



Barbara Queener Durden

March 7, 1933 - October 4, 2022

Barbara Durden, born March 7, 1933, passed away quietly on October 4, 2022, at her home in Tallahassee, Florida. She was surrounded by her family and her hospice nurses and passed away quietly in her sleep.

She is survived by her husband, Dawson, to whom she was married for 66 years. She is also survived by her daughter, Catherine, and her son, David, as well as three grandchildren, David, Jonathan, and Amanda.

Barbara was outgoing, loving and kind. She had a heart filled with compassion and a deeply felt abiding Christian faith. She courageously spoke openly of her love for Christ at her Presbyterian Church in Honolulu, Hawaii, where she taught Sunday School and strongly influenced the lives of her husband and many young adults and teenagers.

She and her husband opened their home in Kaneohe, Hawaii, to a team of young evangelists who lived in their home for three months in 1979, initiating a neighborhood outreach to many teenage boys and girls living nearby. Meetings were held in their home several times a week where young people heard the gospel proclaimed and were invited to dedicate their lives to Christ and abstain from marijuana, alcohol, and rowdy vandalism. They were taught to love God, one another, and their neighbors.

Over the years their home grew into a home church where the gospel was proclaimed, the Scriptures were taught and God was worshiped. Missionaries from Youth with a Mission found rest, refreshment, encouragement and financial support in their Hawaiian home as they traveled from Europe, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, and the Solomon Islands. For many years Barbara rejoiced as she received periodic news from these young people (now thirty years older) of the spread of the gospel and growth of the faith in foreign lands.

Barbara did not wish to have a funeral or memorial service. Her family is grateful that you remember her in your heart and wishes to thank all her friends and loved ones near and far for all the gifts of love, comfort, remembrance and condolence. We are all very deeply touched.

(You might also be interested in reading "A note from Cathy about Mom and the photos on display here, Parts 1 and 2" posted in the comment section on the main Tribute Wall page. There's also an interesting story about Green Guy posted under the photo listed as "Media 8 of 30" in the album entitled Cuddly Friends.)

The family is being assisted by James Sircy and Jackie Fulford of Young Fulford Funeral Home and Crematory, Tallahassee, FL. 850.610.4444

Tribute Wall



“ *Barbara Queener Durden*

October 22, 2023 at 10:27 PM



“ *Barbara Queener Durden*

October 09, 2023 at 11:25 AM



“ *2 files added to the album Cards*



Dawson Durden - October 27, 2022 at 01:26 PM

CB

“ A note from Cathy about Mom and the photos on display here: Part 2:

Dementia took my mom from me in a very difficult way, but in the end it also gave her back to me. Love seemed to flow from her in a new way. As her mental faculties and critical reasoning fell away, reducing her more to her essence, there in that space we met one another anew, somehow enjoying a mutual exchange of unfiltered, unconditional love and acceptance. This is who you are, this is who I am. Mom's emotional sensitivity seemed heightened; she was sharp as a tack in reading how she and others in the room were being treated. We were blessed to have wonderful hospice nurses and aids, and longtime caregivers Sue (when Mom was more active) and Darlene, who was essential in Mom's last few years. I came to look forward to Darlene's visits to come clean Mom up because Mom's antics were often hilarious and we laughed through our times together. During the final six months when Mom was in the hospital bed at home, I discovered she really enjoyed more physical contact. She loved her hand being held and being kissed on the forehead; she would press her forehead into my lips, letting me know she appreciated it.

Mom left us quickly. I had always prayed her end would be fast, as I knew she would be miserable if real pain set in. Still, it caught me off guard. But she had the final answer to prayer—she passed quietly in her sleep just as she'd always wanted.

I miss you, Mom!

Catherine Beaton - October 26, 2022 at 03:57 PM

DS

She was a joy to be with. I enjoyed riding and listening to our music. She always said . When God is ready for me . I'm ready to go. I miss our laughs in the morning. But I know she has prepared herself for this journey. So Rest In Peace dear Queenie. I will never forget you and all your kindness You and you family gave. Forever grateful.

Darlene Sherman

Darlene Sherman - October 31, 2022 at 12:10 AM

“ A note from Cathy about Mom and the photos on display here: Part 1:

I had the privilege and responsibility of caring for my mom in the last years of her life. It was hard work, but also joy filled. I was there as the more obvious effects of Alzheimer's and Front-temporal dementia began to overtake her life.

Throughout it all, Mom maintained her zest for life, quirky sense of humor, and childlike innocence. Fortunately, she remained pleasant and cooperative overall, while still asserting herself by insisting she not do everything that was asked of her! When we moved to Tallahassee in 2016, she was active and loved to walk to the nearby lake, and could spend hours playing word games. She was never bored and always found something to occupy her attention, even if it was picking up sticks in the yard or the tiniest specks from the floor. Ever the sharp eyes! As her body and mind slowed down, and words became harder to find, she would occupy her time listening to her favorite songs from Fiddler on the Roof, watching Harry Potter videos (the kids are so cute!), and spending time in the living room with Dad. Eventually she desired to stay longer in bed, and that's when some wonderful cuddly friends came to play with her: a Joy-for-All cat, who remained nameless and I called "Cat," sent out by Florida's Elder Affairs Department to isolated seniors during the pandemic (thank you!!), and a diminutive figure I came to call "Green Guy," a Yoda-like creature given to Mom by her grandsons (double thank you!!). These became her constant companions and she could spend hours playing, dressing, hugging, kissing and often staring soulfully into their eyes. I loved watching her at those moments. Love just poured out, pure, simple, childlike. Beautiful.

During this time I also really enjoyed watching her enjoy her food. She loved to eat, and thankfully maintained a healthy appetite to almost the very end, when her body began to shut down quickly. I loved seeing her zest for life. And her playfulness. Going through some of the photos I took, I saw how silly she could be. Those

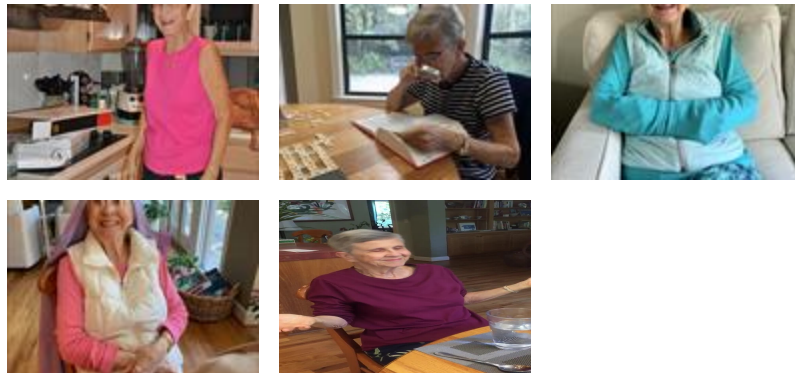
moments were priceless; she was just being her uniquely wonderful self. Mom was definitely a character—she could be feisty, strong-willed, and thoroughly stubborn in her ways. I lost many an argument. But what does it really matter if she wants to take 15 minutes to tie her tennis shoes and tuck in the laces just so? Or put grapes on her pepperoni pizza and a banana in her water glass? Go for it, Mom!

I know that I am primarily writing about my mother in her final years and that most people reading this likely knew her years earlier as a lively, energetic woman. I'm sure you have a certain way of remembering my mother, and these final memories of her life that I am sharing here might be too much or tarnish the way you want to remember and hold her dear. I get it. But for those who want to see how Mom continued to love the life she was given despite the obstacles, I hope you will find these thoughts and the carefully selected photos and videos an opportunity to continue to celebrate life with Mom.

Catherine Beaton - October 26, 2022 at 03:56 PM

CB

“ 28 files added to the album Mom Miscellany



Catherine Beaton - October 26, 2022 at 01:16 PM

CB

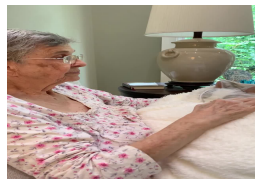
“ 28 files added to the album *Out & About*



Catherine Beaton - October 26, 2022 at 11:05 AM

CB

“ 30 files added to the album *Cuddly Friends*



Catherine Beaton - October 26, 2022 at 08:44 AM

CB

(I'm going to re-post this story here since it can be hard to locate under the individual photo where I originally posted it.)

A Little Story about Green Guy on the Day of Mom's Passing

Mom LOVED Green Guy! He brought her months of joy and comfort. Green Guy has a battery-operated mechanism that is supposed to produce sound when his left palm is pressed. But this particular guy came to our house mute. Try as we might by pressing his interior button, no sound ever emerged. So imagine our surprise on the morning of Mom's passing. Green Guy giggled! He actually giggled. I heard him, Dad heard him, and the nurse who was helping clean Mom's body also was startled by his mirthful outburst.

Mom had caressed Green Guy throughout the night and was holding him when she died. The nurse had moved him from Mom's chest and laid him at the side of the bed. I was going to assist her in getting Mom's body prepared and wanted to clear the bed. I picked Green Guy up and he giggled for the very first time. It was loud and boisterous. We were shocked! And then he kept on giggling. So much so that I thought he might go off automatically and startle us again so I removed him to another room. But he kept quiet as we got Mom ready. When the crematory transport people arrived, they put Mom on a gurney and were wheeling her away. I had the urge to let Green Guy say a final goodbye to Mom, and I asked them to wait a moment so I could get him. (Earlier I had let Cat say goodbye to Mom; now Green Guy needed his turn.) I picked him up and brought him to Mom and he giggled again when he got up close to her... And he has not giggled since.

I'm not quite sure how to interpret this, but I think I'm going to take it as Mom letting us know she's all right and happy and playful as ever. Her way of saying how wonderful life is and continues to be! You might have another interpretation, but I wanted to share this beautiful moment.

Catherine Beaton - October 26, 2022 at 05:04 PM

CB

“ 1 file added to the album *Togetherness*



Catherine Beaton - October 25, 2022 at 10:07 AM

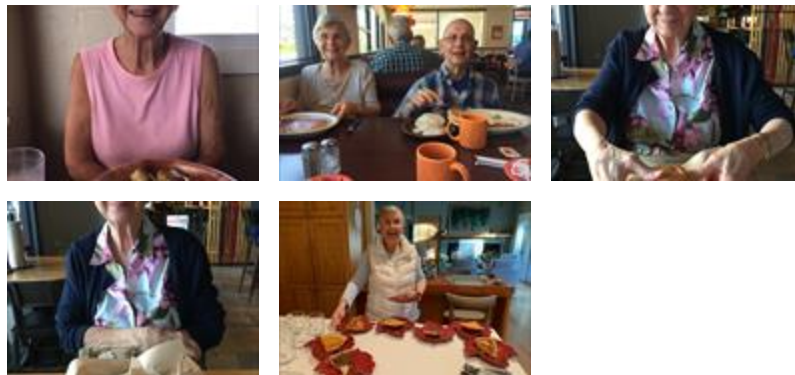
CB

This video still cracks me up!

Catherine Beaton - October 26, 2022 at 06:46 PM

CB

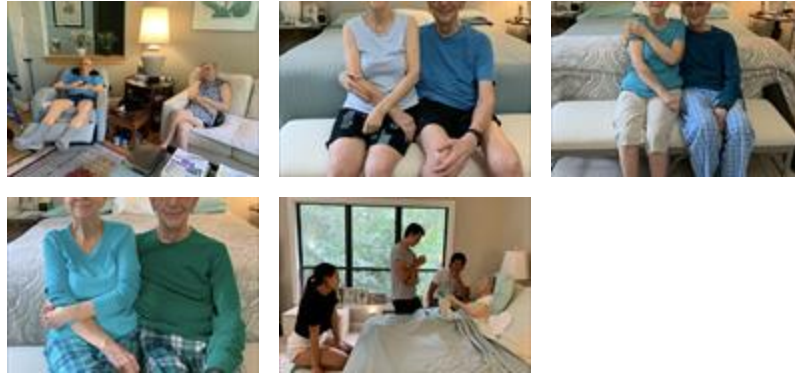
“ 18 files added to the album *Fun with Food*



Catherine Beaton - October 22, 2022 at 06:37 PM

CB

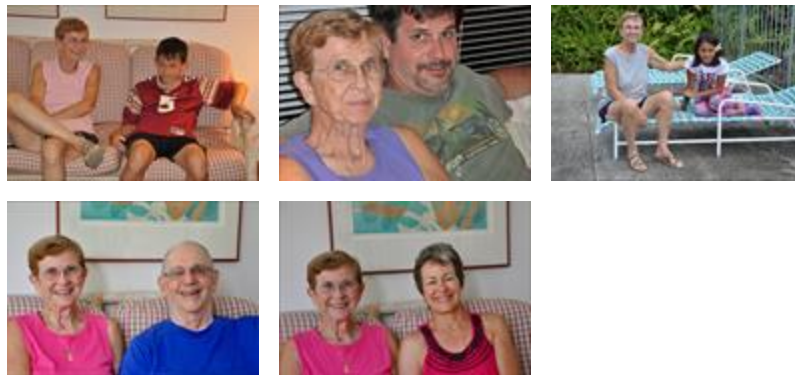
“ 9 files added to the album *Togetherness*



Catherine Beaton - October 22, 2022 at 12:18 PM

CB

“ 20 files added to the album *Togetherness*



Catherine Beaton - October 19, 2022 at 12:29 PM

CB

“ 1 file added to the album *Togetherness*



Catherine Beaton - October 18, 2022 at 08:11 PM

CB

“ 2 files added to the album *Togetherness*



Catherine Beaton - October 13, 2022 at 10:40 AM