



Barbara Caruso

November 7, 1933 - July 6, 2021

Mom was born in Norwich, Connecticut to Marion Larsen O'Neil and Patrick Witter O'Neil. She walked to school alongside her brothers and sisters [Skipper O'Neil (Rae); Tommy O'Neil (Shirley); Patricia Clabby (pre-deceased 1995); Marion "Sis" O'Neil (pre-deceased 2018)], cutting through the woods near Uncas Leap at Yantac Falls on the way to Norwich Free Academy. She went on to nursing school at William W. Backus Hospital. She received her nursing degree and after graduation, along with a few classmates, drove across the country to California, widening her sense of adventure. Returning to Connecticut she accepted a job at Backus Hospital as an RN. Soon after, mom attended a wedding and met our dad. James Vincent Caruso, a skinny, street-wise, Italian kid from Union City, New Jersey, home on leave from the Navy. He took her to a Red Sox game at Fenway for their first date, swam often at Misquamicut Beach, and taught her (what came to be one of her passions) the game of pinochle. Against the advice of Grandma O'Neil they were married on August 31, 1957. Today, they have been married for 64 years, inspiring and an exemplary role model for our entire family. Now mom is playing pinochle with her mother and father, our Aunt Patty, Aunt Sis and our Nana (Helen Byrne Caruso), who gave us all our love of cards. Mom and dad traveled to the great cities of Norwalk CT, Lynn MA, Elgin, IL and Pittsburgh, PA to plant the Caruso family tree and have "us kids": James Vincent Caruso, Jr (b. January 22, 1959 - d. January 24, 1959); Michael Joseph Caruso (Emie) of Woodstock, GA; David James Caruso (Bonnie) of Charleston, SC; Cathleen Rettig (Frank) of Arlington Heights, IL; Jeffrey John Caruso (Alicia) of Senoia, GA; Beth Caruso Sanchez (Steve) of Missouri City, TX; and Jennifer Lee Caruso of Woodstock, GA. The branches of our family tree extend to 16 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. Mom enjoyed fresh snow in the winter, the smell of spring's flowers, the brilliant reds and yellows of autumn's trees and her favorite, a summer afternoon thunderstorm witnessed from a porch on the beach. Growing up as a young child in the late stages of the Great Depression, mom knew the value of an education, how to "be efficient", and taught us to always do the right thing regardless of the sacrifice for us. Mom worked nights and dad worked days, so her efficiency was paramount, especially when it came to feeding her hungry children. The evolution of food that was boxed, bagged or canned was ideal for her schedule. We

shared many laughs over Barbara being known as the box, bag or can queen. We are quite certain none of us will ever forget the taste of brown bread in a can. But food was always on the table and there was never a stranger who walked through the front door. Mom had a gift to put people at ease and make them feel warm and welcomed, as if they were life-long friends (wink, wink, Mrs. Pat Bowers). She is also blessed with the gift of humor. Mom enjoyed a dark Irish sense of humor and could take almost any situation and find something funny about it just to lighten the mood or put you at ease. She loved to send cards for all holidays and always celebrated your birthday or special occasion with a card. She never forgot and never missed a birthday. During the peak of the pandemic, she was unable to restock her card inventory, so she would use what she had on hand. Once she sent a "Happy Thanksgiving" card with "Thanksgiving" crossed out and "Birthday" hand-written in. But you received the card and it would bring a smile to your heart. That's who mom was, completely unselfish, completely giving of herself, 100% unconditionally loving. We love you mom. "We'll see ya when we see ya".

The funeral mass is Monday, July 12, 2021 at 11:00am at Saint Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Sharpsburg GA with Father Terry Crone officiating.

Donations to Sacred Journey Hospice <http://www.sacredjourneyhospice.com> are requested in lieu of flowers. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at <http://www.mckoon.com>.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory 770-253-4580

Cemetery

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA, 30263

Events

JUL	Memorial Service 11:00AM - 12:00PM
12	
	St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
	3 Village Road, Newnan, GA, US, 30265

Comments



“ Hey Mom - miss you like crazy. Dad's doing ok - he misses you too... we all do. Love you - Jen

Jen - August 20 at 10:04 AM



“ Hey Mom - there was a full moon tonight. I prayed for you & James Jr - wondered if you were seeing the moon tonight too. Miss you - Jen Jen

Jen - July 21 at 11:45 PM



“ Jen lit a candle in memory of Barbara Caruso



Jen - July 16 at 08:54 AM



“ Condolences to the Caruso/O'Neil family. Barbara was such a sweet, kind lady. It was always so nice to see Barbara and Jim when they visited Acorn Acres. I remember Sis always looking forward to each of the many visits over the years. RIP Barbara!
Chris/Karen Mylly

Chris - July 12 at 10:39 PM



“ we shared many memories from when skip an I were teenagersour christmas sing alongs our great times at 129 asylum st.....our walks around grant court.... you would tell me just take care of my brother.. an I have for 53 years....Kevin an Brian would all ways say aunt Barb.. is the best ..you are one of a kind ... we love you an miss you .. an we will see when we see ya ,, Skipper a Rae

Rae O'Neil - July 10 at 04:39 PM



“ Bonnie Caruso is following this tribute.

Bonnie Caruso - July 10 at 01:52 PM



“ Barb initially terrified me with her stoic New England manners and the interrogation she put me through when we first met. I quickly came to realize that it was just her way of initiating me into this wild and wonderful family. She grafted me in, and I found myself as close to her as my own mother. In some ways even closer because of our mutual and abiding love for her son. She was the only one who seemed to understand and appreciate the sacrifices made over the years, as she was the only one brave enough to talk about the hard truths of this shared life.

I will miss the sound of her voice, the joy of her laughter, the wisdom of her words... but mostly her love and attention. And the games of pinochle - she was the best partner!

God's word says that's we have been raised up and are already seated with Christ in the heavenly realms so I will find comfort in the belief that I am already there with her basking in His presence and experiencing His peace.

Until then, B3

Bonnie Caruso - July 10 at 01:43 PM



“ Barbara will always have a special place in my heart “ A Jewel of a friend”. Every birthday I received a surprise Chocolate Bar in my mail box come rain or shine she made it happen !
Your family has been blessed to have such a living and caring wife and mother .
Blessings ,
Chris Tyre

Chris Tyre - July 10 at 11:57 AM



“ "Mrs. C" as I called Barbara allowed me to join the family years ago, and I think of her as my Godmother. Over the years she has allowed me to talk, laugh & cry with her. She never missed sending me a birthday card & always had some present for me. During my darkest moments, she has been there for me. Some of my best memories are the times it was just she & I sitting at her dining table talking. A remarkable woman with a keen sense of humor, who didn't miss a thing! Thank you for the unfailing love you've shown me all these years. All my love, your "other daughter"

Rhonda McKinney - July 09 at 05:16 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Barbara Caruso.



July 09 at 05:00 PM



“ Hey Mom -- nursing hat is cute .. ha ha ... Dad is sleeping in the chair listening to music, I'm just hanging out -- see you when I see ya -- love you mom - Jen

Jen Caruso - July 09 at 03:01 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Barbara Caruso.



July 09 at 02:41 PM



“ we will see you when we see you ma, love jeff and alicia ,

jeff caruso - July 09 at 02:36 PM



“ Jeff and Alicia my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. My God give you strength. Cherish the memories. Pat Hull

Pat Hull - July 14 at 01:20 PM