



Albertha "Bep" Henrica Maria Morrison Barnes

July 26, 1943 - July 31, 2020

Albertha "Bep" Henrica Maria Morrison Barnes passed away peacefully on July 31, 2020, at the Circle of Life Hospice Home at Legacy Village in Bentonville, Arkansas from complications related to Alzheimer's.

Born July 26, 1943 in Heemstede, The Netherlands to Pieter Cornelis and Albertha Henrica Maria Snoeks, her early years were spent amid the occupation of her homeland during WWII. Bep finished school and attended secretarial college, where she later graduated and obtained a job with MK-Shand, an international pipeline company. She met her first husband, Joe Morrison, Sr. at the workplace, and they married in 1967.

After her boys were born, Bep was a stay-at-home mom. There are many happy memories of her shuttling Joe and Earl's shinty and soccer teammates to games in their family station wagon. She taught the boys soccer and was known to cheer from the sidelines, "Hup Joe/Earl, Hup". Her sons also remember that she was the kind of mom who would listen without judgement and answer any questions they had about life and growing up. She was more than a mom—she was a friend.

The family moved to Strathpeffer, Scotland, where her rose garden was a popular stop for tourists visiting the quaint village. They also spent many years in Gainford and East Cowton, England before moving to Siloam Springs, Arkansas in 1982.

After becoming a widow in 1985, Bep returned to the workforce. She is most known as the beloved director of the Sager Creek Arts Center. Her leadership at the arts center included everything from grant writing and development to cleaning the restrooms. Her ready smiles and laughter made Bep a favorite of the Siloam Springs Community. In 2012, she was the recipient of the Siloam Springs Chamber of Commerce "Pioneer Citizen Award". She also served a term as president of the Siloam Springs Rotary Club.

Bep loved the arts, gardening, reading and driving (with a heavy foot!). She was fluent in four languages—Dutch, German, French and English and never lost her beautiful accent.

Some of her best friends were the numerous dogs and cats that she cared for during her lifetime; however, her human friends and family could always count on a hot cup of tea and ginger snaps when visiting her home.

Upon retirement and her second marriage to Tony Barnes in 2008, the couple enjoyed traveling/cruises, classic car shows and Friday night meals with friends.

Bep was preceded in death by her father, mother, five siblings and first husband, Joe Morrison, Sr.

She is survived by her husband Tony Barnes of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, two sons, Joe (Shellie) of Fayetteville, Arkansas and Earl (Tonya) of Kansas, Oklahoma as well as two grandchildren, Jacob and Riley.

A private family service will be held August 7, 2020, at Grace Episcopal Church in Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, PO Box 96011, Washington, D.C. 20090. Please designate the Arkansas chapter.

Comments



“ With gratitude and respect to Bep, who was a devoted advocate for the Arts and her community. May her family's grief be healed with grace, compassion, patience, faithfulness and steadfast love.

Patricia Relph - August 10, 2020 at 02:24 PM



“ Our deepest condolences to the Barnes family for your lost.

Hubbard LLC

Hubbard LLC - August 10, 2020 at 12:13 PM



“ I will always remember the "charge it" story. When she was young she heard her mother say charge it. So one day she went to the ice cream parlor with all her friends and said "charge it". She got in trouble later but that was a hysterical story - I can just see her doing that too. A beautiful, giving person. Rest easy now Bep.

Debbie Teague - August 09, 2020 at 07:39 AM



“ I was so sorry to hear about Bep's passing. She was a lovely, strong woman who I noticed in our Siloam neighborhood when she was caring for her first husband who ill.

Later, I got to know her at Sager Creek Arts Center. She & Ruth Wind WERE the Arts Center. Bep efficiently ran the office, set up signs, planned special events, remained during practices & performances, and even served refreshments during intermission, then locked up after things ended.

Bep wore a lot of hats well, and was generous with her time.

Although she could be stern, when necessary, she also had a funny sense of humor & I always looked forward to chats with her and greatly admired her steady way of always giving her best.

I will miss her. She may not have grown up in Siloam Springs, but she was one of it's finest citizens.

Tracey McCartney - September 16, 2020 at 10:04 PM



“ Tony - I'm so sorry for Bep's passing. I wish I could give you a big hug. You will be in my prayers. Hope we can see one another soon!

Cheryl Kester - August 08, 2020 at 09:31 PM



“ Just as her Alzheimers was becoming noticeable, Bep started coming to my studio to paint with me. She would always be humming--"Home on the Range" and "This Land is Your Land" mostly, and always offered me an Altoid. Sometimes it was just the two of us and we would go next door to her good friend Alice's house, just for fun, to paint in her house, or actually paint Alice.

My favorite story to tell about Bep took place about 17 years ago. I had entered a painting in a show, and it SOLD, which really didn't happen all that often at the Arts Center. I asked Bep how to pay the commission to the Arts Center, and she said "Oh, don't worry about that." I said, "No, I'm sure the Arts Center needs the money, and I'm happy to give it to them." She said, "Oh, well, I'll pay it for your then." Oh my goodness! I had to be very insistent.

She was generous to a fault and as sweet as they come. She loved to laugh, loved to sing, and loved her pets and flowers.

Joanna Reid - August 08, 2020 at 07:46 PM



“ A kind, beautiful lady with a servant's heart. She will be missed. Tony, my deepest sympathy.

Roger Holroyd

Roger Holroyd - August 05, 2020 at 02:17 PM



“ We have fond memories of Bep, always with a smile on her face, singing or humming a song and laughing. Her love for family, animals and her creativity were gifts she always shared. Thank you Bep for making a difference in this world!

with deepest sympathy to the family,
Mark and Eileen Barnes

Eileen Barnes - August 05, 2020 at 10:23 AM



“ Fond memories of Sager Art Center, & Bep, always working to see everything was in order. Thank you Bep. Dave & Maxine Joseph

Maxine Joseph - August 04, 2020 at 01:00 PM



“ 28 files added to the tribute wall



Shellie Morrison - August 04, 2020 at 11:30 AM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Albertha "Bep" Henrica Maria Morrison Barnes.



August 03, 2020 at 12:08 PM