



Barbara Nelle (Dill) Beechner

July 17, 1935 - February 27, 2021

Barbara Nelle (Dill) Beechner died at home on February 27, 2021 in Kearney, Nebraska. She was born July 17, 1935 in Belvidere, Nebraska to her parents Nelle Trumble Dill and Earl (Squire) Dill.

Barb is survived by her loving husband of 63 years, Dick Beechner, children Lea Beechner Wylie & John Wylie (Kansas City), Richard “Beech” Beechner II & Connie Meyer (Kearney), Sara Beechner & Mark Aitala (Austin), who loved her vibrancy, kindness, pioneer grit and sense of humor. She’s also survived by her sister, Carol (Dill) Lehmkuhl and grandchildren Mackenzie and Hayden Wylie, Dillon and Kole Aitala. She was a beloved sister-in-law, aunt and cousin to many.

Preceding her in death are her parents, her infant son, Richard Dill Beechner, as well as her siblings Jack Dill, Bob Dill, Jean (Dill) Anderson and Jo (Dill) Messman.

Barb epitomized the Nebraska state slogan, “The Good Life.” She enjoyed people and was a true friend to everyone she met, including her walking partner/dog KYCE. Barb was a lifelong volunteer to multiple civic, church and cultural organizations. She was an active enthusiast of Nebraska-related literature, art and nature, including the Sandhill cranes migration on the Platte River.

Raised on a farm in Belvidere, Nebraska with five older siblings, Barb grew up milking the cows and making deliveries before school. A top student, she graduated from University of Nebraska Medical Center with a Nursing Degree. She worked as school nurse in Lincoln as well as in nursing homes (Lancaster Manor, Mt. Carmel, Good Samaritan Society in Gibbon). She later served as a Hospice volunteer for 25+ years.

Barb's compass was always the golden rule – "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." And she was willing to give extra, whether a sack of veggies from her garden, a loaned book or a bedside visit to an ailing friend. She enjoyed family reunions and travels with her siblings and their spouses to the Amazon in Peru, France, China, Egypt and Alaska. Barb married Dick Beechner in 1957 and was a faithful supporter of her husband's career in coaching athletics as they moved the family to cheer on Nebraska Huskers, Hiram Scott Scotties, Missouri Tigers, Washington State Cougars, and UNK Lopers.

Barb's zest for learning and life included serving as a Senior College Board Member, 4H Leader, and membership in P.E.O., book clubs, Sweet Adelines choir and her birthday "Classics." She loved volunteering at Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA) in Kearney and was an avid supporter of local theatrical productions, including the annual Storytelling conference in Kearney.

Due to the pandemic, the family will have a private celebration of Barbara's life. Barbara has chosen cremation. Memorial contributions to one of the following is preferred:

Barbara Dill Beechner University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing - Kearney campus Scholarship (established by the family) Mail checks to:

University of Nebraska Foundation, PO Box 2678, Kearney, NE 68848
Electronic donations accepted <https://nufoundation.org/fund/01155080>

Kearney Area Storytelling Festival

Mail checks to: PO Box 473, Kearney, NE 68848

Electronic donations accepted https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=CQPLW5DX7GLSC

Tribute Wall



“ *Barbara Nelle (Dill) Beechner*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Dick, so sorry to hear of Barbara. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time. Take care.*

Amy & Wes Kellogg - May 17, 2021 at 11:57 AM



“ *My sympathies to Dick and his family. I fondly remember the times enjoying the Washington State and Missouri football games under Warren Powers. I remember Monte Kiffin's, Camp Kiffin at Bella Vista, Arkansas June 02, 1978 on our charade teams made up of coaches and good friends, Beechners, Selmers, Powers, Martins, Kiffin and us, the Gene Wards. Barb was such a lovely lady. Friends, Virgie (and the late Gene Ward)*

Virgie L ward - March 07, 2021 at 09:54 AM



“ *Dick, Darrel and I were so sorry to read of Barbara's passing. Our thoughts are with you and all of your family. With deepest sympathy, Darrel and Kyle Stanard*

Darrel and Kyle Stanard - March 05, 2021 at 08:56 PM



“ *Dick, so sorry to read about Barbs passing. Our thoughts are with you and your family. Dave and Barbara Jones*

David and Barbara - March 05, 2021 at 01:56 PM

KH

“ *To Dick and Family:
Please accept my sympathy on Barb's passing. She was a real
trouper. There was a period of time when we walked together. I
appreciated her enthusiasm for life.
With love, Kay Horner*

Kay Horner - March 05, 2021 at 09:17 AM

RB

“ *I frequently saw Barb at performances and art events in Kearney.
She always had a kind word and a smile for me. I will cherish our
conversations and the passion she held for the arts. My life is richer
for knowing her.
— Rick Brown*

Rick Brown - March 04, 2021 at 09:04 PM

RC

“ *Dick,
My deepest sympathy to you and your entire family!
Randy Carlson
Former Head Golf Professional/Kearney Country Club*

Randy Carlson - March 04, 2021 at 03:54 PM

LR

“ *We were neighbors to the Beechner family. Barb always had a smile
and kind word. Larry Rose*

Larry Rose - March 03, 2021 at 05:46 PM

FB

“ To Coach Dick B and family:
Please accept my sincere sympathy in your loss of Barb, your wife and lifelong partner and I'm sure the wonderful mother of your children. Sadly I did not know Barb. She seems to have lived a full, exciting, busy and wonderful life that I know you and your family are extremely blest to have been a part of. I always wondered where you got your strength and compassion, and now I know. Dick and family, I envy the amount of time that you were so blest to have had together with such dear and wonderful lady.
May Barb rest in peace and I know that she will always be in your hearts and minds.
Frank Brill
LHS Class of '65.

Frank Brill - March 03, 2021 at 04:56 PM

LN

“ I'm certain that if love could have saved her, she would have lived forever.

Thinking of you during this very sad time.

Laurie Novak

Laurie Novak - March 03, 2021 at 10:26 AM

TO

“ Barbara was the primary caregiver at Mt. Carmel for my father in law's last days. She was comforting for him and us. My wife never forgot Barb's kindness. May her memory be eternal.

Tim O'Dea - March 02, 2021 at 09:35 PM

BH

“ I would like to send our condolences to the beechner family. Barb has always been a big supporter of anything Dick wanted to venture into. They were together many years showing their love for one another. Barbara was a good nurse and a better mother and wife. We are praying for your family during this trying time. You have to have many memories through the years that will sustain you at this time. May God bless you during this time.

Bill & Kathy Holliday

Bill Holliday - March 02, 2021 at 04:17 PM

MH

“ My deepest sympathy to Dick and your children and grandchildren. We have lost a very special woman who will be so fondly remembered by so many people who loved her. Barb was one of the first people I met when we moved to Kearney in 1989. I joined her fledgling Book Club and our friendship began. Our book club is still going strong today. We worked together on the Kearney Area Storytelling Festival for many years. We shared so many good books, stories and laughs over the years. Barb's beautiful smile and her love of life and all those she knew will always be part of my memories. Cherish all your special memories of this dear, dear lady. Marlene and Tommy Hansen



Marlene D Hansen - March 02, 2021 at 12:54 PM

BB

“ Coach Beechner and family, so sorry to hear of your loss. I really enjoyed the opportunity of serving you, of our many conversations, etc. at KCC. May God comfort you and give you strength and hope in your time of loss. (Bruce Beebout)

Bruce Beebout - March 02, 2021 at 12:20 PM