



Barbara Ann Elizabeth Herter

July 9, 1937 - March 6, 2024

Barbara Ann Elizabeth Herter, 86, of Gibbon died Wednesday, March 6th, 2024, at Good Samaritan Society-St. Johns in Kearney. Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney. Interment will be held at Riverside Cemetery in Gibbon. Visitation will be 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home in Kearney.

Barbara was born on July 9th, 1937, to Rosa (Opp) and Otho "Stub" Packer on a farm northeast of Wood River. She had a happy childhood growing up on the farm, and made lifelong friends at her small, country school. Together they moved on to high school in Wood River, where she graduated in May of 1954, at the age of 16. Her dream was to teach after high school and she was hired at District 44 for the coming 9-month school term. She taught there for three years and loved every minute of it, especially putting on Christmas programs with the children. Though life took her in many different directions, her first love was always teaching.

Barb met the love of her life, Dale, in 1953, and they were married on July 15th, 1956. Barb designed and sewed the dresses for her entire wedding party and had every intention of sewing her own wedding gown, but by the time she was done sewing a new dress for her mom, she decided to just buy one for herself instead. Sewing and designing clothes remained a passion of

hers her entire life, and she sewed many outfits for herself and Kris, and spent many weekends sewing and making memories with her granddaughters.

After a honeymoon in California, Barb and Dale started married life in an apartment she fixed up in her mom and dad's basement, later moving to a small home in Grand Island. It was there that they would bring home the "first grandchild," Kristine, in 1957.

The first few years of their married life were an adventure, as they decided to pick up and move to California, hoping to earn enough to come back to Nebraska and buy a farm. Barb took a class to train as a keypunch operator, and soon landed a job at Capitol Records in Hollywood, where she coded and punched royalty cards to pay vocalists like Nat King Cole, Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, and the Kingston Trio. Barb loved to tell stories about riding the elevators with the "stars," and being mistaken as a movie star by vacationers when she would walk along Hollywood Boulevard or Vine in the high-heels and dresses she had to wear to work--dresses she sewed herself, of course.

While still in California, their second blessing, Ronald, arrived in 1962, and they began to plan their move back to Nebraska, finally making it back to "The Good Life" in 1963. Upon the arrival of Steven, in 1964, their family was finally complete, and they saw the fulfillment of their dream when they bought a farm south of Gibbon the following year. They worked hard to make the farm a success, but thanks to floods and hail that first year, and Dale having a bout of appendicitis, Barb had to go back to work. She started the graveyard shift at the ammunition plant near Alda, and later worked in the office at the Co-Op in Gibbon. Over the years she had never given up her dream of teaching, so she started working as secretary to the president of the Exchange Bank in Gibbon, which gave her the flexibility to take the courses she needed to renew her teaching certificate. It took a year, but she finally finished and accepted a position at District 5, west of Wood River.

As fate would have it, she taught there for only one year, as Dale bought the lumberyard in Gibbon, and they began that new venture in 1971. Barb worked at the lumberyard for more than 35 years, and one of the greatest joys in her life was the opportunity it gave her to not only work beside her three children for a time, but with all of her grandchildren off and on over the years, and even a great-grandchild as well. She consoled herself knowing that she spent those years “teaching” her grandchildren in the lumberyard, and those in the community that came in with questions about construction or hardware. Her grandchildren would certainly agree that she was a teacher at heart, showing great patience over the years as she taught them the ins and outs of lumber, hardware, and life.

Though her abilities and talents seemed almost endless, the most important things in Barb’s life were undeniably her family and her faith in Jesus. She supported Dale in all his ministry endeavors, working wonders behind the scenes. She was also a long-time member of Aglow International, and of the Open Door Fellowship in Gibbon, where she was loved by all. Barb cared deeply for her family, prayed for them daily, and shared with anyone who would listen how proud she was of all her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Barb is survived by her children and their spouses, Kris and Wayne Keller of Gibbon, and Ron and Mona Lee Herter of Gibbon; grandchildren, Jason (Christina) Keller of Vici, Oklahoma; Angie Monterroso of Gibbon; Kassy (Chris) Marsh of Hartington; Kaleb (Allie) Keller of Alda; Shawn Herter of Gibbon; Janice Herter of Burlington, Kentucky; Trevor (Katie) Herter of Lincoln; Tyler (Megan) Herter of Lincoln; Chelsea (Taylor) Muckey of Omaha; sister, Carolyn Olson of Holdredge; brother, Jerome (Nancy) Packer of Wood River; sisters-in-law, Sharlene Brand of Florida and Joyce Packer of Wood

River; along with 21 great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and many wonderful friends.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Otho "Stub" and Rosa Packer; father and mother-in-law, Charles "Chick" and Enid Herter; husband, Dale Herter; son, Steven Herter; brother, Rollin Packer; nephews, Lanny Lambrecht and Mikey Packer; and niece, Vicki Stoneking.

Memorials are suggested to the Open Door Fellowship Church in Gibbon to be divided among The Gideons International, the Gibbon Volunteer Fire Department, and Open Door Fellowship Church.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

45400 85th Road
Gibbon, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 12. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations
4115 Ave N
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 234-3500
info@osrfh.com
<https://www.osrfh.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 13. 10:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

BV

“ I enjoyed being a part of a women's group that Barb was also a member. I remember meeting in her home. I appreciated her knowledge when I needed guidance with a home project. She always had a smile. She had a strong faith.. Deepest sympathy to the family. Bev Vacha

Beverly Vacha - March 20, 2024 at 05:38 PM

RT

“ I enjoyed working with Barb & Dale in the lumber yard back in the mid 70's... They were a big influence in my life and wish I could have visited with them throughout the years... I believe I will see them again when it is my time... As Dale would say (Everyone is a preacher, just listen to what they are preaching)...

*Randy Thomas
Sand Springs, OK.*

Randy Thomas - March 19, 2024 at 11:20 AM

LT

“ Barb was such a nice lady. I truly enjoyed coming into the lumber yard which had a hardware store as well, and visiting with she and Dale. A plus was getting to know the rest of the Herter family.
Lynn Tacha and family

Lynn Tacha - March 12, 2024 at 12:47 PM

CB

“ *Prayers lifted for all Barb's family. Always enjoyed seeing her at the Lumber Yard. Always so pleasant, and great visits. I know she will be missed.*



Charlotte Burr - March 11, 2024 at 11:15 AM