

Barbara Gurney Facer

September 18, 1936 ~ January 3, 2025

Barbara Gurney Facer passed away peacefully surrounded by family on January 3, 2025, in Salt Lake City, Utah at age 88. She was born September 18, 1936, in Magrath, Alberta, Canada, to Emery H. Gurney and Minerva Lucille McMullin, the third of seven children.

She was raised in Magrath, first on a farm outside of town, and then in a house not far from her grandparents, who immigrated to the area in the early 1900s. During summers in high school, she worked in Waterton National Park. Though she became an American citizen, she was always proud of her Canadian upbringing on the Alberta prairie.

After graduating high school she moved to Edmonton. She permanently moved to “the States” in the late 1950s. She lived in Salt Lake City from then on. She met Jay Facer at a Saturday night stake dance in 1960. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple on August 14, 1961, and enjoyed a beautiful life together for 57 years. Jay passed away in 2019.

Barbara and Jay served LDS missions together in Philadelphia, PA, and Salt Lake Inner City. She loved being outside in her garden and being with her children, grandchildren, and other extended family.

The mother to four boys, she taught them to be honest, to love and serve Jesus Christ, to perform their civic duty, to “look sharp,” rise above hard times, and to be men.

She had faith in and a testimony of Jesus Christ, and a positive attitude that was grounded in that faith. Her creativity and love of music, as well as her soprano voice singing hymns, were enjoyed by family and friends. She was a wonderful cook and the food she made was always comforting – except for the rhubarb!

Barbara took great effort to make things special for her family. Her grandchildren remember her for being welcoming and fun, whether it was with puffed wheat balls, the candy game, nature hikes, or a picnic up Big Cottonwood Canyon. There were always yummy snacks at Grandma’s house. She had a way of telling stories, was grateful for her pioneer ancestry, and had an infectious laugh that could make anyone smile.

Barbara is survived by her boys: Kim (Christie), Midway, Michael (Carolyn), Kaysville, Gary (Kelly), Fruit Heights, and David (Jeniel), Idaho Falls, ID, 15 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, siblings Linda (Bill) Hansen, Blair Gurney, Shayne (Iris) Gurney, and in-laws Marlyse Gurney, Richard Bodily and Sandy Facer. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Jay, her parents, a sister Ruth Wilde, and brothers Vaughn Gurney and Elwood (Woody) Gurney.

In her final years, she enjoyed living at Spring Gardens in Holladay and felt blessed to be part of that community. The family wishes to express thanks to the staff and Inspiration Home Health & Hospice for their attentive and compassionate care, as well as gratitude to Dr. Thea Sakata for her tireless commitment to Barbara’s well-being.

Kris and Lisa Johnson have also been unfailing friends and helpers.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at 11:00 am at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 1160 E. Vine Street, Murray, Utah. A viewing will take place for friends and family on Friday, January 10, 2025, from 6-8 pm and on Saturday morning from 9:30-10:30 am at the same location. Interment will be at Larkin Sunset Gardens.