



Barbara Theobald Beckstrom

July 3, 1947 - March 8, 2016

Barbara Beckstrom, age 68, of Santa Clara, Utah, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family and loved ones, on March 8, 2016 after a valiant fight with cancer. She was born on July 3, 1947 in Hurricane, Utah, to Clarence and Phyllis Theobald and was the second of four children. She was the loving and devoted wife of Kenneth Beckstrom for 48 years, who preceded her in death just seven months earlier. They were married in the St. George, Utah temple on June 10, 1967.

Barbara grew up in Toquerville, Utah where she worked on her father's farm and learned first hand the value of a hard day's work. She took great pride that she was a "farmer's daughter." She graduated from Hurricane High School in 1965 and from Dixie College in 1967.

After living in Elko, Nevada for four years, Barbara and Kenneth moved to Santa Clara in the spring of 1975, and built one of the first homes on the Heights. They raised their family in that home and lived there for the next 41 years until her death. She loved Santa Clara and served the community in many capacities during these years. In 1984, realizing that there was no park in Santa Clara for her children, she decided to run for the city council. She was elected and immediately went to work on putting in a park. Barbara served on the city council from 1984-92. During this time she oversaw the installation of the Canyon View Park, and was instrumental in the

improvements made to the Santa Clara City Cemetery and creation of the annual Santa Clara Swiss Days celebration. Barbara also served as the Chairman of the Washington County Fair Board in the late 1980s, and as the Chairman of the Washington County Solid Waste District in the early 1990s.

Barbara was heavily involved in her children's education. She served as PTA president at both Santa Clara Elementary and Dixie High School in 1982 and 1985 respectively. Her love of education ultimately led her to finish her degree in Elementary Education at Southern Utah University in 1987, and her Master's Degree in 1997.

She began teaching school at Bloomington Elementary in the 1987-88 school year, and taught there for the next 20 years. She loved the opportunity teaching gave her to shape and mold young minds. She received multiple awards for her dedicated work as a school teacher. Towards the end of her teaching career Barbara served as the president of the Washington County Education Association from 2003-07 where she represented the interests of teachers in Washington County.

In retirement, Barbara stayed busy entertaining guests and hosting many family events at her Pine Valley cabin. She also traveled extensively. Ultimately, this was not enough to sufficiently occupy her time and talents and in 2012 she was elected to the Washington County School Board and served in this position up until her death. In 2015 she was elected as the vice president of the Utah School Boards Association and was scheduled to serve as president in 2017.

Barbara was a member of, and actively involved in, the LDS church. She served as Primary President, Young Women's president, and in many other leadership positions. She particularly loved family history and was serving as a family history consultant up until shortly before her death. In 2008-09,

Barbara fulfilled a lifetime dream of serving an LDS mission in England (England London South Mission) where her mother grew up and where she has several close relatives.

Barbara's family was the joy of her life. She always stressed education and each of her five children graduated from college. She also loved attending the sporting events and other activities of her children and grandchildren. In life, Barbara and her husband, Kenneth, were inseparable. They loved spending time together, which included watching nearly every Utah Jazz game.

Barbara was known for her love of Christmas and the elaborate decorations and Christmas lights she put up each year. She enjoyed hiking the hills near Pine Valley looking for the perfect Christmas tree, and loved making Christmas magical for her children and grandchildren. Christmas music played non-stop at Barbara's home throughout the holidays.

Barbara enjoyed taking on projects of many varieties. She loved life and was known for her relentlessly positive attitude and ability to accomplish many tasks. She had numerous friends and had a way of making everybody feel important and accepted. Anyone was welcome in her home. She will be missed deeply by all who knew her.

Barbara was preceded in death by her husband Kenneth Beckstrom, and her parents, Clarence and Phyllis Theobald. She is survived by her sisters, Carol (Quay) Simons, Las Vegas, Sheila (Kelly) Cannon, St. George; brother David (Nancy) Theobald, Toquerville; sons, Britt (Natalie) Beckstrom, St. George; Brice (Nicole) Beckstrom, Dayton, Ohio; Brian (Lacy) Beckstrom, Santa Clara; and daughters, Brenda (Josh) Forest, Mesa, Arizona, and Brooke (Ben) Neumann, Santa Clara; and 18 grandchildren.

Funeral Services will be held Monday, March 14, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at the Santa Clara LDS 3rd Ward Chapel, 3040 Santa Clara Drive. Visitations will be held Sunday evening, March 13, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Chapel and on Monday prior to services from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Chapel. Interment will be at the Pine Valley Cemetery at approximately 3:30 p.m.

The family would like to thank the medical providers at Dixie Regional Medical Center, Intermountain Cancer Center, and Dixie Hospice Care for their kind and dedicated care of Barbara.

Friends and family are invited to share condolences online at www.SerenityStG.com. Arrangements and memorial tree planting are under direction of Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah, 435-986-2085.

Previous Events

Viewing

MAR 13. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Santa Clara 3rd Ward
3040 W. Santa Clara Dr.
Santa Clara, UT

Viewing

MAR 14. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

Santa Clara 3rd Ward
3040 W. Santa Clara Dr.
Santa Clara, UT

Service

MAR 14. 11:00 AM (MT)

Santa Clara 3rd Ward
3040 W. Santa Clara Dr.
Santa Clara, UT

Graveside Service

MAR 14. 3:30 PM (MT)

Pine Valley
Pine Valley, UT

Tribute Wall

PW

“ Barbara was always so upbeat and full of energy--I was lucky enough to get to know her in the office at Bloomington when she was Staff Developer and as a teacher. Never a dull moment with her around and had a great respect for her wonderful example she set for all. We will miss her and so lucky to have her family still involved with our school.

Love ya Paula W.

Paula Wood - March 14, 2016 at 01:41 PM

PH

“ Barbara was a remarkable educator and parent in service to education. Though I knew her only these last five years, she made a strong impression on me for her goodness, creativity, and drive to help better the lives of children throughout Utah.

Patti Harrington - March 13, 2016 at 10:36 PM

MB

“ So sorry for the loss of your mother so soon after losing your father. Barbara was truly a remarkable lady that used her knowledge to help others and give back to the community.

I am sure you are as proud of your parents as they were proud of each of you. Our thoughts are with you at this time.

Merlin & Sharleen Baker

Merlin Baker - March 13, 2016 at 10:29 PM

CS

“ Barbara was such a fantastic leader, wonderful 4th grade teacher, and good friend! She will truly be missed by all educators that knew her in our school district. My condolences go to her family.
Carolanne Simkins

carolanne simkins - March 11, 2016 at 05:13 PM

MC

“ To Barbara's family: we are so sorry for your loss! We know you will miss her dearly: but you know that she is now with your dad. We wish you much peace and comfort. Richard & Ellen McArthur

McArthur - March 11, 2016 at 12:44 PM



“ My heart goes out to the Beckstrom family during this time. I'm grateful that she and her husband are reunited! Prayers and warm thoughts are sent your way!

Lori Arnold - March 11, 2016 at 08:36 AM

RF

“ Ron Blake, family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Barbara Theobald Beckstrom.



Ron Blake, family - March 10, 2016 at 04:27 PM

“ I first met Barbara at a city league basketball game that both of our husband were play in. From that time on we be came fast friends and spent many fun times together.

We had children close to the same age. Britt and my son Brad played together often. Brice was a year or so younger than our daughter Holly. We celebrated children's birthdays together. We also had family home evening and scripture study together.

We played a card game called Nerets together. Had picnics and outings together. We made many crafts together and permed each other hair.

Barbara was my best friend here in Elko. It broke my heart when they moved away but we always stayed in touch over the years. I will miss her fun personality, her wit, and her love for life. She certainly lived life to the fullest and had the determinations to make things happen.

Ken and Barbara were kind enough to let our son Jason live in their home for a year while he was attending Dixie College. They treated him like he was their own, which I've always been grateful for. You couldn't ask for better friends. I'm sure they treated their many many friend with the same love and respect.

Our hearts go out to their children as they have lost both parents in less than a year to cancer. We were very sad to not be able to attend Ken's funeral as we were with family in Tahoe, Calif celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary.

Heavenly Father must have had a special mission for them both to share on the other side, at least they are reunited! They have been wonderful parents and have prepared their children for this life very well and have left them a great legacy to say the least.

I'm so proud to have known them bot!h. Until we meet again! Our love, prayers and heartfelt condolences to their wonderful family.

Wally and Carolyn Wahlstrom ❤️❤️❤️

Carolyn Wahlstrom - March 10, 2016 at 02:42 PM