



Barbara Burgess Nelson

December 24, 1927 - April 14, 2024

Barbara Burgess Nelson (96), North Oaks, beloved mother, grandma, and aunt, passed away on April 14, 2024, following a recent episode of COVID-19. She was born and raised in St. Paul, graduated from Murray High School, attended the University of Minnesota, and completed a fashion degree from the Tobe' Coburn School of Fashion Careers in New York City in 1948.

Barb was a buyer for Lord & Taylor and Dayton's Oval Room for several years before and after marrying Raleigh Nelson in 1953. Following Raleigh's early career in agricultural product sales, Raleigh and Barb became Burger King franchisees in 1964. In the early years, Barb was instrumental in the planning, decorating, and staffing the Burger Kings.

For decades, Barb and Raleigh enjoyed many international travel adventures, broadening their world view. Barb was an avid amateur genealogist and a lifelong learner taking adult classes at the University of Minnesota and participating in elder hostels. She had an inquiring and compassionate mind, and was forever organized, calm, kind, diplomatic, and generous. Barb had a lifelong love of classical and opera music, had a lovely soprano voice, and was a proud and diligent member of various church choirs, including Gethsemane Lutheran Church and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. Among other volunteer activities, Barb was a board member of the Twin Cities Opera Guild for more than 30 years.

Barb was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, personifying I Corinthians' "love is patient, love is kind." She is survived by and will be dearly missed by her son, Gregg, his wife of 40 years, Colleen, their daughters, Lauren Nelson (husband, Micah Patchin), and Emily Nelson; and by her son, Timm Nelson and his children, Valerie and Oliver Nelson. Barb was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, Raleigh; parents, Ernest and Theresa (Gutzke) Burgess; sister, Alyce (Burgess) Williams and her husband Stanley Williams; and many valued and dear relatives and friends.

A memorial service will be held on April 26, 2024, in the Waverly Gardens chapel at 5919 Centerville Road, North Oaks, MN; visitation at 10:00 a.m. and memorial service at 11:00 a.m. Private inurnment at Lakewood Cemetery will occur at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Twin Cities Opera Guild, Minnesota Historical Society, or the Presbyterian Homes Foundation.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Waverly Gardens Chapel
5919 Centerville Road
North Oaks, MN 55127

Memorial Service

APR **26**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Waverly Gardens Chapel
5919 Centerville Road
North Oaks, MN 55127

Tribute Wall

BA

“ Rest in peace, Aunt Barbara. When I was very little, you came to church with us for the first time on a family visit. During the first hymn, I heard a voice. I looked to the left and the right and to the front and the back and I could not find that voice . . . and then I looked up and there you were ! Then decades later when we visited Great Milton, sitting sipping lemonade a mile or so out of Oxford, I was reeling that I had met someone in Great Milton you had connected with for our trip and that person had had Bede's History of England on her bedside table and I remember I told you that I never thought I would ever meet anyone who had read Bede's History Thank you for bringing awe into my life. You will be in my heart forever.

Barbara - April 21, 2024 at 10:26 PM

DS

“ Dave, Ansula and Christina Schindler planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Burgess Nelson.

Dave, Ansula and Christina Schindler - April 21, 2024 at 07:51 PM

DS

“ Dave, Ansula and Christina Schindler purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Barbara Burgess Nelson.



Dave, Ansula and Christina Schindler - April 21, 2024 at 07:51 PM

RA

“ *Barbara opened her home for me in my first year in the US. She treated me like a son and gave me my first taste of an American family and an American Mother. What a powerful woman with such an impactful life. I remember her family reunion from the early 80s well. After her extensive genealogy research, she reached out to all her relatives in Germany (East and West then) and had them all travel to a reunion of a lifetime in St. Paul. Our solace is that her memories will last forever. All who knew her loved her. I'm proud to have been a small part of her life. Reda Athanasios*

Reda Shafk Athanasios - April 21, 2024 at 02:39 PM