



Barbara Helms Dortch

February 10, 1958 - August 8, 2023

Barbara died on August 8, 2023, her 42nd wedding anniversary, after a brief hospitalization.

She was raised in Charlotte, lived in Davidson, NC for 25 years, and moved to Lake Norman in 2021. Barb was the only child of Henry and Isabelle Helms. She graduated from East Mecklenburg High School in 1976, and then from Wake Forest University in 1980 where she was a member of the SOPH society and part of Grace's Aces hall her freshman year.

Those who knew her, knew Barb to be a caring, kind, considerate and compassionate soul. She was multi-talented. She was a ballroom dancing junior national champion, an accomplished seamstress, a room mother and PTA president, she chaired a summer vacation bible school at Providence Baptist Church, taught Sunday School and led children's choirs. She loved Golden Retrievers and fostered many over the years (which did not always sit well with her own Goldens), was an East Meck letter girl, and she excelled in telecommunication sales after college. She loved sports and taught piano and guitar lessons.

Barb was a creative mind with a knack for design and was in the midst of renovating the family's home on Lake Norman when she passed. She loved and raised two strong, talented and independent daughters. She was a loving

wife. She was "Baba" to her granddaughter. Barb enjoyed the lake, the beach and the mountains. Barb was known to be a social creature and was blessed with friendships that lasted a lifetime, and never knew a stranger. Her range of interests might best be described by her jobs during the summer before her senior year at Wake - backyard bible school teacher by day, Whispers waitress by night. Barb was an absolutely beautiful lady inside and out.

Barbara is survived by her husband Robert C. Dortch, Jr., and two wonderful daughters: Lauren Dortch-Crozier and husband Robert Crozier (New York), and Lindsey Dortch Brock and husband Phillip Brock (Asheville). Barb's pride and joy was her granddaughter Cora Mae Brock (7) who was just learning to water ski when Barb passed. Barb is also survived by aunts and uncles and dozens of cousins whom she grew up with and truly loved and adored. She was loved by many and will be missed by all who knew her.

Unfortunately, in recent years, Barb struggled with several health-related issues which ultimately resulted in her recent hospitalization.

A Memorial service will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, November 5 at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home Chapel. A reception celebrating Barbara's life will immediately follow in the Heritage House of Cavin-Cook Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, please consider remembering Barb by making a donation in Barb's memory to your favorite charity, The Golden Retriever Rescue Club of Charlotte, the Alzheimer's Association, or by creating art or attending a Wake Forest game and pulling for the Deacs. Be kind to each other.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 5. 2:00 PM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home Chapel
494 E. Plaza Drive
Hwy 150
 Mooresville, NC 28115

Tribute Wall



“ Mark and I are so sorry to hear of Barb's death. We have such fond memories of her, and you, Bob, at Wake. She was always a ray of Sonshine and Joy! Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Bob, and family, as you journey through this great loss.

Dorothy Adcock - October 28, 2023 at 09:45 AM

JG

“ I just saw this news in the WFU magazine... a devastating, too-soon loss. Barb was my beloved SOPH little sister. Sending you love, Bob. May sweet memories -- and I know there are so many -- be a comfort.

Jo Sager Gilley - October 21, 2023 at 05:30 PM

LM

“ Barbara was an amazing lady! She was so giving, talented and her sparkling personality was infectious. Sending prayers and love to Bob, Lauren, Lindsay and their families.

Lory Morrow - October 18, 2023 at 08:33 AM

DR

“ I remember Barbara from down the street on Folger Drive and at McClintock, East, and Wake. Saw a notice in the Wake Forest magazine. A wonderful young woman who went out with me in high school, I think, once. Will never forget the look on her father's face when I showed up at the front door with long hair. She was nice, always friendly, and had a wonderful smile. Very easy to remember her after more than 40 years and very sorry for the family's loss.

Doug Reynolds - October 15, 2023 at 02:50 PM

CT

“ I was so fortunate to have met Barb in recent years. The love she had for her caring husband, daughters, granddaughter, friends, and even strangers shone in everything she did. I sincerely enjoyed receiving updates from Barb on the recent renovation projects at her home, and the times she joined me in volunteer opportunities within the Charlotte community. Barb gave so much of herself to others and I am so grateful to have known her. Sending thoughts, prayers, and love to her dear family.

Casey True - August 28, 2023 at 10:02 AM

LC

“ I was so sorry to learn of Barbara's passing. My deepest sympathies to Bob and her family. Barb and I were roommates sophomore year at Wake Forest. She was a sweetheart and a joy to be around. She taught me to dance and what fun we had...especially at the Sigma Chi parties. I will never forget her beautiful smile and spirit and will give my Golden Retriever grand dog an extra big hug in her honor. I know you will miss Barb dearly. May your knowledge that she is in Heaven with our Lord, out of pain, comfort you at this sad time.



Linda Mantia Connelly - August 23, 2023 at 02:47 PM

JS

“ Sending many hugs and prayers to the entire Dortch family. She had such a sweet, kind spirit. Thinking of you all.
The Sherrill family

JENNIFER L SHERRILL - August 23, 2023 at 12:08 PM

JJ

“ These words truly capture the total beauty of our cousin Barbara Dortch. Barbara was a bright light in our lives. I will always remember her zest for life, smile, and kindness shared with those she met. Her true wealth is the good she did in this world for family and friends. Our continued prayers for her beloved Bob, Lauren, Lindsey, and family.

John A. Jones, Jr. - August 21, 2023 at 02:22 PM

MR

“ Barbara was such a fun, smart, creative, beautiful girl with a great sense of humor. We will miss her!

Mary Lib Richards - August 18, 2023 at 10:39 PM

BT

“ Come wedding time Barbara adopted Bob's sister Stacy's wedding party with grace and fun. Barbara left an indelible mark on us all and we've loved her ever since. I'm so sorry, sending my love to all!

Beth Y Taylor - August 17, 2023 at 11:06 AM

EW

“ What a beautiful obituary and lady she was. Go Deacs!

Elizabeth Witt - August 16, 2023 at 09:18 AM