



Mrs. Barbara A. Grauf

May 12, 1932 - June 30, 2024

Mrs. Barbara A. Grauf
Saginaw, Michigan

Loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, and friend was called home to her Lord on Sunday, June 30, 2024, from Traditions of Saginaw, Saginaw Twp. Age 92 years. Barbara Mary Ann (Balzer) Grauf was born on May 12, 1932, in Saginaw, to the late Godfrey and Henrietta (Eisenach) Balzer. She was married to Victor O. Grauf on September 12, 1953, and he predeceased her on August 11, 2003. Prior to her retirement, Barb worked for Scheffler's Four Season's Tours for over 5 years, she then worked as the manager of the motorcoach department at Frankenmuth Travel for over 15 years. Barb was an active member and volunteer at Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School, where she helped with the after-school daycare program for years and sang in the Church Choir. Barb was also a member of Mary Martha, King's Daughters, Pioneer and Washington Clubs. The family wishes to express their gratitude to the staff at Traditions of Saginaw (formerly New Hope Valley) for the excellent care given these past four years.

Barb is survived by her four children and their spouses, Gary P. (Cheryl) Grauf, Thomas V. (Dawn) Grauf, John G. Grauf and his fiancée Laurie Schlenke, Victoria A. (William) Reinbolt; eight grandchildren, Richard Grauf, Kelli (Don) Schiebner, Adrienne (Curtis) Coker, Douglas Grauf, Kristi

(Jonathan) Dunham, Kara (Kellen) Patterson, Brietta Reinbolt and Billy Reinbolt; eight great-grandchildren; half-sister Cindy Kingry; step-brother Joe Meininger; step-sister Donna Cassio; In-laws, Bruce (Mary Ann) Grauf.

The Celebration of Barb's Life will be held 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 3, 2024, at Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, 600 Court St., Saginaw, MI. The Rev. William Hessler will officiate with burial in Holy Cross Lutheran Cemetery. Friends are welcome to visit with the family at Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc., 1218 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI, on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, then at the Church on Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be considered to Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School.

Memories and sympathies of Barb may be shared with the family on her memorial website at WakemanFuneralHome.com

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross Lutheran Cemetery

4700 Brockway Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48638

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 2. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc.
1218 N. Michigan Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
(989) 752-8531
wakemanfh@charter.net

Visitation

JUL 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
600 Court St.
Saginaw, MI 48602

Celebration of Life

JUL 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
600 Court St.
Saginaw, MI 48602

Graveside Committal Service

JUL 3. 12:30 PM (ET)

Holy Cross Lutheran Cemetery
4700 Brockway Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48638

Tribute Wall

SA

“ Gary, Tom, John, Vicki and the grandkids,

We are so sad over your Mom's passing. As you probably know our families friendship with the Graufs goes back literally to the womb when Barb was pregnant with Gary and Mom pregnant with me both of us born at St Luke's on October 26, 1954. Gary's Dad and my dad Duane knew each other from grade school even before then.

But any sadness is tempered by the memory of Barb and what a pistol she was! always fun and of good cheer even through some very tough times after Vic passed. When my Dad passed and I was in high school (Gary and I literally went to different high schools together) I was always welcome at what my step dad Sam Carter called "the Grouse House." Not surprisingly Sam and Vic were friends too.

I have so many fond memories including "Callie the Sociable Cat" who would run and hide from me when tried to pet her and your Mom would laugh and laugh. To your mom introducing me to a lifelong affair with gin and tonics.

Sounds like she was spirited to the end continuing to live life to its fullest. I am sure she was the most popular at her last home. We will miss her and her constant cheer.

Sorry this took so long to respond but we were out of state trying to escape the AZ furnace-like weather and just got the news.

"Funny Cott" Alles, Lori and all the Alles family. RIP Barb.

Scott Alles - July 05, 2024 at 06:50 PM

VR

Oh my gosh "Funny Cot" (hmm I wonder where that nick name came from?!?! 😊) what an awesome tribute for/to us & mom!! She absolutely loved all of you-as we all do!! Were any of the Grauf cats really sociable?! Ha!! Thank you for reaching out! Loved it!! And oh yeah mom was popular there-maybe not necessarily in a good way every time, ha!! So glad she still knew us all and could laugh & smile for the most part!
Hopefully we will see you soon!! Maybe you can get that bro of mine to take a vaca-that requires a plane ride!! 😊 Love & hugs to all!!

Victoria Reinbolt - July 06, 2024 at 03:33 PM

FG

“ Dear family of Barbara Grauf, We send our condolences. Barbara welcomed our family when we moved from Battle Creek to Saginaw and became a dear friend of my parents, Don and Betty Geuder. She helped my mother in numerous ways. We thank God for her life, family and friendship. Forever grateful, honored, and blest to know Barbara, Franck Geuder

Franck Geuder - July 04, 2024 at 06:51 PM

VR

Thank you so much for those kind words!! I remember my mom talking about your parents/family. I think I was pretty young-but my brothers would remember more than I do. Love all these memories-they definitely help get us through!! 🤝

Victoria Reinbolt - July 06, 2024 at 03:37 PM

LB

“ Gary, Tom, John, Vicki and all the grandkids and in-laws, I am so saddened by the passing of your mother. She was an amazing woman with a wonderful sense of humor and great kindness to others.



Laura Byers - July 03, 2024 at 08:44 AM

VR

Thank you so much Laura!!! ❤️

Victoria Reinbolt - July 04, 2024 at 09:43 AM

MW

*“ I worked with Barb for many years at Frankenmuth Travel. I enjoyed her sense of humor and funny stories. She was a fantastic tour guide. Sending my condolences to you all.
Marcia Weiss*

Marcia Weiss - July 02, 2024 at 03:41 PM

VR

*Awe thanks so much Marcia!! She thought very highly of you as well!!
And she enjoyed working with you!! ❤️*

Victoria Reinbolt - July 04, 2024 at 09:43 AM

BA

*“ Many fond memories of Barb when I first met her as a neighbor & friend of my sister Jean Hill. Always fun times when with your Mom & Dad. Especially the famous canoe trip on the Ausable river.
Cherish all the great memories. Betty Jo Atkins.*

Betty Jo Atkins - July 02, 2024 at 12:39 PM

VR

Thank you so much for reaching out!! We appreciate your kind words & wonderful memory!! And Mrs Hill is very special to all of us!! Mom (& several of us) got to see her (& Pam) last summer when they came to visit. ❤️

Victoria Reinbolt - July 04, 2024 at 09:47 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara A. Grauf.*



July 02, 2024 at 10:21 AM



“ *Gary, Tom, John and Vicki - My condolences to all the Grauf's. Your mom was such a gift She was like a sister to my mom . My mother had such happy memories of time spent with her. She told me a story about when they were little girls and Martha Inman taught them how to swear on my grandmother molly's front porch. I have such fond memories of growing up to recent years of Barbs spice and sassiness. She always made me laugh with her quick wit. (Photo of barb her aunt molly and cousin Dorthy From 1940) Love to all. Pat Brown*



Patricia Brown - July 01, 2024 at 05:26 PM



Hello lovely cousin!! This is so great!! I remember Aunt Mollys porch AND swing!! Thank you so very much!! I know you of all people know the sadness we're all feeling but the love, support, kindness & memories definitely get us through!! We really will get to FL to toast our moms!! Hugs to you & the fam!! ❤️❤️

Victoria Reinbolt - July 04, 2024 at 09:51 AM

VR

P.S. I have no doubt that Aunt Dorothy was there to greet mom-mom missed her dearly!! I'm happy they can now be together!! 🥺❤️

Victoria Reinbolt - July 04, 2024 at 09:53 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara A. Grauf.



July 01, 2024 at 11:57 AM



“ Tom, Gary, Vicki I am so sorry for your loss of your mother she was a sweet and caring lady



Scott Sayers - July 01, 2024 at 08:33 AM