



Barbara Ann Martin

January 4, 1944 - March 14, 2024

Barbara Ann Martin

Barbara Ann Martin, 80, of Bluefield, VA went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Thursday, March 14, 2024, following a battle with dementia. Barbara was born January 4, 1944, in Bluefield, WV. She was the ninth of 10 children born to the late Jefferson Gillispie and Mattie Jane Gillispie. Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, Frederick Martin; her parents; seven sisters, Marie Hurt, Velma Bradshaw, Nancy Bradshaw, Gwendolyn Goforth, Yvonne Shanklin, Betty Sales, and Mattie Jane Gillispie; two brothers, Robert Gillispie, and Donald Gillispie; and several nieces and nephews.

Barbara graduated from Tazewell County High School, Bluefield State College where she earned a bachelor's degree in education (English, health and physical education), and West Virginia College of Graduate Studies earning a master's degree in special education. She used her background, education, and love for children to serve Mercer County Schools and her students for 30 years. Following her retirement, Barbara worked as an academic coach for Mercer County Schools and served as a student teacher supervisor for Concord University.

Barbara was a faithful member of Union Baptist Church.

She relished being a mother and grandmother. Barbara and her son spent countless hours on the phone, sharing stories and checking on each other. Following her retirement, spending time with and caring for her family (preparing meals, picking up her grandchildren and taking them where they needed or wanted to go, playing games, teaching them about God) consumed most of her time. She often sat by her phone throughout the school day in the event that one of her grandchildren needed her. While waiting for the phone to ring, she enjoyed her daily ministries and conversations with those who called.

Barbara is survived by her son, Darrin Martin (Serena) of Bluefield, VA, and four grandchildren, Darrin, Chloe, Caitlyn and Ty. She is further survived by one brother-in-law, a host of nieces and nephews, cousins, and many friends.

A special thank you is extended to Patricia Banks, Carol Oakes and Zenobia Hurt for visiting and taking special care of her while she was in the hospital and during her stay at Heritage Hall in Tazewell, VA.

Funeral services will be held at Mercer Funeral Home in Bluefield, WV on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 12:00 PM with Reverends Donald Gibson, Michael Bratton, and Robert Johnson officiating. Entombment will follow at Roselawn Cemetery, Princeton, WV. Family and friends will serve as pallbearers.

The family will receive friends from 11:00 AM until service time on Wednesday at the funeral home. Private online condolences and other expressions of sympathy may be directed to the family via its guestbook at www.mercerfuneralhome.com

Mercer Funeral Home, 1231 W. Cumberland Road, Bluefield, WV, is serving the family.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Memorial Gardens Mausoleum

Princeton, WV

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 20. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home Chapel
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

Funeral Service

MAR 20. 12:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home Chapel
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

Tribute Wall

BS

“ *Very sad to have read of Barbara passing, she visited when I was in Bluefield we sat and talked for hours on my porch! Such great memories. She had beautiful and brawn woman rest in Peace!* ”

Brenda j. Smith - April 04, 2024 at 09:30 AM

EC

“ *Darrin, I'm heartbroken to read of your mother's passing. A friend saw it on Facebook and let me know this evening. As you know she was a friend and colleague for more than 20 years. I was there when your father passed and when you were a small child. She loved her family above all else except for God. Her grandchildren were her world. I went to see her, but she was sleeping and I didn't awaken her. Now I wish I had. I thought there would be a next time. Much love and prayers to you and your family.* ”

Elaine Catron - March 23, 2024 at 08:48 PM

CK

“ *Darrin and family,
So very sorry for your loss of your precious mother. Love, hugs and prayers.
Christine Kinser* ”

Christine Kinser - March 22, 2024 at 11:00 AM



“ *We're so sorry for your loss. Please accept our sincere condolences to the family.* ”

George Fisher - March 22, 2024 at 08:08 AM

BS

“ *She was a wonderful teacher to my son at Bluefield Junior High School....Fly high Mrs. Martin*



BARBARA STARLING - March 21, 2024 at 06:51 PM

LP

“ *Lois Price lit a candle in memory of Barbara Ann Martin*



Lois Price - March 21, 2024 at 08:15 AM

LP

Barbara worked with Maxine at Central. She was always a sweet lady. Rest in Heaven Barbara

Lois Price - March 21, 2024 at 08:18 AM

SR

“ *Sarita and Dan Rhonemus planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Ann Martin.*

Sarita and Dan Rhonemus - March 19, 2024 at 09:10 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann Martin.*



March 19, 2024 at 09:10 PM



“ *I always remembered Mrs. Martin being so beautiful both inside and outside. I would tell her every time I saw her out and about. And she would hug me so warmly and thank me. I am going to cherish those memories forever.*

Lisa Taxley Brooks - March 19, 2024 at 05:26 PM



“ *She was my middle school teacher and she was like a mom to me and I'm going to miss her Love her and I will never forget her.*



Janet freeman-cummings - March 19, 2024 at 03:41 PM



“ *LARRY AND PAM FORD planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Ann Martin.*

LARRY AND PAM FORD - March 19, 2024 at 03:38 PM

LF

“ LARRY AND PAM FORD purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Barbara Ann Martin.



LARRY AND PAM FORD - March 19, 2024 at 03:38 PM

TA

“ The BSU Division of Student Affairs planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Ann Martin.

The BSU Division of Student Affairs - March 19, 2024 at 02:50 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann Martin.



March 19, 2024 at 02:50 PM

FP

“ Barbara grew up in the East End of Bluefield, Va. I know all of her family members were/are very fine individuals. My Mom always talked with one of her older sisters when she would walk by our house when I was living close by. They spent time talking about education and Bluefield State. Also, Barbara was such an attractive person. I recall her going to watch her grandson play basketball for Graham High School, where he was an outstanding player and so enjoyable to watch him play. I remember where she always sit and I always enjoyed seeing her and getting a chance to chat with her. Very sad to see/here of her passing. May God be with her and her family at this time. Sincerely, Frank Pochick

Frank Pochick - March 19, 2024 at 02:07 PM

MM

“ Barbara was the sweetest lady. She was my first full time teacher at Bluefield Jr High as a teachers aide in 1987. I've told people for years about what a wonderful teacher and friend she was to her students. Her students learned so much and so did I. She was a classy lady and always had a smile.

Mary Mann - March 19, 2024 at 12:17 PM

TF

“ The W Todd Stamper Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Ann Martin.

The W Todd Stamper Family - March 19, 2024 at 06:18 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann Martin.*



March 19, 2024 at 06:18 AM



“ *Heartfelt sympathy*



Ann - March 18, 2024 at 10:32 PM



“ *To the family of Barbara Martin, we express our heartfelt sympathy while we humbly submit and accept God's will. He has claimed Ms. Barbara that belonged to him. She is resting in his care; sleep on take your rest, we will see you in the morning. We can say, gone but not forgotten.*



Rev. Marviene Johnson, pastor of Tynes Chapel AME Zion Church family.

Marviene Johnson - March 18, 2024 at 06:43 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of
Barbara Ann Martin.



March 18, 2024 at 02:01 PM