



Barbara Vashti
Lingerfelt

Aug. 21, 1950 - Dec. 9, 2023

Barbara Vashti Lingerfelt, 73, of Morganton, NC, passed away Saturday, December 9, 2023.

Born in Burke County, NC on August 21, 1950, she was the daughter of the late James Herbert Lingerfelt and Jeanette Jacqueline Peeler Lingerfelt.

Barbara was a member of First Baptist Church in Morganton and the Burke County Retired School Personnel. She was a 1968 graduate of Morganton High School, attended East Carolina University, and graduated with an MA degree in special education from Appalachian State University. She worked in various educational positions, traveling across the state to present workshops pertaining to the education of special children.

Barbara loved animals. She fed many neighborhood cats and had her special cat children, Inky and Rusty. She adopted Baby Piper, an abused dog, and loved her even though she was old and blind. Barbara was a fighter for what is right and helped many parents of special children.

She is survived by her sister, Jacquelyn "Jackie" Ward; nephew, Bryan Duckworth (Karen); nieces, Susan L. Fike (Curt) and Kate L. Caraway (Chris); great-niece, Hayley Caraway; great-nephews, Carson Duckworth, Hayden Caraway, Luke Murray, Noah

Caraway, great nephews, Carson Duckworth, Hayden Caraway, Luke Murray, Noah Murray, Riley Caraway, and Tanner Duckworth; sister-in-law, Marilyn Hotchkiss Lingerfelt; and God-sons, Rob and Zac Denton.

In addition to her parents, Barbara was preceded in death by a brother, Danny Lingerfelt; and brother-in-law, Dave Ward.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 3 p.m., Saturday, December 23, 2023 at Sossoman Funeral Home. The memorial service will follow at 3 p.m. in the Colonial Chapel of the funeral home with Dr. Thomas A. Bland, Jr. and Rev. Fred Schuszler officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to A Better Life Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 8311, Morganton, NC 28680.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall



Oh Jackie, We are so sorry and shocked to learn this news just now. Barb was a dear and special lady. Always looking out for the animals and caring for everyone. She will be missed for sure. The Tilleys

—Susy and Jim Tilley

Jackie and Family, I am so saddened by Barbara's death. I had the opportunity to spend time with her at the MHSWAA Board meetings. At our last meeting we had talked about how much fun we had at Christmas when Zac and Rob were young and the important role Danny played at Christmas for them. I will miss our opportunities to share memories with her. God Bless each of you and may he bring you peace and comfort at this time. I know there are so many memories you have that will help you as you remember your time with her. Prayers for each of you. My sincere sympathy, Linda Brown Wright

—Linda Brown Wright



Seems like I had just received a message through FB from Barbara a few days before she passed. It broke my heart to learn this very sad news. We were neighbors, friends and like-minded humans in dealing with our fellow humans. She was also my sister's classmate at MHS. In addition, she always kept us up to date on the MHS FB page of others passings and any other important news! RIP my sweet,

sweet friend Barbara, RIP!!

—Ruth Roseboro



I light this red candle in memory of my baby sister who will forever be a Wolf pack fan. None of our family knew how sick she was. She did not want us to know. My heart is broken, but I know she is in a better place - not hurting, not sad as we are, not worrying, not trying to fix all the bad things in this world. She is in the arms of Jesus and surrounded by our loved ones and her pets she loved who are also in heaven. Please help us find good homes for Piper, Rusty, and Inky. Jackie

—Jacquelyn Ward

I was so sad to learn of Barbara's passing. She was an amazing person. We used to play together as children. Barbara's family lived 4-5 houses above us. She was awesome at keeping all of our Facebook friends notified about our classmates. She will definitely be missed. Jackie, I send my sincere condolences to you and the rest of the family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

—Anita Berry Barbee

—Ruth Connelly Keller

—Ruth Connelly Keller

I was heartbroken to hear of Barbara's passing. She helped me so much during my son's educational journey in BCPS. She was a wonderful person and I will forever miss her.

—Cassie Miller

Jackie, Barbara was a friend of many years. I loved her dearly. I just had surgery so won't be able to attend her service. Jackie, can you call me..828/432-7854, I would love to know what happen to my friend. Thank you deeply. God with you all as you go through the days ahead. Pat

—Pat Condrey



Rest in His peace. You will be missed.

—Sherry Jackson

Wow, it was such a shock for me to hear of her passing Sunday. I had just received a FB message from her on Thurs. She had such a big heart filled with so much love for her family, her friends, and, of course, and two fur babies, Inky and Rusty. She was an amazing person in so many ways and will be sorely missed by the many people whose lives she touched.

—Janice Caraway



I am so sorry that Barbara has passed away. In a world with so much darkness she was a source of light and hope. Barbara made vital contributions to the world in many ways especially animal husbandry and rescue. In addition she was supportive of others who were suffering from severe illness or loss. Moreover by being foundational in administering a Facebook group for graduates of Morganton High School she provided a conduit for MHS alumni to connect. My deepest condolences to Barbara's friends and family.

—Mad Deason

—Irene Pearson

We were so sorry to hear of Barbara's passing. Barbara's love for children and their families and the Advocacy given in her career deserves great respect. Her

love and advocacy of animals in need were also great additions to our community. Our sympathies are with her family.



I'm so sorry for all of you. Barbara worked with my husband. We absolutely loved her. My love and prayers are with you at this time. Jane Rock Pope

—Jane Rock Popw

So sorry for your loss

—James Pearson

I enjoyed having Barbara as a neighbor from 1990 until I sold my house in 1995. I was always impressed with her friendliness and kindness to animals, and her willingness to help those less fortunate. We enjoyed dinners and phone conversations in the years following my move. She will be sorely missed. I look forward to seeing her again at Christ's return.

—Susan J Propst

My prayers and condolences to the family and friends of Barbara's. We will miss her and her contributions to our MHS Alumni committee. Rest in Peace Barbara.

—Shirley Dale

Jackie, so sorry for the loss of your sister, may our Lord give you peace and comfort in the days ahead, my prayers are with you

—Ozelle Sotelo



You lit up the lives of the helpless You were truly a good friend and deeply missed I leave this lit candle to represent your life here and beyond.

My deepest sympathy to all of Barbara's family! So sorry to hear of her sudden death! My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of great loss! Love and prayers for all!

—Faye Lingafeldt Willen

A dear friend and kind to ever she met: two-legged or four-legged. Her loving heart inspires so many.

—Barbara Aycock

My sympathy to the family.

—Judy Hensley



So very sorry to hear of Barbara's passing.

—Judy Hensley