



Sharon K. Barber

JUN 25, 1946 - APR 5, 2004



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Sharon K. Barber

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Mrs. Sharon K. Barber, age 57, went to be with her Lord Monday morning, April 5, 2004, at her home. She was born June 25, 1946 in Muskegon to Howard W. & Nila M. (Jones) Noble and had been a life resident of the area. Sharon was a 5th grade teacher at Orchard View Elementary School for 36 years, where she dedicated her life's work to her students and their success. For that dedication, Sharon had received several awards including, the 2003 "My Cool Teacher" award by WZZM, the "Who's Who of American Teachers" award, several times; an "Excellence in Education" award and was honored twice by graduating students. Professionally, Sharon was a member of the M.E.A., N.E.A. and the R-N.E.A. She also was a member of Unity Reformed Church and her "C.R.O.S.S." Group, and formerly a member of Grace Christian Reformed Church where she had taught Sunday School for 20 years. She was devoted to her family and her many students throughout the years, and enjoyed reading, camping and traveling in her spare time. On June 27, 1970 she married Neal J. Barber, and he survives her along with 2 daughters, Deborah (John) Gorkisch of Muskegon, and Heather Barber, and fiancé Chad Bolling, of Louisville, KY; 2 grandchildren, Dean Ryan and Abigail Kay Gorkisch; her parents, Howard & Nila Noble of Muskegon and special friends, Kathleen Cobbler, Nan Eggebrecht and Doug Faulkner. Sharon was preceded in death by her father and mother-in-law, Harley & Reva Barber. A CELEBRATION OF LIFE MEMORIAL SERVICE will be held 11:00 AM Saturday, April 10, 2004 at Unity Reformed Church (1521 Porter Rd) with the Rev. Kyle DeYoung officiating. Final interment will be in Sunrise Memorial Gardens. VISITATION with Sharon's family will be 6-9 PM Friday at Sytsema Funeral Homes, Inc. 737 Apple Avenue, 231-726-5210, and one-hour prior to the service at Unity Reformed Church. For a more lasting memorial, you are asked to consider the Sharon Barber Trust Fund for O.V. School's Elementary Children with Cancer.



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

Mrs. Barber (Miss Noble) was one of those wonderful teachers that has had an impact on my life. Her way of teaching was a gift she used to encourage her students. We knew that she really did care about us. She will be both remembered and missed.##imported-begin##Tom Carpenter##imported-end##

April 13 at 6:15 AM



Anonymous posted:

I first met Sharon thru my mother's (Rayne) loving heart.She referred to Sharon as "BUBBLES".My moms eyes would brighten when she spoke of Sharon. Sharon was my sister Kathleen's "BEST FRIEND".When I met Sharon,I felt as tho "BUBBLES" was an understatement.My parents Rayne and Barney visited yearly and always looked forward to seeing Sharon. Sharon is now with our Lord,and as we grieve her departure,we say to ourselves...her time here was too short.As I think of Sharon's beautiful soul,my heart aches. She will be missed! Karen and Mark Herrera##imported-begin##Karen and Mark Herrera (Texas)##imported-end##

April 12 at 10:57 PM



Anonymous posted:

Mrs. Barber was and is a lasting inspiration to me. I will always remember her for her enthusiasm and love of teaching as well as learning. She was a wonderful person and a good friend. Though I will miss her greatly, the Lord is surely rejoicing for one of his beloved servants has been brought home.##imported-begin##Nathan Leatherman##imported-end##

April 10 at 3:31 PM



Anonymous posted:

What can I say that hasn't been said? I too had always considered Mrs. Barber as my favorite teacher; she was the last teacher I had at OV before I moved back in 1990. Now as I graduate from MSU, I still look back fondly at those days in 5th grade. Sharon was truly blessed to be able to touch the lives of so many people in so many ways. I am confident that she suffers no more. Take heart, she truly is in a better place...##imported-begin##Jake Viraldo##imported-end##

April 10 at 8:49 AM



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Anonymous posted:

Dear Neal, I was sorry to hear of your's wife's death. My sincere sympathy - our prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. Al##imported-begin##Al Van Donkelaar / Christian Care Board member##imported-end##

April 10 at 8:03 AM



Anonymous posted:

The day I was asked to stop by and see Sharon at Hackley Hospital I had no idea the blessing that day would be. Sharon was truly in tune with our Lord Jesus Christ. I've never met someone with such a joy for life, even in her death. I will never forget coming into her room the last time she was in the hospital. She was holding her Granddaughter. What a smile she had that day. My prayers are with the family. I know the God she loved so much will bring you comfort. God's Blessings. Paul Lynn Spiritual Care Volunteer Hackley Hospital##imported-begin##Paul Lynn##imported-end##

April 10 at 6:42 AM



Anonymous posted:

Mrs.Barber is my favorite teacher of all time and will always be. She made a difference in my life. She taught me that just one simple smile can make anyones day brighter. Whenever i was down i just looked at her and smiled. Even if she was having a bad day she could always get out a smile so that everyone else could have a good day even though she wasnt. I thank her for everything she has given me and I will always miss her. She will be with me always.##imported-begin##Brittany Leatherman##imported-end##

April 10 at 5:52 AM



Anonymous posted:

The one thing we will always remember about Sharon is her beautiful smile. Just like the spring flowers bring instant beauty so did she whenever she smiled and she was always smiling. She will be missed by everyone young and old and she will always have a special place in our hearts.##imported-begin##Derita and Bruce Leatherman##imported-end##

April 10 at 5:49 AM



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Anonymous posted:

I first met Sharon in 2000 when my family relocated from Reed City to Muskegon. Soon thereafter I began substitute teaching at OVE and saw Sharon even more frequently. None of my children were old enough to have had her as a teacher before we moved to Indiana, but they all knew who she was. She was an inspiration to all. In all that she endured, her smile never once left her face. We have continued to pray for her each and every day, but knowing that she is no longer suffering and is with The Lord is some consolation to us. May you find solace in knowing how truly loved Sharon was by SO very many, and that The Lord has decided it's now His time to share with her. May the days go quickly until the time that we can all be together with her again in the Great Kingdom of Heaven. God Bless you all.##imported-begin##Gail Fatum, Auburn, Indiana##imported-end##

April 10 at 4:54 AM



Anonymous posted:

Hello, I remember riding the bus home after school and walking to the Barber's home all through elementary. Heather Barber was my baby-sitter for what seemed like forever. Those were good times. Mrs. Barber would sometimes let me stay and eat dinner with them, like I was part of the family. I remember Mrs. Barber working in the landscape in front of there home. She was always the nicest person I had ever known. She never lost her temper or raised her voice, she was patient, loving, and kind. I truly believe she made the world a better place and left insiration in us all to strive to be better people. I prey for the Barber family through these trying times. May God bless you.##imported-begin##Heather George (Klimek)##imported-end##

April 9 at 9:25 AM



Anonymous posted:

Sharon was an incredible person, and it was my privelege to know her. The school was a brighter happier place just with her presence. She will always be remembered with fondness and affection, and her glowing smile and radiant personality will always be missed.##imported-begin##Virginia Hollenbeck##imported-end##

April 9 at 8:40 AM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

Neal, thinking of you during this difficult time of loss. May memories of your loved one help to ease your loss. And may it help to know that warmest thoughts are with you. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to spend a year in Mrs. Barber's classroom. No one loved and cared about us kids more than she did and I am thankful I was one of them she touched. My thoughts and prayers are with you. God Bless. --Michael Buckner##imported-begin##Michael Buckner##imported-end##

April 9 at 6:06 AM



Anonymous posted:

As a fifth grader in 1969 I also remember Miss Noble. It was easy to tell that her and Mrs Cobler were already great friends. I am so happy that my daughters also attended OVE and had the opportunity to know and learn from Mrs. Barber. She had Michelle the year that she first learned of the cancer. Michelle's grandma was also going through chemo at the time, and so was Jill Wolffis' mom. Michelle and Jill thought it was special that they knew the "secret of the wig". I don't think the other kids ever noticed that year. Obviously, Mrs. Barber never lost her terrific smile...no matter what she felt like day to day. The kids used to say, This is Mrs. Barber when she's happy :) This is Mrs. Barber when she's mad :) This is Mrs. Barber when she's sad :)...that smile never waivered! May God Bless her family with comfort during this time of loss and may they rejoice knowing her pain has ended and she is celebrating her everlasting life with her Lord.Denny (class of '76), Nancy (class of '78), Megan (class of '02) & Michelle (class of '05)##imported-begin##The Hanks family##imported-end##

April 9 at 5:56 AM



Anonymous posted:

I HAD MR.SPENCER AS A 5TH GRADE TEACHER AND I ALSO REMEMBER GOING TO MRS.BARBERS CLASS TO SING. MRS.BARBER TRULEY IS ONE OF THE MOST CARING TEACHERS ORCHARD VIEW HAS HAD THE HONOR OF HAVING.##imported-begin##BOB GRANT##imported-end##

April 9 at 4:51 AM



Anonymous posted:

Neal we are so sorry we are unable to be at the visitation or sevice for Sharon as we are out of town. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and all your family. God Bless, Mike and Reta##imported-begin##Mike and Reta Morris##imported-end##

April 9 at 4:26 AM



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Anonymous posted:

Mrs. Barber was my fifth grade teacher back in 1977. She is the one teacher that I remember most and that had the most effect on me. When she smiled, her whole face lit up - not just her lips, but eyes and cheeks - everything. I really ache for you, her family, at having to do without her now. She was such a special, vibrant person, and I hurt for you. I was very lucky, as my sister was too, to have her for our teacher. And you all were very, very blessed to have her for a wife and mother. I know it will hurt, for a very long time, but we were all still SO blessed to be able to have her in our lives... even if it was not long enough for us. I wish God's blessings on you. Very Sincerely, Karen Poland###imported-begin##Karen (Anderson) Poland###imported-end##

April 9 at 3:19 AM



Anonymous posted:

I had Mr. Faulkner for my 5th grade teacher, but knew her ever since I can remember. My younger sister Ashley had her in 5th grade. We love her so much. God Bless her family, and friends. We all will miss her dearly. She is also distantly related to my family, because it is traced through my great grandmother Sara Ion Barber who lives in Traverse City. She will always be remembered in our hearts!###imported-begin##Jessica Swainston-Howe###imported-end##

April 8 at 9:17 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Neal and family: I was so sorry to hear about Sharon's passing. Please accept my deepest sympathy and know that I am praying for you during this most difficult of times. I know Sharon was an inspiration to many of those who knew her and she will be deeply missed by all. With sympathy, Doug Jones###imported-begin##Doug Jones###imported-end##

April 8 at 8:01 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Dear Family of Mrs. Barber, I have known Mrs. Barber for many years. My mother knew her from church, And that's where I met her. I had her for my fifth grade teacher, and she had had cancer during that time. No matter what happened, she always, always had a smile on her face. I remember praying for her the summer before fifth grade. I wanted her to be my teacher so bad. When I found out that she has gone to live with Jesus, I was confused. I was happy that she was with God, but I wanted to know why he took her. I mean, he took a very happy, sweet, and, loving woman. She loved everything and everyone. She will be greatly missed. One of my favorite memories of her is when Al Gore came to town. She was standing behind me. Heather was there with us. Mrs. Barber couldn't see a thing. Heather said, "if I could, I would pick you up." It was so funny at the time. Also, the last day of school, my class through a luau for her. She was so sprised. Of course i was the head of the party. I had her in fifth grade, and now I'm in eighth. Every single day between then and now, I prayed for her. Never once missed a day. I try to make all my friends happy during this time, and by doing so, i tell them, "At least we know she's with God, and if she's not, then God has some issues." Yes, I cried for 1 1/2 hours, but now that I think about it, I'm just glad that she was here. Nothing will replace her. So now I changed my prayer. I pray for Neal, Heather, and Debbie. I just want them to know that God is with them, and celebrate the life she had. Not that she isn't here anymore. Sorry that this is so long.##imported-begin##Adrienne Greene##imported-end##

April 8 at 6:08 PM



Anonymous posted:

Remembering with you...a life so important to so many. Sharon touched our 3 children's lives in so many ways at OVE. Although only one had her for a teacher, they all knew her. She will be missed by everyone, that smile you just can't forget. With Love and Sympathy John, Wanda, Tyler, Kimberly & Nathalie##imported-begin##The "Budnik" family##imported-end##

April 8 at 5:50 PM



Anonymous posted:

Your influence on our children andthe children of the community will begreatly missed.##imported-begin##Mr. & Mrs. Carl R. Jalovec##imported-end##

April 8 at 5:31 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Dear Neal, Debbie and Heather, Our sincerest sympathy to you at this time of loss. We celebrate with you that Sharon has gone home to be with the Lord and that she is experiencing an indescribable joy now. The suffering is over and now her reward is given. What a wonderful testimony she has been to all of the joy that we have as Christians, even in the face of such pain. We wish we could be with you now and hug you all. But know that our hearts are certainly with you. CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! Dave and Vicki Jansen###imported-begin###Dave Jansen###imported-end###

April 8 at 12:02 PM



Anonymous posted:

My memories of "Miss Nobel" began as a typical 10 year old in her class in 1969. I still remember my school boy crush for the young and beautiful lady turning into a respect for a caring and very giving teacher. I remember her sharing her plans for her wedding. She would also discuss with us the days current events. Which in 1969 were pretty involved for the 10 year olds of her class. My thoughts and prayers go out to your family at this difficult time. Thank-You for making a difference and touching my life.###imported-begin###Bill Hill###imported-end###

April 8 at 9:09 AM



Anonymous posted:

Dear family and friends of Mrs. Barber, My name is Tyler Weesies. I was a student of hers 2 years ago, and was very sad when I heard she died. I cut out the obituary and put it in a good spot where I can read it whenever I want to. She was always kind and she was always smiling. She was always positive. I will miss her very much now that she is gone, but I know that she is in a better place. While in her class she taught everyone a valuable lesson. It was that no matter what kind of problem or trouble you have, always stay positive and be kind. It was a privilege to be in her class, and I will never forget her. Sincerely, Tyler Weesies###imported-begin###Tyler Weesies###imported-end###

April 8 at 7:19 AM



Anonymous posted:

She was the best teacher and really pushed me to do better in school for the year 2002-2003 Ashley Praay###imported-begin###Ashley Praay###imported-end###

April 8 at 2:47 AM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

I had Mrs. Barber for 5th grade in the late 70's. She was definitely one of my favorite teachers. She was always so kind and compassionate. What always amazed me was that years after I was in her class, she would always remember my name when she saw me or anyone in my family. She truly cared for her students and it showed.###imported-begin###Kris (Ward) Visscher###imported-end##

April 7 at 6:59 PM



Anonymous posted:

After several years passing I can close my eyes and still see that beautiful smile. Sharon was a wonderful inspiring woman who has obviously touched many lives with her teaching, dedication and most of all her love for god. As Sharon takes her place with god she will always continue to walk along side you and watch over you and your family. I feel blessed to have known such a special person. My prayers are with you!###imported-begin###Susan Zitka(Postema)###imported-end##

April 7 at 6:55 PM



Anonymous posted:

I remember a woman that always smiled even when she yelled at us for misbehaving. I remember that she gave me my first kid call as a fifth grader (spotless record till then), but it was a fond memory. I graduate OV in 2000 and to this day I have never meet anyone with as much passion and heart. She stayed after school many times to help me with my long division, only to find out I couldn't keep my columbs straight. She was a wonerful women that will be greatly missed. My prayers go out to her family and those that will miss her most. She was an angle on earth and now she has returned home.###imported-begin###Mara Tornga###imported-end##

April 7 at 5:42 PM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

I know she is in a good place. But she had to leave so soon. She was my most favorite teacher. I loved her so much she was always smiling even when she got a little mad. She was hurting but it never showed. When I heard I could have cried myself to sleep she was a grandma to me a really good friend. I was always wanting to be in her groups. SHE IS THE BEST AND ALWAYS WILL BE. I CALLED HER PRAYER BEEPER EVERYDAY. At Least I always tried. I miss her so much and I'm sorry that she had to leave her husband and children and the on getting married. Which I say congratulations. She thought I was joy and she said I was always good to her. I hope she does not suffer any more or her family she was always loved she was so fun. She will always will be remembered. She has all my love and her family. She was so special. Love you, Mrs. Barber (Sharon Kay Barber) From Brittney Marie Leighton (Her friend and student) In memory of my teacher and like a grandma. 7:02 Tuesday day after our loss. ##imported-begin## Brittney Leighton ##imported-end##

April 7 at 4:54 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Neal and Family: Our heart-felt sympathies go out to you. We will continue to hold you close in our thoughts and prayers through this very difficult time. What a blessing and inspiration Sharon has been, and will continue to be to my family! All 3 of our children had the great fortune of having her as their fifth grade teacher. I often teased her telling her that if we would have had a dozen children, she would have had 9 more Summerfields in her classroom. I'm so thankful I had the pleasure of working with her for the past several years. Knowing her has truly been one of the greatest blessings in my life. She has enriched the lives of my family and shown us what true love and faith in God is all about. We have truly been "touched by an angel" . . . her name . . . Sharon Barber. Sincerely, The Summerfield Family ##imported-begin## The Summerfield Family ##imported-end##

April 7 at 4:49 PM



Anonymous posted:

When I was in the 5th grade, Mrs. Cobler was my teacher. I remember going to Mrs. Barber's class, sitting around the classroom and singing. We sang Peter, Paul and Mary songs. We sang Bob Dylan songs. I think this is my fondest memory of that building. Mrs. Barber was such a nice woman. I was happy to see Mrs. Cobler's name in the obituary. It's nice to see that they remained friends. ##imported-begin## Tami Ward Caughey ##imported-end##

April 7 at 4:40 PM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

Dear Neal,I was saddened to learn of Sharon's death. I remember her well from high school and the reunions. She was such a kind, warm and caring person. The two of you always seemed so perfect for each other and I know you will miss her terribly. The world is a better place because she lived, and is now a sadder place since she has left.Please know that my thoughts are with you and your family at this difficult time.With care, MaryAnne Hartman Maycroft###imported-begin##MaryAnne Hartman Maycroft###imported-end##

April 7 at 4:40 PM



Anonymous posted:

I am the sister of Eric Seifert who lives across the Street on Boltwood. My Sister-inlaw Karen Seifert said that Mrs. Barber was her favorite Teacher at Orchard View Elementary. My thoughts and Prayers are with the Barber Family. Gabby Seifert.###imported-begin##Gabrielle Seifert###imported-end##

April 7 at 3:50 PM



Anonymous posted:

Sharon was not just my son's 5th grade teacher, she taught him about life and faith in her fight against cancer. He prayed for her daily and often called her prayer beeper to let her know she was being prayed for. The world has a huge hole that was once this beautiful woman, but heaven is a much richer place for her presence. She meant so much to us and we are sad to have lost her. Unselfishly, during her struggle with cancer, she helped us through a very difficult family struggle. With patience and tenderness she helped my son through this difficult time. May the hope of heaven be your comfort at this time. In the love of christ, Estella Adams.###imported-begin##Estella Adams & son Jeffrey Fisher OVE class of '03###imported-end##

April 7 at 1:16 PM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

dear neal and heather and debbie, iam so sorry about your loss.i met sharon about 8 years ago when i walk into her classroom and she almost kick me out her classroom.that is how i met sharon and i help her out for 7 years and i started the my cool teacher award for her and i am so gald that she got it.she was very happy to get it,my prayers are with her family. i will never forget her she tought me how to be a teacher someday i hoped she is very happy up in heaven and she will always have a smile on her face no matter what happends.she was one of my best friends too.god bless her neal and debbie and heather and grandbabies and her in-laws and her mom and her dad too.love your friend alwaysshewey matt schutter###imported-begin###matthew schutter shewey###imported-end##

April 7 at 9:25 AM



Anonymous posted:

Sharon is taken care of by her Savior.###imported-begin###Jack, Linda and Andy Postema###imported-end##

April 7 at 8:38 AM



Anonymous posted:

My memories of Sharon were when we were both children. She was one of the happiest people I ever met. Apparently, she continued that, and shared it with others throughout her life. One can't do better than that. I have great admiration and respect for who she was. I am very sorry for her early passing.###imported-begin###Ronald B. DeLong###imported-end##

April 7 at 3:21 AM



Anonymous posted:

Sharon was the consummate TEACHER'S teacher! So very many lives touched and turned around; so many children loved, supported and encouraged; so many lives challenged and changed. What a message of hope, love, inspiration and joy Sharon shared with children...and with those of us who knew her and worked with her. Knowing Sharon has made me a better person and educator.God bless Sharon as she's burst into glory and God bless you in this time of great loss. My prayers are with you.Barbara Stellard###imported-begin###Barbara Stellard###imported-end##

April 6 at 7:12 PM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

Mrs. Barber will be missed. She was my fifth grade teacher and I will always remember her and everything she taught me. She was not only an inspiration to me, but to my fellow classmates as well.##imported-begin##April Rainbolt##imported-end##

April 6 at 7:04 PM



Anonymous posted:

Neal, You have my deepest sympathy during this difficult time. God Bless you and your Family.
Prayerfully Yours (Spicy) Ken##imported-begin##Ken Cobb##imported-end##

April 6 at 3:49 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Sharon K. by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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