* purchased the *Sweet Tenderness* for the family of *Barbara Jeanene O'Rourke*.



Andy H. - February 05, 2024 at 08:43 AM

HP

“ Mrs. O'Rourke was a very kind woman and neighbor. When I was a child, I often was over to play with her youngest daughter, Kimberly. My older brother, Richard and her son, David were best friends. She always had a smile for all of us.

Heather Paxton - February 04, 2024 at 09:17 PM

TM

“ Tom & Karen McIntosh purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Barbara Jeanene O'Rourke.



Tom & Karen McIntosh - February 04, 2024 at 08:34 PM

PL

“ Paul and Loi purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Barbara Jeanene O'Rourke.



Paul and Loi - February 04, 2024 at 08:18 PM

JF

“ Jim O'Rourke Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jeanene O'Rourke.

Jim O'Rourke Family - February 04, 2024 at 04:14 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Jeanene O'Rourke.*



February 04, 2024 at 04:14 PM