



Earlene C. Backes

January 8, 2020

Earlene C. Backes, 83, passed peacefully after a long illness on Wednesday January 8th, 2020. She is survived by her daughter Laura and son-in-law Jon Bard of Fort Collins, CO; son Clarus and daughter-in-law Kira Backes of Auburn, CA; son Michael Backes and daughter-in-law Liane Bennett of Aurora, CO; and brother Dennis Conn of Greenville, SC. Her grandchildren Matthew Bard and Amelia Backes were two of her greatest sources of joy in her life. She was preceded in death by her husband, Clarus Backes Sr., and her parents, Earl and Mary Conn.

Earlene was born in Kansas City, Missouri on February 2nd, 1936 to Earl and Mary Conn. She was a graduate of the Marywood School in Evanston, IL, studied at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI and returned to Evanston to received a degree in Speech Communication in 1959 at Northwestern University. She met Clarus Backes, a journalism major, while at Marquette and they married on November 12, 1960. Clarus' newspaper and travel writing took Earlene and their children from Chicago to England and Spain, and eventually to the mountains of Colorado, which became Earlene's favorite home from 1975 up until 2004, when she settled in Fort Collins to be closer to her daughter and grandson.

Over the years Earlene brought her grace and natural beauty to modeling, worked in the banking and insurance industries, and turned her connections to the publishing world into a successful Media Liason business, assisting nationally known authors on their book tours to Denver. She loved sharing tales of literary giants and their travel quirks, or the adventures she had getting them to their events on time, and maintained close friendships with many of her clients for years after. Earlene cherished her horse "Toffee" that she had while in Evergreen, along with her dogs "Shadrack", "Ben", and "Alamo". Her garden in the mountains, a day on the golf course, or an afternoon watching horse racing always brought her great joy.

Earlene was a pillar of strength and faith for her family, especially after the passing of Clarus, Sr. in 1988. A staunch believer in tradition, she made sure everyone was

connected throughout the holidays and family events. Christmas cookies and Easter baskets for all were never missed! Her love of a good Sinatra tune or the warm tones of a Renoir painting gracing her home revealed the elegance and touch of class that she effortlessly embodied, but she could also share down to earth moments with friends and family, playing with her weekly bridge group and watching grandson Matt play drums with his band. An avid reader, she especially loved thrillers by Jonathan Kellerman, Tom Clancy, Lisa Scottoline, Anne Cleves, and countless others. In the end, Earlene's deep and enduring faith in Christ was her final comfort and helped her reach serenity in her passing.

A remembrance of her life will be held at Goes Funeral Care on Wednesday 1/15 from 4-6pm. Funeral service will be held at St Joseph Catholic Church on Thursday 1/16 at 9am with burial to follow at 2pm at Evergreen Memorial Park, Evergreen, CO. Flowers may be sent to Goes Funeral Care and donations may be made in her name to the Denver Rescue Mission.

Events

JAN 15 **Visitation** 04:00PM - 06:00PM

Goes Funeral Care & Crematory
3665 Canal Drive Suite E, Fort Collins, CO, US, 80524

JAN 16 **Funeral Mass** 09:00AM

St. Joseph Catholic Church
300 W Mountain Ave, Fort Collins, CO, US, 80521

JAN 16 **Burial** 02:00PM

Evergreen Memorial Park
26624 N Turkey Creek Rd, Evergreen, CO, US, 80439

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - January 15, 2020 at 10:33 AM



“ It was always special for Ruth and I to spend time with Earlene at your house a few times a year over the past few decades. Her smile was wide and real, the kind that ripples in the mind's eye with lasting memory. We will remember her fondly always.

Bruce Brodeen - January 14, 2020 at 08:03 PM



“ Thank you Bruce. She really enjoyed her conversations with you and Ruth, and especially appreciated your visits when she was sick.

Laura - January 22, 2020 at 01:29 PM



“ To Laura, Jon and Matt, we are so sorry to hear about the loss of your mother and grandmother. Steve and I remember her fondly as a very fine woman who dearly loved her family.

Kathleen, Steve and Robert Catanach - January 12, 2020 at 11:17 PM



“ Thank you! She loved you guys and especially liked sharing Thanksgiving with you!

Laura - January 13, 2020 at 12:26 PM



“ Earlene was my cousin. She was nine years older than me, so she was not a direct part of my life but more of an inspiration. We looked up to her, we Owens kids. We lived hardly a mile from Aunt Mary and Uncle Earl's house on Lawndale in Evanston. There was four of them, the Conns, including Dennis, much younger than Earlene. They came to our house for Thanksgiving and Aunt Mary brought the pumpkin pies.... I visited her home in Evergreen a few times, and the last time I saw her was at my sister Katy's wedding in 2008. She looked so beautiful.

Fred Owens - January 12, 2020 at 04:52 PM



“ Thank you Fred. My mother often talked about your family and spending time at your parents' home when she was a child.

Laura - January 13, 2020 at 12:27 PM