



## Barbara Jean Braithwait

August 10, 1952 - October 7, 2024

Barbara J. Braithwait, age 72, of Kearney, passed away Monday, October 7, 2024, at her home. Memorial services will be 2:00 pm, October 11, 2024, at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral Chapel with Pastor Holden Barry officiating. Inurnment will follow at Kearney Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the family, to be designated later.

Barbara was born August 10, 1952, in Columbus, Nebraska to Delton and Bette (Schwantje) Braithwait. She graduated from Columbus High School.

Barbara married Robert M. "Bob" Ronkar in Columbus March 26, 1971. They moved to Kearney in 1972. Barb worked at Horizon Designs and The Buckle.

Barbara was a bright light and beautiful soul. If you knew her, you loved her. She always saw the positive and good in everyone. She was a conversation starter and a ray of sunshine when she walked into a room. Barb loved playing Shuffleboard and having happy hour with her friends. She was obsessed with crossword puzzles (the more challenging the better), she enjoyed going on girl trips and treasured spending time with her daughters, especially if there were casinos involved. She also loved spending summers in Lincoln at her daughter Cally's house to swim and meet up with some of her dearest friends. But most of all, Barb absolutely adored her family! She had the BEST brothers, sister-in-law's, nieces, and nephews, she loved her

grandkids and following their activities. Barbara was a fighter through her bouts with cancer and a fierce warrior until the end.

Barbara is survived by her daughters, Stephanie and Stan Parzych of Kearney, Cally and Mitch Koch of Lincoln; grandchildren Jake Parzych, Jordan Parzych, Brennon Kluver and (Katie Smith), Cassi and Levi Hillgren, Ian Koch; five great grandchildren; brothers, Barry Braithwait of Hebron, NE, Bill and Rachel Braithwait of Columbus, NE, and Bob and Margie Braithwait of North Platte, NE.

Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, and brother, Brian Braithwait.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT 11. 2:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl  
2421 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 237-2259  
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

# Tribute Wall

TF

“ TRI-CITY STORM HOST FAMILIES purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Barbara Jean Braithwait.



TRI-CITY STORM HOST FAMILIES - October 10, 2024 at 04:46 PM

DG

“ Thanks Barbie for your love and friendship through all the years. I smile every time I think about her being a little upset with you or something and getting the short finger from her; always made me smile. Love you and will miss you!

Dave G - October 10, 2024 at 01:40 PM

TH

“ I graduated with Barb from Columbus High in 1970. When I first met her in Jr. High, I was awed at how pretty and how friendly she was. It was great to be one of her friends! May she rest in peace and God's blessings to her family during this sad time. Terri Drozd Hoesly

Terri Hoesly - October 09, 2024 at 09:13 PM

DT

“ Debbie & Terry Trofholz purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Barbara Jean Braithwait.



Debbie & Terry Trofholz - October 09, 2024 at 04:13 PM

DT

“ Debbie & Terry Trofholz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Braithwait.

Debbie & Terry Trofholz - October 09, 2024 at 04:13 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Braithwait.



October 09, 2024 at 11:27 AM

LG

“ Love, Mike, Jill, Ashley, Lindsey Gewecke planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Braithwait.

Love, Mike, Jill, Ashley, Lindsey Gewecke - October 09, 2024 at 11:27 AM

JE

“ To the family of Barbara:

*I am so, so sorry for your loss. Barbara and I go way back to elementary school in Columbus. She was a wonderful friend all these years and she will be missed by many. May God give you strength and courage during this difficult time. My prayers are with you.*

*JoAnn Eickhoff-Shemek  
CHS class of '70*



JoAnn M Eickhoff-Shemek - October 09, 2024 at 10:58 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Braithwait.



October 08, 2024 at 10:47 AM



“ Your B&R Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Braithwait.

Your B&R Family - October 08, 2024 at 10:47 AM



“ Love, Kris purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Barbara Jean Braithwait.



Love, Kris - October 07, 2024 at 08:40 PM