



Barbara Jeane Jones-Vernieu

February 17, 1951 - August 26, 2025

Barbara Jeane Jones-Vernieu, 74, passed away on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, in St. George, Utah. She was born February 17, 1951 in Malad City, Idaho, the daughter of Thomas Lyman Jones and Marie Wharton. After her parents divorced, her mother married her stepfather, Merrell L. Francis, who played an important role in her upbringing and life.

She grew up and attended school in Ogden and Roy, Utah. In 1968 she married Alan Bute with whom she shared her son, Eric L. Bute. After they divorced, she was married and divorced three more times before marrying her husband of 40 years, Mark D. Vernieu. Later in life she also became a “dog mom” to her furry favorite, Lulu.

Barbara obtained her degree in Microbiology from Weber State University. As a microbiologist she worked on several important research projects at the University of Utah and the Huntsman Cancer Institute, both in Salt Lake City, Utah. At the age of 51 she had the opportunity to change careers and never looked back. She turned her passion for quilt making into a successful business named QuiltSoup. She designed and sold original quilt patterns, designed textiles for textile manufacturers, wrote nationally published quilt books, and taught many students the art of applique and quilt making.

Barbara was an optimist and always looked for the best in every situation. She

was outgoing and a genuine friend to many. She loved being a grandmother and sharing in the lives of her grandchildren. She will be greatly missed.

Barbara is survived by her husband, Mark D. Vernieu; her son, Eric L. (Jessica) Bute; her mother, Marie W. Francis; her sister, Glenda (Bruce) Hudgens; her brother, Kenneth (Susan) Francis; her grandchildren and great grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and her furry favorite, Lulu.

Preceded in death by her father, Thomas Lyman Jones; her stepfather, Merrell L. Francis, her stepmother Eola Jones; and several aunts and uncles.

Barbara elected to be cremated and requested no formal services at this time.

Tribute Wall

WA

“ Dear Jones-Vernieu Family,

Our office noted with sadness the passing of your loved one, Barbara, and we wish to send our condolences and sincere sympathy to you and your family at this time of bereavement. As a member of Weber State University's extended family, friends and associates will miss her.

While we realize a condolence letter cannot lessen your sense of loss, we want to let you know that her achievements and contributions were appreciated at Weber State University.

Sincerely,

*Nancy B. Collinwood
Executive Director of Alumni Relations*

Weber State Univ. Alumni Association - September 23, 2025 at 03:59 PM

MR

“ *I asked Barb to come speak to the newly formed Red Rock Modern Quilt Guild in St George. She was so pleased that I remembered her from an earlier time and was delightful as she shared her fabric/pattern journey. She was so generous and brought every one of us free gifts of patterns and fabric. She was as kind as she was colorful and we will never forget her!*

Melissa Ryther - August 31, 2025 at 11:25 PM

LF

“The “Cool Aunt.” That was a title that Aunt Bobi definitely earned. In a very staid, vanilla, play-by-the-rules family, Aunt Bobi wasn’t afraid to be her authentic self and go against the grain. When I was assigned to interview the most interesting person I knew as part of a school assignment, it was only natural that Aunt Bobi’s name was at the top of my list. She was the first person in our family to own a smart phone, and I vividly remember her giving us a tabletop tutorial pinching her fingers to zoom in on the screen and spreading them to zoom out. She always had the coolest home decor—whether it was her Bountiful home’s sleek, modern look or her St. George home’s retro furnishings. And you always wanted to be seated next to Aunt Bobi at any meal because you knew she would have the most eclectic, interesting stories.

All who knew Aunt Bobi knew how crazy smart, talented, and witty she was. But those who truly knew her could attest to her kindness and empathy. And really, isn’t that the coolest thing of all?

I can envision Aunt Bobi standing at the pearly gates chatting with St. Peter. “So, if you need someone to refurbish the stained glass in your churches, or to make some fabulous quilts for your fellow saints, or to upgrade your drab gold and white decor, I’m your gal.”

She was incredibly loved and will be incredibly missed.

-Luke Francis (Aunt Bobi’s very uncool nephew)

Luke Francis - August 30, 2025 at 11:30 PM

MS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mary Silver - August 29, 2025 at 08:55 PM

TR

“ *Bobi was the "rock star" of the Jones clan. We are fortunate to have had her in the family. As a younger cousin, I always thought she was so awesome. Bobi was smart as a whip and a comedian when you least expected it. Bobi was beautiful, inside and out and she had class.! Cousin always wore the cutest shoes! (I took note)! We all will take notice of her absence, as she will be terribly missed. Traci*

Traci Randazzo - August 29, 2025 at 05:29 PM

SD

“ *As a young newlywed 25 years ago I tagged along with my mom to her quilt group every month. I feel in love with the S&B women and Barbara would host the group and quickly became the Queen Bee. It was like having a bunch of bonus moms and Barb was the hippest and most modern of them all. I loved Barb's smile and her straight forward character- she was as brilliant in microbiology as she was at choosing fabrics and creating beautiful details in every design. I miss the S & B days that helped me find my footing as a newlywed- she was a mentor in so many ways and the best friend to my mom for over 25 years. I loved hearing updates from my mom about Barb and Lulu. I will miss her so much.*

Shannon Day - August 29, 2025 at 04:13 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah - August 29, 2025 at 12:45 PM

SW

Barbara was a great friend I was truly blessed to have her and the many memories that we had together

Sandy Wheeler - August 29, 2025 at 02:00 PM

SW

I will truly miss you so much

Sandy Wheeler - August 29, 2025 at 02:20 PM