



## Barbara Ann Burton

June 7, 1933 - February 26, 2023

Barbara Brewer Burton (née Gillespie), late of Temple, Texas, passed away on February 26, 2023. In her last days, she was surrounded by family and friends and spent her last moments in the presence of her children.

Barbara was born June 7, 1933 in Tulsa, Oklahoma during the most difficult days of the Great Depression. She grew up in Oklahoma City where she graduated from Classen High School in 1952. Barbara received a Bachelor of Liberal Arts from the University of Oklahoma in 1971. In 1978, she was awarded a Master of Science in Education degree from Baylor University.

Barbara was a dedicated educator and counselor who strived to make a difference, beginning her career in the 1960s. She was a co-founder of the Reach Center, a Montessori type daycare serving the underprivileged community. As the Director of

Continuing Catholic Development at St. Luke's Church, Barbara put together  
legendarily  
unique and creative vacation Bible school events in the summers. For greater  
part of her  
educational career, she was Director of Special Education at the East  
Williamson County  
Cooperative in Taylor, Texas. After her retirement, she volunteered at the  
Temple Literacy  
Council. Barbara was a proud member of Alpha Delta Kappa, an honorary  
sorority for  
women educators, and the Texas Retired Teachers Association.

Barbara and her husband Chap Burton explored several countries including  
England,  
France, and Italy and made an annual trip to New York City each December  
where they  
indulged in Broadway musicals, ate at the Tavern on the Green, admired the  
Christmas  
lights and added to their collection of Christmas ornaments.

Most of all, Barbara loved music and took every opportunity to sing. An expert  
harmonizer,  
she lent her alto voice to musicals at Temple Civic Theatre, the Celebration  
Singers at  
First Baptist Church, and at St. Luke's Catholic Church, where she was a  
founding  
member. In 1998, Barbara performed at Carnegie Hall with the Texas Festival  
Chorus. But  
her greatest singing happened in the car with her family.

Barbara was a passionate, loving and devoted family member who always

went the extra  
mile for her family. She will be greatly missed by her son Stephen Brewer and  
wife Teri;  
daughter Susan Leshner and husband Mark; daughter Shelley Reed and  
husband  
Murphy; grandson Garrett Brewer and wife Laura Brewer; granddaughter  
Katie Geddes  
and husband Tracy; granddaughter Alexandra Boyd and husband Trent;  
granddaughter  
Alice Rose Busa; grandson Matthew Brewer; grandson Bryan Reed and wife  
Alina;  
grandson Jack Busa; and great grandchildren Lillian, Arlo, Sidney, and  
Emmett.

She will also be missed by her many friends of the Birthday Club and game  
enthusiasts.

Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, Chap Burton; her mother,  
Juanita  
Gillespie; her father, Charles Gillespie; her brother, Chuck Gillespie; and her  
brother,  
Bryan Gillespie.

A memorial service for Barbara will be held at 11 AM March 25, 2023 at St.  
Luke's  
Catholic Church in Temple, Texas. Because Barbara was devoted to  
education all her life,  
the family encourages donations to the Temple Literacy Council in her honor.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAR **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Luke's Catholic Church  
2807 Oakdale Dr  
Temple, TX 76502

# Tribute Wall



“ *Barbara Ann Burton*

October 05, 2023 at 10:58 AM



“ *Barbara Ann Burton*

October 04, 2023 at 06:25 PM



“ *Barbara Ann Burton*

September 26, 2023 at 10:57 PM



“ *Just saw this now, and heartfelt sorrow. Cared for her and Chap when I lived in Temple (now back in NM). I am saddened by this news and my heart goes out to the family. (Barbara took this photo of Chap and I for my birthday years ago before I moved away). Seriously great family and she will be missed.*



**Jen K** - July 10, 2023 at 08:38 PM

TD

“ *Ton and Sharon Donahey purchased the Classic Charcuterie Snacks Gift Set for the family of Barbara Ann Burton.*



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**Ton and Sharon Donahey** - March 13, 2023 at 07:50 PM

SD

“ *Barbara was the best boss and one of the best friends I ever had. We had a lot in common. I was having severe marriage problems and Barbara had been through a divorce. We shared deeply with one another. I was so thrilled when Barbara came back from a school reunion telling me about this wonderful man who was back in her life. Chap was a delight to all who knew him. When My husband and I were reunited after 6 years of separation, Barbara was one of my best supporters and she loved my husband, Tom and he immediately loved her. We were able to stay in touch going to lunch and movies in Temple. The last time I talked to Barbara, she was not able to meet us for lunch. I should have been more aware. We had gone to her beautiful home the last time we were up in Temple. She thought to invite us over, but I didn't see the text until we were on our way home. I miss her every day. Going to the VA in Temple will never be the same. I thank the Lord Jesus for putting Barbara in my life. She was a wonderful example to me of sacrifice and giving of herself to others. She was extremely creative and courageous. She loved the Lord and I know she will be with Him for eternity.*

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**Sharon Donahey** - March 13, 2023 at 07:39 PM



“ *It was an honor to serve as her secretary at EWCC. And an honor to know and love her as a friend. She will be missed.* ”

*Carolyn Ging*

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**Carolyn Ging** - March 13, 2023 at 09:38 AM