



Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett

December 27, 1961 - April 18, 2023

Barbara Jean Odom was born in San Diego, California on December 27, 1961 to Eugene Odom, Jr. and Lois Jean Williams, who together with Milton H. Williams, nurtured and raised Barbara. Barbara was not only the eldest sibling, but she was also the first grandbaby in the family and she relished her rank as the oldest! She graduated a Harry Ells Falcon in 1980 and earned her Associate's degree in 1983 from Contra Costa Community College.

Barbara soon began her career as a bus driver working for the Richmond Unified School district and then Vallejo Transit until she relocated to Georgia, where she continued her long career as a bus driver working for Gwinnett County transit, TransDev, having over 30 years of collective public transportation service. She would always say, "you have to have thick skin to deal with these people on the bus"!

Barbara gave her life to Christ at an early age, singing in the choir both at Calvary and Bayview Baptist Church. She knew the Lord and was confident in where she would be spending eternity.

Barbara LOVED children! She is known as the Favorite Aunt to all of her nieces and nephews. She had an immense passion for helping children and in 1999, she became the proud mother of Jonathan Crawford, Jeremy Smith and Raul Guerra, whom she raised with a firm hand and unconditional love.

Although Barbara was a no-nonsense, tell-it-like-it-is kind of gal, she was beyond proud of her boy's accomplishments in their careers. These young men also went on to marry and bless Barbara with daughters and four

grandchildren. But her love reached beyond her family. Barbara would bless pregnant passengers on her bus with baby shower gifts. She didn't always know their names, but she would ask them if they knew what they were having, and the next time she saw them on her bus, she would bless them with gifts for their baby.

Barbara was the shyest person you'd ever meet! She would get so emotional if she had to stand in front of a crowd, that she would just start crying! But don't cross her! She had a sharp tongue and quick wit and would get you told so fast you wouldn't know what hit you!

Soon after re-locating to Georgia, Barbara met and married the love of her life, David Bennett, who affectionately called her "his black bear". Barbara and David were indeed a match made in heaven! If you were talking to one of them on the phone, you may as well know you are talking to both of them, because each would chime in on each other's conversations. Whenever they were apart, they would call each other non-stop until they were together again. On any given day, they would fuss each other out like crazy, but by nighttime, they were back to being the best of friends. David would always tell her, "that's how I know you love me when you fussing at me".

Barbara leaves to cherish her legacy her husband David, her sons Jonathan, Jeremy and Raul, daughters-in-love Shawonna Smith, Keisha Carter (Nicole), Grandchildren Shamiah and Jeremiah Smith, Jonathan (Tonka) Crawford, Elijah Guerra, Jaliyah, Kaniya, Malaya, her loving mother, Lois Jean Williams, sisters Cheryl Odom, Toni Jones, Yvette Williams, Mona Hackett, brother Lonnie Wright, brothers-in-law Mark Bennett, Timothy Bennett, James Bennett and Gerald Tucker. Sisters-in-law Sherry Bennett and Angela Bennett, and a host of Uncles, Aunts, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins and friends.

Barbara is pre-ceeded in rest by her loving fathers Eugene Odom, Jr, and Milton Howard Williams.

Celebration of Life Services for Barbara Jean Bennett will be held on

Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 11:00 AM. These services will be recorded and streamed live. If the event is interrupted at any time due to technical issues, the entire event will be uploaded and available to view later in the day. Please copy and paste the link to share, or simply click on the link to view the event.

<https://vimeo.com/event/3332251>

Previous Events

Public Viewing

APR 26. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory-Gwinnett
914 Scenic Hwy
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Family Hour (6PM-8PM)

APR 26. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett and Sons - Gwinnett Chapel
914 Scenic Hwy
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Celebration of Life

APR 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett and Sons - Gwinnett Chapel
914 Scenic Hwy
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Tribute Wall

AB

“ *My deepest sympathy and condolences unto the husband, mother, children, sisters, nephews, nieces, cousins, uncles, aunts, and many friends of Barbara Bennett. Barbara will truly be missed by everyone who she has impacted with her contagious big beautiful smile, loving, kind, and gentle spirit. All of the 50 years of knowing Barbara she has always been a gentle, kind, and loving person. Barbara was so compassionate to others and their needs. Once again my deepest sympathy and condolences to the husband, mother, sisters, and family members. I always would greet her with, " hi Barbara Odom." and she would smile and say, "hi Alma." May you all find peace and comfort knowing Barbara fought the good fight for Christ Jesus.*

In the Spirit of God

Alma Brown - April 27, 2023 at 12:25 PM

AB

“ *Alma Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett*



Alma Brown - April 27, 2023 at 11:13 AM

SA

“ *Dear Family*

We are praying for each of you and sending our Love.

Barbara was a sweet, quiet person. She willingly opened her home to us while visiting the family in Georgia and we were so thankful and grateful. We also reflect on the times the family visited us in our hometown of Tarboro, NC.

Sleep sweet cousin and rest in peace.

Your cousins

Gordon & Sandra W.(Deet) Armstrong , Johnny Williams, Arthur & Wendy Williams & families



SANDRA W ARMSTRONG - April 27, 2023 at 10:16 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett.*



April 26, 2023 at 11:23 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett.*



April 26, 2023 at 07:47 PM

KD

“ Kenny & Jytte (Uta) Devous purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett.



Kenny & Jytte (Uta) Devous - April 26, 2023 at 06:02 PM

VL

“ Valarie Warren and Pamela Love purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett.



Valarie Warren and Pamela Love - April 26, 2023 at 05:55 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett.



April 26, 2023 at 03:42 PM

DF

“ DOROTHY STANTON AND FAMILY purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett.



DOROTHY STANTON AND FAMILY - April 26, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett.



April 26, 2023 at 07:04 AM



“ I met Barbara in 1990 when she first began driving for Vallejo Transit. I was an outgoing 15 year old and a passenger on her bus. I quickly became more than the average passenger on her bus...She and I became like sisters! Being the youngest and only girl in my family, I was at the age where I needed a big sister to confide in and Barbara became just that! I eventually met her parents and sisters. She also met my mom and my brothers.

Barbara was always supportive and encouraging of my educational endeavors, the latest of which is a Doctorate in Chiropractic which I will receive on June 9! I was blessed by her friendship and I am sure she was blessed by mine. I will miss our phone conversations, text messages and Facebook exchanges. I am grateful that God brought us together and I look forward to seeing her again one day!

Corinne Quinn - April 26, 2023 at 12:41 AM



“ Sending love, prayers and condolences to the family. Rest peacefully Barbara, you were loved and a joy to be around. May the Lord comfort and strengthen the family during this difficult time. Love you all. 🍷🙏🌟🌸



Deborah Garrett Johnson - April 25, 2023 at 11:38 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett.* ”



April 25, 2023 at 11:16 PM



“ *Corinne Quinn lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett* ”



Corinne Quinn - April 25, 2023 at 10:39 PM



“ *Corinne Quinn sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett* ”



Corinne Quinn - April 25, 2023 at 10:33 PM



“ *Bridgette Highsmith-Stinnett sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett* ”



Bridgette Highsmith-Stinnett - April 24, 2023 at 09:27 PM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett.*



April 24, 2023 at 09:23 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett.*



April 24, 2023 at 04:47 PM



“ *Your Atlanta C&Y Family purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett.*



Your Atlanta C&Y Family - April 24, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *Our hearts go out to the family. Praying God's strength and grace over you all.*

Howard & Trevell Harris - April 23, 2023 at 06:50 PM

TE

“ *Rest In Heaven Barbara.
May prayers goes to all family members.*



Tamara Edwards - April 23, 2023 at 03:03 PM

NS

“ *Nina Scott lit a candle in memory of Mrs.
Barbara Jean Bennett*



Nina Scott - April 22, 2023 at 03:48 PM

SB

Barbara my dearest friend, it's going to hard not talking to you 2 to 3 times a week we have shared so many conversations personal and not so personal. I have really been honored for us being friends for a lifetime, I was that friend who could always put you in check to make you do self evaluation and you didn't catch attitude with me it just made our bond closer

Sonya Brown - April 22, 2023 at 11:06 PM

AW

“ *Barbara has always been like a sister to me and Cody, and she will be missed so much!! This is a sad day for our family, and I am sure for so many people that she has touched along the way!! We love you, Barbara!*

Anthony and Cody Williams

Anthony J Williams - April 22, 2023 at 10:02 AM

CP

“ Our condolences to the Williams family. Carrol Geegan/Bruce Parham.



Carrol Geegan/Bruce Parham - April 21, 2023 at 11:26 PM

JM

“ Sending Love and Prayers to the family 🙏



Joyce Mitchell - April 21, 2023 at 04:18 PM

BE

My condolences to Lois and the family. Lucy Turnage

beckytturnage - April 21, 2023 at 08:45 PM

NS

Wow this surprise of your death really breaks my heart I will always remember the times we worked together at Gwinnett Transit RIP

Nina Scott - April 22, 2023 at 03:47 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara Jean Bennett.



April 21, 2023 at 03:05 PM