

Barbara Lynn Cromar Bunker

October 8, 1942 ~ October 29, 2023

Barbara Lynn Cromar Bunker, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, auntie, and loyal friend returned to the arms of cherished loved ones the morning of Sunday, October 29, 2023. Though struggling with various medical issues for years, her unexpected passing was sudden but peaceful, and surrounded by family.

Barbara was born on October 8, 1942, to W. Lynn Cromar & Barbara Dowding in Salt Lake City, Utah. Although deeply loved by her parents, Barbara's early life was defined by her parents' divorce in 1945. Following the divorce, Barbara was primarily raised by her daddy and his second wife Winona LeiLeihua Andrade Cromar. She loved growing up with her little brother Jerry, and two little sisters, Kathy and Karen. She lived with them until Lynn's untimely passing in 1953 when Barbara was 10.

After a brief period following Lynn's death, Barbara was ultimately adopted by her paternal grandparents, Herbert & Sarah Cromar. Grandma and Grandpa Cromar raised her during her teenage and early adulthood years. She graduated from Olympus High School in 1960. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Home Economics & Child Development from the University of Utah.

Barbara loved her grandparents. She based how to live the rest of her life on what they instilled in her.

Without question, Barbara's crowning joy in life is her family. Her marriage to Alan W. Bunker took place on August 29, 1966 in the Salt Lake Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Alan and Barbara built their relationship and family on strong foundations of devoted friendship, romance, and most importantly, Christlike love. It was this type of love that helped them navigate the occasional rocky shoals of married life and enabled them to see the magnificence in the ordinary. They loved to travel together around the United States, Europe, and Israel. They also loved their Friday night dates sharing a Subway sandwich and watching trains. Alan enjoyed pushing Barbara's buttons to elicit a sassy and often hilarious response. Barbara adored Alan's tenderness, devotion to their children, and kindness to her. Theirs has been a happy marriage.

Barbara and Alan are the parents of four children: Jennifer, Jill, Melissa, and Matthew. Barbara's love for her children is intense, even palpable. After all, Barbara is, first and foremost, a mother. Barbara could not go one day without reminding her children that they were loved. Her love will last for generations.

Barbara's primary career was her family. Until starting her family she worked as a Flight Attendant for Western Airlines. When her children were in school she worked at Ensign Elementary where she could purposely align her at-home schedule with the schedules of her children. Barbara loved being with the school children where she could serve them and assist with their learning process. In later years, Barbara worked for one of the family businesses, Spectrum Field Services, where she was the office manager.

Barbara was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She served in various ward and stake capacities over the years but particularly enjoyed two callings. For many years she served as a teacher in the Primary organization of the Church. More than anything else, she loved being with and teaching children. For nearly a decade Barbara served in hospital callings–first in the Relief Society Presidency at the LDS Hospital Branch, and later as a companion to her husband as they served together at the Salt Lake Regional Medical Center Branch for nearly 6 years.

Barbara's legacy is love, and her love extended to all who met her. Those in her Salt Lake Avenues neighborhood where she and Alan lived the majority of their lives were special beneficiaries of Barbara's "eternal friendship." Barbara's love was instant and deep. It was not uncommon for her to meet a stranger at a fabric store, a supermarket, or at a random pub in England, and within 20 minutes they had become good friends.

Barbara's love was genuine and enduring. During her years at Spectrum Field Services, she became a proxy mother and a lifelong friend to many of its employees and business partners. When she traveled with Alan to business conferences, industry colleagues made it a point to spend time catching up with and feeling loved by Barbara.

Barbara is survived by her husband Alan W. Bunker, daughters Jennifer Lynn Record (Jerry), Jill Suzann Pilkington (Tom), and Melissa Anne Bunker; son Alan Matthew Bunker (Jacqueline); grandchildren J. Camille Newbold (Nathaniel), Jacob Record (AuLora), Jadon Record, Emily Sandberg (Nicolas), Thomas Pilkington (Mattilyn), Suzann Pilkington, Jackson Bunker, William Bunker, Kathleen Bunker, and Elizabeth Bunker; great-grandchildren Adelyn Newbold, James Newbold, Samuel Newbold, KyRee Record, T. Hudson Pilkington, and Millie Pilkington; brother Jerry Hemming and sisters Katherine Fillmore and Karen Johnson.

Barbara is preceded in death by her father W. Lynn Cromar, mother Barbara Law Dowding Holmes; sister Christine Holmes Woolaway; brother Earl Emerson Holmes Jr.; sister/aunt Lois Jean Cromar Hintze Prince; grandparents Herbert Lang Cromar, Sarah Elizabeth Bytheway Cromar, Arthur Dowding, and Jennie Margareet Law Dowding.

All are invited to attend the formal viewing and funeral service honoring Barbara.

The viewing will be Friday, November 10, 2023, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Larkin Mortuary, 260 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111.

The funeral service will be Saturday, November 11, 2023, at 11:00 am. The service will be at the Emigration Stake Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 589 East 18th Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84103. There will be a viewing before the funeral from 9:30-10:30 a.m. For those unable to attend, services will be streamed via Zoom. Please click on the watch services link above.

Interment will follow the services at the North Plat of the Salt Lake City Cemetery, which is located at 945 East 11th Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to LDS Humanitarian Services, where funds provide aid to people around the world without regard to cultural or religious affiliation.