



Barb Gilkey

November 30, 1961 - June 14, 2024

Barbro Helena (Carlson) Gilkey November 30, 1961 - June 14, 2024

Barbro (Barb) Gilkey, age 62, passed away peacefully, surrounded by friends and family, after waging a battle with cancer over the last three and a half years. Barb was welcomed into heaven by those who preceded her in death, including her beloved parents, Dean Carlson and Kerstin (Johansson) Carlson. Barb is survived by her husband of 36+ years, Steve Gilkey; children, Grace Gilkey and Gina Gilkey; brothers, Dean (Johan) Carlson and Paul Carlson; and many nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, and friends.

Barb grew up in the Minneapolis area where she attended Edina-West High School. She went on to attend the University of Minnesota, where she became active in the Pi Beta Phi sorority, along with joining the college dance and cheerleading squads. Upon graduating with a marketing degree from the university, she honed her creative skills into a successful career in the advertising media field. Barb took great pride in being part of a team that grew Periscope into one of the largest independent advertising agencies in the country. She developed lifelong friendships with both her Periscope colleagues and with clients at Target Corporation, her primary client account.

Barb Carlson married Steve Gilkey in 1989 before settling in Plymouth, MN, where they raised their two daughters. Barb had the magic touch to make

every event memorable and meaningful. Whether it was her daughters' birthday parties or her legendary Christmas Eve celebrations, everyone remembers an event that was planned by Barb.

Lake life was always special to her, beginning with her parent's cabin, followed by time at Clamshell on the Whitefish Chain of Lakes. Her final lake life experience started shortly after her cancer news with a spontaneous lake home purchase in Crosslake. She requested that her ashes be spread at the lakes that had an impact on her life.

Barb made the most of each day after she received the cancer news. She was fortunate to have the energy to travel extensively, including snow-birding between AZ and Crosslake, a mother-daughter trip to Sweden to reconnect with extended family, and a family destination wedding in Cozumel. Her sorority and cheerleading friends made sure her calendar was always full of destination trips, including L.A., Vegas, Nashville, New Orleans, Cabo, and Scottsdale.

Barb will be greatly missed by family, many friends, and anyone who knew her.

All are welcome to a visitation at Washburn-McReavy from 5:00-7:00pm on Sunday, June 30th. Washburn-McReavy Funeral home is located in Edina at West 50th St. & Hwy 100.

All are also welcome for the funeral service at Mount Olivet Church on Monday, July 1st. Funeral services starts at 1:00pm preceded by a visitation that begins at 12:30pm. Mount Olivet Lutheran Church is located at 5025 Knox Ave S. in Minneapolis.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation

(<https://cholangiocarcinoma.org/donate/>).

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 30. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436

Visitation

JUL 1. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (So. Mpls)
5025 Knox Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Memorial Service

JUL 1. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (So. Mpls)
5025 Knox Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Tribute Wall

JR

“ *As a fellow bunco player, dance mom and neighborhood/kid's school friend, I always enjoyed time with Barb and family. It has been some time since we hung out but was so looking forward to connecting in AZ. The way Barb lived her life and fought through cancer while still creating experiences and memories with her friends and family will always stay with me. She is the definition of inspiration. Thinking of you all with much sympathy, Jill Rush*

Jill Rush - July 03, 2024 at 05:33 PM

SG

“ *1 file added to the album Family pics*



Steve Gilkey - June 19, 2024 at 05:56 PM

SG

Our deepest sympathy to Barbo family especially Johan and Caroline. We always heard about those Wonderful Christmas eve dinners she hosted.

Steve and Charlotte Geis - June 20, 2024 at 04:23 PM

JS

*It was such a sad day when I heard of Barb's passing. My heartfelt condolences to the family. I worked with Barb at Periscope for many years. I was so impressed at how that woman could get s**t done! We also had a lot of laughs along the way. Barb's work ethic combined with her humor made a stressful job so much easier to handle. I will be forever grateful to have had such a wonderful and funny colleague and friend. Barb, your memory will always remain in my heart. RIP my friend.*

Julie Steinhoff - June 21, 2024 at 08:44 PM

MR

My deepest sympathies to you. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family 🙏🙏

Margie Risch - June 27, 2024 at 07:07 AM

MA

*What a beautiful picture.
I'm totally heartbroken and thinking about you all. My history with your family goes back to your dad. I knew your dad at Edina East. What a nice guy. I also lived next to your grandparent's in Edina as an adult. Never met more dear people. Your grandma traveled to Europe often & always brought me back thoughtful presents. Your grandpa dropped everything to rescue your mom & me multiple times from snowbanks at the U of MN. Many times the rescue simply entailed wiggling the car ignition key. He never complained & probably came to perform this nonsense weekly.
Your mother was a talented dancer; bright & fun. She was a gifted student, a loyal friend and will be cherished forever. Love you Barbro. Always my Barbro. Love, Mary.*

Mary Adamson - June 27, 2024 at 09:53 PM