



Barbara Lorraine Hope

October 26, 1930 - April 12, 2020

Age 89 of New Hope, MN

On April 12, 2020, Easter Sunday morning, Barbara Hope slipped peacefully into the arms of her lifelong Friend and Savior. She was beautifully cared for in her last days by the staff of St. Therese of New Hope and Allina Hospice.

Barbara was a gentle, funny, and loving person, raising four spirited daughters who loved her dearly. Every night at bedtime, she read aloud from Little Women or another of her childhood "friends," then a Bible story and prayers and off to sleep. She became the "eyes" and the wholly trusted partner of her husband, George, who was mostly blind since childhood. She wrote wonderful letters, sang like an angel, and took on leadership roles for causes she cherished, even when she felt unequal to the task..

In the years after George's sudden passing in 2011, Barbara's presence became a profound blessing and gift to her daughters and their loved ones. Even as Alzheimer's disease took away more and more of her sharp mind and practical abilities, she was somehow being distilled into her pure essence, always joyful and loving and peaceful.

Barbara Lorraine Jesten was born on October 26, 1930 -- one day after the birth of her beloved husband, George Hope -- in Mankato, MN. She spent her early childhood in small Minnesota farm towns where her Norwegian immigrant father was a school superintendent. She spent many happy days on her grandparents' farm outside Cleveland, MN, riding out on her pony to help Grandpa Cheadle bring the cows home.

On her first day of fifth grade in the big city, Minneapolis, Barbara proudly wore the new dress her country grandma had sewn for her. The cruel ridicule of her classmates started a painful and lonely few years, during which Barbara gained her lifelong tender heart for anyone who might be left out or made fun of.

In high school she found a place to blossom, as she and her brother Chuck gained wonderful friendships and musical experiences. Their mother, Anabelle, was a great musician with a comical and dramatic flair. After high school, Barbara followed her father's path to Macalester College in St. Paul, where a friend introduced her to fellow student George Hope. He proposed to her at the midnight New Year's Eve service at First Baptist Church in St. Paul, where they were later married in 1953. During college, Barbara served as a short-term Christian community outreach worker in Peru and with a US migrant farm worker community.

After college, Barbara worked as a social worker while George worked in a machine shop. Then they followed their vocation to seminary in Berkeley, CA, where Barbara earned a master's in Christian Education while also doing all the reading, typing, and driving for George, who was legally blind, as he completed the master of divinity program. They returned to the Midwest to serve a series of wonderful, loving churches in Campbell, Doran, Tintah, Winona, Winnebago, and Battle Lake, MN, and in Osage and Webb, IA. In retirement, Barbara and George enjoyed 17 wonderful years in their Rush Lake cabin in Crosslake, MN.

Barbara leaves behind her daughters and their loved ones: Leanne Hope and Scott Shook, Virginia (Ginger) Hope and László Csernohorszky, Connie Hope and Barb Wolfe, and Karin Hope and Paul Koch. She leaves her sister-in-law, Gail Jesten; niece Louann and nephews Mark, Vince, Steve, and Dana; and many cousins and friends held dear.

A private graveside service has been held due to the current pandemic.

Memorials preferred to Barbara Hope Memorial Fund, First Baptist Church, 499 Wacouta Street, St. Paul MN 55101.

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of Barbara Lorraine Hope



December 14, 2023 at 06:21 PM



“ Dear Ginger, what a beautiful tribute to your mom. You and your family are on my heart and in my prayers.

Phyllis Blackwood Henderson - April 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ginger and Laci, I am so sorry for your loss bit I am hapoy f

Christiane Axt - April 19, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ Connie, so sorry to hear of your mom's passing but what a beautiful day to have new life on Easter Sunday. My mom passed away last October and I miss her so much. It was a comfort to me this Easter knowing she was truly experiencing new life with Christ. May God be with you and your family in this difficult time.
Cheryl



Cheryl Kapler - April 18, 2020 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ So sorry for your loss. Always had a wonderful time with your Mom and Dad. You have my prayers.

Phil Tireman - April 18, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ Our heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to your whole family. Barbara and George were our pastors in Osage for many years. Our family so loves and appreciates your family!

Roland and Brigitte Philipp - April 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ A very special lady blessed with wonderful daughters.

Ann Fitch - April 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ Hope girls, what a beautiful tribute to your little mama. A life well lived. Hugs and love to you all. Peg

Peg walsh ledel - April 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ What a beautiful video and obituary of an incredible woman! Her continuous presence of love and joy shines through in the photos and the written testimonial. Her four daughters are a continued blessing to the rest of the world and her spirit lives on through them and their love. I am so proud to have been a part of the life she's lived and am appreciative that her passing was peaceful. May she and George brighten the heavens with their reunion in song and spirit.

Anna Hope - April 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ I have many fond memories of your mother laughing as we all got up to thing. May she rest and rejoice in her well deserved reward.



Patrick Johanns - April 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ Your mother was a real gem. A true woman of God and an inspiration to many of us. I treasure the many memories of her. God be with you during this difficult time of mourning. Cling to the truth that there will come a time when you will see her again in paradise.

Lisa Torney - April 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ It is with sincere sympathy that I am so sorry for your loss, but know that your loss is heaven's gain. It is hard to lose our mothers, but you have wonderful memories to help remember your mother. I remember her from our regional AB Women's meetings in Wartburg - even the time all of you girls sang for us. I will remember your family in my prayers.

Beverly McCartney - April 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ My Prayers of peace & comfort for your family. I have fond memories of your mom and your dad, they treating me as family and always greeting me with a hug and kiss. So hugs and kisses to the Hope family. -LaDonna



LaDonna - April 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

NJ

“ *Such a beautiful tribute.*

Nancy Johnson - April 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *What a beautiful tribute to Barbara. She was such a special woman and I am so glad to have known her. Thanks too for the picture story of her life and always a smile and a quiet presence about her. May God continue bless you with sweet memories.*

Marcia Street - April 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

ED

“ *What a beautiful lady. I always loved hearing her and her daughters sing hymns. She is a far better, happier place now. And although we will miss her down here, this is not goodbye. Just see ya later.*

Eric Denning - April 16, 2020 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to your whole family in your grief. I thought the obituary and funeral were beautiful.*



Pat Wolesky - April 16, 2020 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ *A beautiful tribute to a beautiful soul.*

Stephanie Tilton - April 16, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry for the loss of Barbara. God bless you and your family.
Your mother's 5th grade story strikes real close to home.

Chris Neuwirth - April 16, 2020 at 12:00 AM