



Barbara Ralphene Briggs Schafer

June 21, 2020

Barbara Ralphene Briggs was born February 8th, 1932, to Ralph and Fern (Howard) Briggs in Wray, Colorado and departed this life on June 21, 2020 in Fort Collins. She began her education at the Antelope school, a one room school house located on the Briggs ranch on the Arikaree River east of Beecher Island. She graduated from Wray High School with the class of 1950. Her classmates remained lifelong friends. Barbara married her high school beau, Darwin Schafer and they were blessed with two children, Patricia Lee and Raymond Duain (always known as Mike).

Their family lived in Wray, Holyoke, Englewood, and Longmont, Colorado. Barb was always “good with numbers” and worked as a bookkeeper and in customer relations. After retirement, Barbara and Darwin moved to Torrington, Wyoming. She had loyal friends from each place she lived. Barb loved all kinds of dancing. She and Dar spent many years square dancing and traveling with their camping club.

In December 2006, and January and March 2007, Barbara lost both of her children to cancer and her husband to Alzheimer’s disease after caring for him for many years. She was sustained by devoted family and friends, her indomitable spirit and her Christian faith. In 2009, she moved to Fort Collins to live near her sister Ardith and family.

Barbara was also preceded in death by her parents, her sister Phyllis who died in childhood, her sister Doris and brother-in-law Malcolm Akey and her parents-in-law, Velma and Earl Schafer. She is survived by son-in-law, Dan Cavanaugh, daughter-in-law, Cindi Schafer, and grandchildren Bill Cavanaugh, Kellie Penney (husband Keith), Courtney Branagan (husband Jay) and Katie Schafer as well as great grandchildren, Tyler and Dylan Penney and Ethan and Abby Branagan. She is also survived by brother-in-law Darrel Schafer (wife Rita), sister, Joan (husband Gary Updike), sister Ardith (husband Fred Kerst) and brother Charlie (wife Linda Briggs).

To nieces and nephews she was beloved Aunt Bee. Recently a young friend asked her father, "Why does Miss Barb have so many friends? Why does everyone like her so much?" He answered, "What's not to like about Barb?" She was an inspiration to us all. Anyone wishing to, please donate in her memory to Immanuel Church, 1900 Taft Hill Road, Fort Collins, Colorado 80526, Barb's beloved church home.

Barb's service will be streamed online at 10:30 am, Saturday, June 27. Please use the following link to access the service: <https://youtu.be/lzquacn7WI>

Previous Events

Virtual / Online Memorial Service

JUN 27. 10:30 AM (MT)

Online / Streaming

Tribute Wall



“ *Barbara Ralphene Briggs Schafer*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Mrs. Barb, as my girls called her, was simply an amazing person with a wonderful heart. Barb was our next door neighbor and we always looked forward to our front lawn conversations. My girls are better for knowing her and I know I am as well. Rest in peace, Mrs. Barb. You'll be missed!*

Love, Todd, Ella & Riley

Todd Newcomer - July 02, 2020 at 07:20 PM



“ *What an honor it has been to care for Barbara. Her gentle spirit, her soft voice was joyful and always full of hope. She always shared her pride in her family and their achievements. She has impacted my personal life, my clinical journey, and I will never take for granted the wisdom she has shared with me over the past few years. Thank you to her family and friends for allowing me to a small part of her life. May you rest in peace, Barbara. St. Joseph, pray for us.*

Dr. Jaclyn Munson - July 01, 2020 at 04:00 PM

CS

“ I have so many happy memories with my mom and dad(Barb& Dar) . I met their son in college, and the first time he brought me home to meet them, as I walked in the house, I knew I had a second family ! When I met Mike, I knew he was the one and we were meant to be together forever! From that point on, I had a second Mom. I also had a second Dad. My Dad (Bill) and Dar were born on the same day, and so much alike! By the way, I love the whole entire family. I will always love you Mom and I want to tell you you were an amazing Mother-in-law and Grandma. With God's help I will strive to live with you as a role model and God's ever presence in my life

Cynthia Jane Schafer - June 27, 2020 at 05:50 PM

SS

“ I can just see Barb as she entered Heaven and the joy of being with all her loved ones.
A day of celebration for her! She was a wonderful positive person throughout all her sorrows and a great example as a great Christian lady.
She always reminded us so much of her Mom and our Aunt Fern, little in size, but mighty in spirit.
Love and sincere sympathy to all her family, Shirley Starnes

Shirley Starnes - June 27, 2020 at 02:02 PM

KP

“ *Grandma Barb, Aunt Bea, Great Grandma, good friend. However you knew her it was a joy! I’m so blessed that Barb could know my kids when her daughter, Pat, could not. I am grateful for the childhood memories that Barb and Dar gave me of family, ranch life with cows and sheep, fairs and big open fields, square dancing, amazing gardens, homemade pickles and cookie dough. I am grateful for her wise counsel, humor, a willing ear and for always filling me in on current events! I will miss catching up and talking with her so very much. Barb epitomized strength and perseverance, faith and love. It has been a privilege to be part of her story.*
Kellie.



Kellie Penney - June 27, 2020 at 01:47 PM

AP

“ *I am grateful to Aunt Bee for the warmth she shared with me and my family. My daughters visited her last week and she told them that she was going to heaven and was not afraid. I think this speaks highly to her character and ability to put the people around her at ease. I will miss her presence at family events—always a patient listener with thoughtful advice to share over a meal, when not telling or chuckling at a good joke. I will remember her kindness, resilience, and faith. I will share stories of her with my children, especially my youngest (pictured with Bee in the post my mom, Melinda, shared) who won’t remember her but all the same was impacted by her love as I know so many, young and old, were.* -Annabelle



Annabelle Fern Praznik - June 27, 2020 at 10:15 AM

JK

“Tears flow and my heart is broken from the loss of my friend and mentor Barb. "What an inspiration" is so little to say about Barb when she has done so much and meant so much to all those who knew her. The love and patience and kindness she showed toward Dar was so noticeable to me even while he was alive. She became my mentor when my husbands and my lives turned to go down the same road. The frustrations could build up but then I could think "Barb did this, so can I" and the frustrations would ease and disappear. Barb was the one I could call any time of the day and talk and talk about life and at the end of the conversation, I always felt like tomorrow was another day. Thank you Barb for your wisdom, and following God's calling for you to be compassionate. You were indeed that. Don always called Barb "Mom" because she blessed him so much also. Love you Barb-you were my surrogate "Mom" also. Jan King



Jan King - June 26, 2020 at 04:48 PM

TJ

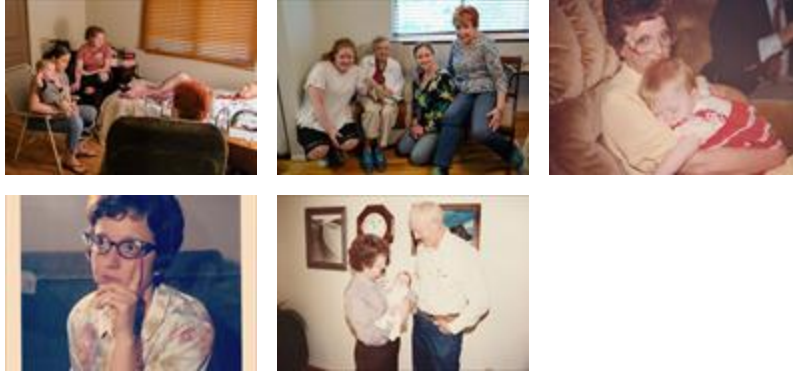
“Aunt Bea has always been an inspiration to me. From the time I was a little girl and she cared for me to our summer visits the last 10 years, I was always learning important life lessons from her. One of the most recent words of wisdom she shared was if you are feeling down, just put on some music and dance. She faced many challenges in her life yet always had a positive attitude and sense of humor. She was loved by many people, young and old. The world is a better place and I am a better person because of her.



Terry Jensen - June 25, 2020 at 12:49 PM

KS

“ I have so many wonderful memories my Grandma, she was such a brave and strong woman but she was also fun and played along with all our shenanigans when we would come and visit her and Grandpa during the summer. I will miss her, and her sweet soul.



Katie Schafer - June 24, 2020 at 09:23 PM

AL

“ Aunt Bee put everyone at ease with her relaxed, natural grace. You felt like you could open to her without being judged. She listened and listened and listened and was a great comfort to strangers, young people, friends and family. For a teeny, tiny little old lady, she also liked an off-color joke and was impossibly charming when she delivered the punchline. She talked about being called "Tuffy" as a kid and she was tough---tough and loving and delightful.

Amy Lambert - June 24, 2020 at 09:14 PM

AL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Amy Lambert - June 24, 2020 at 08:58 PM

AL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Amy Lambert - June 24, 2020 at 08:56 PM

MK

“ I will miss Aunt Bee's smile, her telling of a good joke, the delight she took in babies and children, and her loving spirit. She was an inspirational example of faith in action. She will be greatly missed!
Love, Melinda



Melinda Kerst - June 24, 2020 at 02:11 PM