



## Barbara King Clark

August 26, 1931 - October 3, 2021

Mrs. Barbara Clark, age 90, of Lilburn, Georgia, passed away just before dawn on Sunday, October 3, 2021.

She amazingly, and many times miraculously, continued to live her life fully, joyfully, and with inner determination to be as independent as she could, all while continuing to help her family, neighbors, and friends even though she was physically enduring unimaginable pain from a life-threatening and physically disabling accident a decade ago. Where they said she'd never be able to live independently, drive, and so much more, she took that prognosis with a grain of salt and continued faithfully on. She always loved to be physically active. So, though she found herself needing to transfer from her home at the age of 87 to an assisted living facility in her community at the end of 2018, she continued to "walk" on through any crises that came before her in life not dwelling on them, including but not limited to the COVID pandemic which she again miraculously avoided contracting. Her body, from that accident a decade before with its physical limitations to her stature and lung capacity, offered up an up and down pattern of breathing problems, on-going worsening pain, and worsening swallowing problems which led her path to these final days before taking the hand of her Lord Jesus Christ and her loved ones who had gone before her. Her daughter was able to be with her continuously into the overnight hours holding her hand, hoping to provide her some loving comfort, sharing scripture, playing music, and singing hymns and praises (thank you Pandora and Victory 91.5's MOR music apps), thanking her for a wonderful life, being a great example, telling her "I love you, mama", and so much more precious time with her. Her son-in-law whom she loved and who loved her truly like a son and her granddaughters and grandson-in-law was also able to spend that last day by her side talking with her and hearing those last important things from her and with lots of hugs, kisses, hand holding, talking and laughing, telling stories of fun and memorable times, making sure she knew the Georgia game score, telling her they loved her over and over and listening closely through difficult circumstances of a bi-pap machine to what she had to say to them, relaying just a small bit of the many things they had learned from her and would always hold dear such as her little "love pats" that she was so well known for by gently patting someone on their shoulder or arm, and now giving

her those same gentle “love pats” back, and then agreeing with her of the long awaited reunion with her husband, one daughter, all 4 of her sisters, her loving “mama” and “daddy”, her devoted parents-in-law, many other family members and with so many friends from schools, churches, work, neighborhoods and communities, clubs, social circles, and traveling friends. As she had long ago learned from her parents and the primitive Baptist church near their small town of Blakely, she had by her personal choice of decision chosen to be a follower of Jesus Christ and lived out that decision through words and actions faithfully continuing to have a personal relationship of prayer, reading and learning through Bible Study, pastoral sermons, helping with Billy Graham Crusade in Atlanta, as well as many Senior Fellowship groups through her 50+ years at her family church at Mountain Park First Baptist Church as well as nearby Smoke Rise Baptist Church and with her nearest sister at her past church of Decatur First Baptist Church in Decatur, GA. She was now trusting in the hope of that understanding of eternal life where she would soon no longer be living in constant pain, with no more trials nor tribulations from this world, no more loneliness nor sorrow, no more worries or concerns, no physical bent and brokenness, and be eternally living with her Lord Jesus Christ praising God.

Mrs. Clark was born and raised in the small town of Blakely, GA by her parents, Cornelia and H. Thomas King along with 4 sisters, Lora Dowdney, Alice Long, Sara Stanley, and Tommie Hollis. She graduated from Early County High School and continued her education with a 4 yr. degree in Business at a Business school located in the nearby town of Dothan, AL. Upon graduation, she moved to Atlanta living with her sister and her husband to begin a job with the Department of Revenue advancing in various divisions of the department before becoming the “Refund lady” with the Sales and Use Tax Division for the State of Georgia retiring 35+ years later. She told how she’d take the bus on Fridays to return to her parents’ home in Blakely and how her mom would always have her favorite meal of pork chops and veggies prepared sometime before she’d return to Atlanta for work on Monday. She met her husband, Spurgeon Q. Clark, from the same hometown, dating for years, writing letters back and forth during his deployment with the U.S. Army to Germany and waited til his return on February 7, 1953, to get married on Valentine’s Day at her parents’ home in Blakely. Living and working in Atlanta, GA, they soon began their family a year later in 1954 with the addition of the first of two daughters, Carol Ann Clark, as they both continued to work full-time. Ten years later came their now surviving daughter, Susan Elaine. The family continued to grow in 1983 with the marriage of their daughter, Susan, to Michael Quinley of Lilburn, GA. Being a close-knit family themselves, the Quinley’s welcomed Barbara and her husband into their family with open arms and vice versa. Mrs. Clark is blessed with two granddaughters, Jordan Johnson, and Katie Quinley, one grandson-in-law, Robert W. Johnson, and one great-grandson, Whitaker Clark Johnson, and another grandson to continue her blessing of family due in December

of this year. She and her family have also been so very blessed with the almost life-long close friendship of Mary Butler and her family through these many decades of happiness, trials, travels, family gatherings, vacations, holidays, birthdays, every family milestone, holiday baking days, “girls” trips and walking through life together. Mimi as she is known by most people is mom’s best friend, considered like another sister and adopted into the Clark family. Life would not be the same for any of us without these special friendship ties that are as family to enjoy life to the fullest, making it rich in experiences and heart, yet also to walk along side during the times of sadness we all have endured on this journey called life.

Mrs. Clark is preceded in death by her husband, one daughter, 4 sisters, many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, 2 nieces, and 4 nephews from both sides of her family. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews on her side, such as Diane D. Gilmer, C. Harold Dowdney, Rev. Jerry Long, Rebecca L. Pool, Pat S. Warren, Jeanie S. Hiers, Sandra S. Copeland, Larry Hollis, Sharon H. Wellborn, and Donna H. Martz; as well as many great nieces and nephews. She is also survived by wonderful loving family members through the Clark family such as her sisters-in-law, Bebe Ann Clark, Gracie C. King, and Joan C. Sammons; as well as one brother-in-law, Jack Sammons; and many, many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Her many hobbies outside of church, work, and family life was being an active mother and grandmother to her children and grandchildren’s schools as well as cheerfully attending ALL of their school functions, sporting events, and helping whenever and wherever she could, especially after she retired including asking to help carpool to cheerleading, tennis or softball practices when her daughter was headed in a different direction with one of the daughters and another carload of athletes. She and her husband so willingly would take the cheerleaders or youth group out for pizza after games/church or take her daughter’s friends to dinner and ice cream every year for 13 years of dance recitals in May, though she and her husband were still working a 40 hour week, 23 miles from home, getting up at 5:15 am to leave by 6:30 am to return home at 6:30 or 7 pm at night, both always working together or sharing responsibilities of making full southern meals and still taking care of their own home and yard, yet always found time to enjoy friendships and also help when needed. Teamwork was taught by example without even knowing it in every endeavor whether it was housework, yard work and in every other aspect of life. As she retired, she became the friend who would drive elderly friends to various appointments and/or meeting them for various outings including her favorite dining options at Chick fil A, Matthews Cafeteria, Old Hickory House or really anywhere there was good food though she always stayed a petite lady in a size 6 or 8. She lived a life eating only half of meals which became some of her downfall when she needed to gain weight as she aged. She loved

walking including walking around the mountain with her daughter daily for many years and continued this habit of walking even up to the last months of her life in her assisted living community, Sunrise Senior Living at Five Forks. When she worked on “capitol hill”, she walked around the many blocks of buildings during her lunchtime or break. She was an avid reader in a book club for decades and a member of the antique car club M.A.R.C. with her husband who restored Model A cars as his hobby and they traveled with the club for decades in their Model A's. She, her husband and family loved to travel with friends and family for their one week vacation, weekend trips and holidays in either their hand-built camper by her husband and then later on in a motorhome pulling their boat throughout almost every state in the United States, Niagara Falls (Canada) and even to a small town in Mexico near Kingsville, TX where a sister-and brother-in-law lived. She water-skied during the summers though could never actually swim without wearing a ski belt but never feared water nor drowning! When she retired, she was able to travel with family and friends on active senior adult's tour trips by motor-coach, air travel, train and cruise lines as well as overseas to many countries including Europe, Israel, Mexico, the Panama Canal, and more. One of the things her husband had always wanted to show her was where he was stationed during their courtship. He passed just within a couple of months before that trip was to happen, but his brother and wife who were also going to travel with them just as they had all double dated back in high school and traveled many times with their families together encouraged her to continue to take the trip with them. It was her first trip out of North America and besides her trip to the Holy Land, I think it was one of her favorites. Another one of her favorite hobbies was Bingo. At one point after retirement in her 70's and 80's she was attending 3 different senior citizen Bingo events per week - in Decatur with her sister, and 2 in Tucker with different church friends where she also would meet and make additional friends. So many have passed away or the Bingo groups closed. So, when she moved into her assisted living apartment, she rekindled that enjoyment of the game.

Though flowers would be received appreciatively, Mrs. Clark and her family would love in lieu of flowers donations to be made to her church Mountain Park First Baptist Church, 5485 Five Forks Trickum Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30087 for the furtherance of the gospel and Bible study/teaching within the church and to the community, the children's department where she worked as the children's Sunday School and Vacation Bible School record-keeper for many years, or to the Wellness Center which offers opportunities of fitness and fellowship to its membership, and the community as a wellness, fitness and social outreach to all ages. Donations can also be made in memoriam to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta or <http://www.choa.org> for the research of preventing and curing childhood illnesses, diseases and cancers.

A celebration of life and remembrance for Mrs. Barbara Clark will be held on Friday, October 8, 2021, at 1 pm at Mountain Park First Baptist Church, address listed above, with visitation with family and friends being from 11 am to 1 pm.

Due to COVID-19 regulations, our staff is committed to taking care of our guests and families that we serve. We also ask all guests and family members attending visitations and services to please continue social distancing and if desired to bring and wear a mask.

Condolences may be sent or viewed at <http://www.wagesfuneralhome.com>. Tom M. Wages Funeral Service, A Family Company, 3705 Highway 78 West, Snellville, GA 30039 (770-979-3200) has been entrusted with the arrangements.



# Comments

---



“ Aunt Barbara was a beautiful person inside and out. She walked the talk and her sweet smile was contagious to all who crossed her path. We have fond memories of our Clark reunions every summer in Blakely, GA. I know you, Susan and your family will be lost without her, but I pray you have comfort knowing we will meet her, Uncle Spurgeon and Carol Ann on the other side. Sending much love and prayers your way.

**Jenny McAlister** - October 12 at 10:04 AM

---



“ Ms. Barbara was such a delight to know! She always had a sweet smile and kind words to say each time I saw her. My prayer to you Susan and family is that God will wrap you in HIS loving arms and hold you so close you feel HIS very breath during this sad time.

She will be missed by many!

Love, Tina Hubbard

**Tina Hubbard** - October 08 at 11:10 AM

---



“ So sorry to hear of Barbara's demise. I have wanted to visit her but my illness and the virus kept me away. I will NEVER forget our trip to Alaska as me and Barbara became sick ending up in the Clinic on ship or in bed for couple of days. Thanks to Mimi for nursing us.

Jamie

**Jamie Johnson** - October 07 at 04:44 PM

---



“ Miss Barbara was one of the first people I met when we joined Mountain Park FBC. She always had a smile for everyone, and made all feel welcome. She always asked about my children as they grew up in the church. She blessed all who knew her.

**Linda Houghton** - October 07 at 09:03 AM

---



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Barbara King Clark.



October 07 at 08:58 AM

---



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara King Clark.



October 06 at 02:15 PM

---



“ Susan, what an awesome job putting into words to honor Barbara and the long life she enjoyed. Much of what you shared played like a movie in my mind. The love pats you mentioned were given to me on many occasions. We all say the Clarks are like family but the truth is you are family. So grateful and thankful for this friendship and especially what it has meant to Mimi through the years. God blessed us with sweet Barbara. Prayers for peace and comfort in the days ahead. Certainly a life lived to the fullest.

**Martha Doster** - October 06 at 02:03 PM