



Mrs. Barbara Gay Stroope

December 19, 1940 - May 2, 2024

Graveside services for Mrs. Barbara Gay Stroope, 84, of Longview, Texas will be 11:00 a.m. Monday, October 7, 2024 at Waldrop Cemetery, with Rev. Dale Walker Officiating. Memorial Graveside Service under the direction of Hawthorn Funeral Home.

Barbara Gay Sparks Stroope was a caring and loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She left this world peacefully on May 2, 2024, with her son Wayne by her side.

Barbara was born to the late Aaron William Sparks and Betty Cordell Woods Sparks on December 19, 1940. After attending Longview high school, Barbara soon married her high school sweetheart, Carl M. Stroope, on August 9, 1958. Together, they had 2 children, Kim Stroope and Wayne (Sue) Stroope.

Barbara lost Carl, the love of her life, suddenly in 2020 after 62 years of marriage. In addition to her two children, she is survived by 5 grandchildren, Brandy, Jamie (Matt), Adam, Karlyn (Alex) and Sarah, 6 great-grandchildren (soon to be 7), Brandon, Lexi, Mattie, Leighton, Ava and Liana, and 1 great-great-grandchild Emersyn. Sadly, she was predeceased by great-grandchild Erica.

Barbara loved tending to her plants, both inside and out, reading and collecting angel figurines. She also enjoyed crocheting and made many beautiful afghans which she shared with all her family members. Barbara loved her family dearly and enjoyed the time she got to spend with them, often telling many detailed stories of her fond memories. She also was proud of her

career working as a bank teller in different banks in multiple towns, as she and Carl moved to support his career growth with J.C. Penney's.

Barbara spent the last year of her life living near her son in Michigan where she got to see beautiful cherry blossoms in the spring, the Great Lakes and a lot of snow. Barbara's ashes will be returned to her beloved home of East Texas later this year and placed at Waldrop Cemetery, where she and Carl will rest near her parents, brothers and sisters who predeceased her. There will be a luncheon served in the Tabernacle following the burial service.

Cemetery Details

Waldrop Cemetery

926 FM 1251
Beckville, TX 75631

Previous Events

Graveside Service

OCT 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Waldrop Cemetery
926 FM 1251
Beckville, TX 75631

Tribute Wall

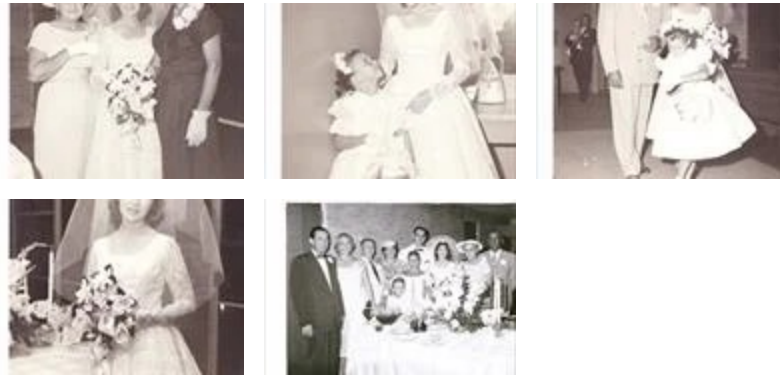
KP

“ My favorite memories of Mamaw always started with us flying to Texas and meeting Mamaw and Poppie at the airport. She always gave me hugs that were so tight and long and she never wanted to let go, making you feel the love pouring out of her. We would then get in the car where she always had pimento cheese and turkey sandwiches already cut up ready to eat, along with an ice cold Yahoo to drink. Mamaw would then work on one of her many afghans and talk a mile a minute in the car until we would get to their house. I always loved sleeping on a cozy pallet at their house and eating her excellent chicken dressing and strawberry cake. One of my favorite trips was when my sister and I got to fly to Texas for spring break and Mamaw and Poppie took us to the NASA Space Center and to Galveston island. Mamaw will always be deeply loved and missed, but I am happy that she is back with Poppie now.

Karlyn Pikunas - October 06, 2024 at 09:13 PM

WS

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Wayne Stroope - October 04, 2024 at 02:45 PM

WS

“ 21 files added to the tribute wall



Wayne Stroope - October 04, 2024 at 02:27 PM

KS

“ 1 file added to the album *Barbara's Photos*



Karen Shamburger - October 04, 2024 at 01:53 PM

WS

“ 16 files added to the tribute wall



Wayne Stroope - October 03, 2024 at 05:00 PM

JF

“ Your mom was a very special lady. She always had a great big smile and I loved to hear her laugh! She and my mom, Joyce Brooks Wedgeworth, were very close. Your mom was born on my mom’s birthday and she always enjoyed hearing from your mom. I also remember your mom’s spunk and she didn’t mind telling you what she thought! We named our second son, Aaron Mathew, after her dad my great uncle Aaron, but we called him Matt. She popped those eyes at me and told me quick that if he was named after her Daddy we should call him Aaron. She would be happy to know that when he started working as an adult he chose to be Aaron! Your mom and Dad will always have a special place in my heart. Love you all!

Jenice Wedgeworth Fitts - October 03, 2024 at 03:54 PM

“ Here’s what I remember about my Mom:

I remember Mom singing me to sleep for naps when I was 5, and I always fought her but then lost the battle and miraculously woke up a couple of hours later feeling great.

Around that same time, I remember going to the beach at Galveston on one of very few family vacations and playing in the surf with my Mom and I on one air mattress and my Dad and sister on another.

This was a brave act for her because she never learned to swim.

I remember many get-togethers with my Aunt Carolyn, Uncle Robert and cousins Bridget, Toni and Chris. Mom always seemed to be the life and spirit in the room and would often chase down Chris and shower him with kisses.

In those early years Mom was always very upbeat and happy but she also had a fragile heart. I remember watching Mom sob over the loss of her mother in 1966. She was 26 and I was 5. I didn’t fully understand what was going on then but I knew seeing her heart broken was something I never wanted to see again. I’m sure there were other times in between but the loss of her father in 1980 was another big one.

I remember how much Mom loved her family, both immediate and extended. Throughout the years she would often remind me of what a good man my father was even though I already knew. She knew so many of her aunts, uncles and cousins with detailed stories about each one. The walls of her house became filled with family photos as years went by. Mom was such a sentimental person that the least little thing associated with a person or a memory was precious to her.

I remember Mom, who worked as a bank teller into her 50s, would come home and make dinner every night for the family. Back then, before I starting working all day, I didn’t realize what a tiresome achievement and sacrifice this was. Mom had a great career as a bank teller, working her way up to teller supervisor and vault supervisor. I see this as a great achievement especially because she kept having to start over at new banks when my Dad would get transferred in his job, which was often.

I remember Mom at 5’2” being a ferocious “mama bear” who would

not tolerate anyone bothering her kids. This continued and expanded to not tolerating disobedience or disrespect from her children. By 17 or 18 years old I was a foot taller than Mom but there was never a question who was in charge. One particular time I tested this arrangement with a bad decision and earned a hot cup of coffee in my face from her. I deserved it and never disrespected her again.

Mom never hesitated to let me know how proud she was of me whether it was some success in sports early on, achievements in scouting, high school and college graduations or finally landing a good job and starting a family. I can not recall any event, large or small, in my life that my mother missed.

I remember that Mom became an expert at crochet. There were a few years that her output of afghans was almost machine like and they were all beautiful pieces of art you could snuggle up with. Now when I take a nap (voluntarily!), I still curl up with one of Mom's afghans.

I remember the day my mother's heart was again crushed in August 2020 when she lost my father. As she laid her head on his chest and sobbed, it was like a flashback to that day in 1966 when all I wanted to do was comfort her but other than hug her, there wasn't a lot I could do.

Mom had a rough 4 years following my father's death, although in her last year I was able to see her weekly instead of 2 times a year. We spent a lot of time looking at old photos and reminiscing and watching hallmark movies. We went on drives in the springtime when she especially loved seeing the cherry blossoms and big lakes. During those visits, Mom would tell me often that she was ready to go see Carl. It comforts me to know that now they are finally back together.

Wayne Stroope

Wayne Stroope - October 03, 2024 at 02:40 PM