



# Barbara Jean Borth

MAR 1, 1944 - JAN 25, 2021



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## **Barbara Jean Borth**

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**I**t is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Barbara (Barb) Borth into the arms of God, on January 25, 2021. Barb was born to Alice and Arthur Odine on March 1, 1944 in Taylor, Michigan. Barb's family experienced tragedy early on when her father suddenly passed away when she was 10 years old, leaving Barb to help raise her younger sister Mary. After high school graduation, Barb attended Madonna College while working as a nurses' aide. In 1965 she married the late Peter Hector Sr. and settled in the Detroit area but soon moved to Higgins Lake where Barb began her teaching career at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School. At the same time, she completed her education and received her Bachelor's in Education at Madonna College. She would later follow that up with a Master's in Education from Central Michigan University. In the summer of 1972, the family found their way to Big Rapids, where, for the next 40 years she became a well-known, respected, and loved teacher and principal in the Big Rapids Public School System and at St. Mary's Catholic School. On July 12, 1987, Barb began the next journey in her life when she married Dave Borth. Barb and Dave, along with sharing a passion for education, were great contributors to their churches and community. However, nothing matched the joy they found with their children and grandchildren. The memories with Grandma (and Grandpa) will be cherished forever. After Dave's passing Barb continued many family traditions and will be lovingly remembered for the joy that she brought them. Barbara is survived by her children Pete (Stacey) Hector, Susan Hector, Scott (Kathy) Hector, and Mike (Melissa) Hector; her stepchildren Andrew (Nicole) Borth and Rebecca Borth; along with adored grandchildren, Mariah (Mike Somers) Hector, Christian, Maya, Caitlyn, Emma, Henry and Markus Hector, and Stephen, Anthony and Alex Borth; and her sister Mary Zoerman. Preceding her in death were her parents; stepfather Daniel "Red" McGovern, adored husband David Borth, infant daughter Kimberly "Kimmy" Hector, brother Joseph Odine, and sister Catherine



## Obituary

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Goretski. A Celebratory Mass will be at 11 a.m., Saturday, February 6, 2021 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Big Rapids, with Fathers Michael Burt and Lam Le concelebrants. Barb's family will greet friends from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., Friday, February 5, 2021 at the Mohnke Funeral Home in Big Rapids. Those in attendance will be required to wear a mask and social distance. Memorial contributions in her name may be made to St. Mary's Catholic School or St. Jude's Children Hospital. Share a memory or express condolences at [mohnkefuneralhome.com](http://mohnkefuneralhome.com). To view a live stream of the funeral follow this link [youtu.be/\\_oNKV7DYiGk](https://youtu.be/_oNKV7DYiGk)



## Tribute Wall

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SP

**Sharrie Parke** posted:

So sorry to hear of Barb's passing. She was a wonderful mentor and a great friend. I will forever be grateful to her.

April 2 at 8:00 PM

DB

**David Byrnes** posted:

So sorry to hear about Barb passing away. She hired me at Riverview and was always a class act. Barb obviously loved being a teacher and administrator. She made everyone around her better. She'll be truly missed.

February 8 at 8:00 PM

MZ

**Mary Zoerman** lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

Barbara was a wonderful sister. She was 12 years older than me so I always looked up to her, always admired her, and always loved her. When I was 17 months old, our Dad died. It left just 3 women at home. My brother was in the Navy, so it was just us. Bar



February 5 at 8:00 PM

KW

**Kay & Rollie Walters** posted:

A lost to so many.

February 4 at 8:00 PM

BW

**Brenda Walton** posted:

Barb Borth was an excellent school administrator and a great lady! Our son Dan attended Brookside which was close to our home. As a kindergartener, once he refused to go to school so I called Mrs. Borth and she came to pick him up! She impressed upon the

February 4 at 8:00 PM



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KP

**Kim Pellerito** posted:

Susan & Family - Barb was such a wonderful person! So enjoyed the interactions with her at St. Mary's! May memories of her wonderful smile bring you comfort in the months to come.

February 2 at 8:00 PM

BK

**Barb Knight** posted:

What a wonderful and talented mother you had. Both she and Dave contributed so much to the education of children. God Bless all of you.

January 31 at 8:00 PM

SM

**Susan Mallory** posted:

Barb and I were best friends growing up from elementary school until we each married. Always with a smile, always wanted to be a teacher, always wanted children and a family of her own. Life got busy and we drifted apart. Fifty years later we reconnect

January 31 at 8:00 PM

JG

**Jeff Greene** posted:

My wife and I enjoyed a trip to Europe with Barb and Dave. I remember having adjoining rooms in a hotel in Lucerne, Switzerland. We all shared a libation together on a balcony while watching the sun go down over Lake Lucerne. That was an enjoyable evening

January 29 at 8:00 PM

DD

**Donna Drake** posted:

So very sorry to hear of the passing of Barb. She was my first principal when I worked in the Focus on Fours preschool program with Pat Johnson at Brookside. She was a strong and caring leader and a good friend. She will be greatly missed. Many prayers s

January 29 at 8:00 PM



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**Sharon Raven Formerly Moritz** posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Barb's passing. I have many great memories of her while attending principal meetings at the ISD. My sincere condolences go out to all of you.

January 29 at 8:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Barbara by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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