



Barbara J. Azzarelli

August 26, 1927 - December 22, 2020

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Kankakee –

Barbara J. Azzarelli, 93, passed away peacefully on December 22, 2020 at her Florida home, surrounded by many of her children and grandchildren.

Barbara was born August 26, 1927, in Jackson, Michigan, the daughter of Ambrose and Mabel Brown. She met the love of her life, Joseph I. Azzarelli, while on a train bound from Chicago to Jackson. The entire trip, her younger sister, Eleanor, repeated that their mom had said not to talk to strangers, but Barbara never met a stranger. Happily, she married Joseph in Jackson, Michigan on May 6, 1950. They were married almost 52 years when he passed away on April 24, 2002.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; her daughter, Nora Van Hook; her brother, Donald Brown; and her sister, Eleanor Bartholomew.

Surviving are the most grateful children in the world, Patricia (Michael) Lynch, Nancy (Michael) Delgado, Joseph (Dianne) Azzarelli, Jayne Korstick, Barbara Lynn (Jerry) Zielinski; her remaining sister-in-law, Betty (John) Azzarelli; as well as 16 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; and her beloved Cavalier, Teddy.

The first half of Barbara's married life was devoted to her children and husband, with occasional time spent bowling, golfing, and entertaining friends as well as Joseph's many business associates. All of this while fighting breast

cancer twice in her 40's. She was often referred to as the "white tornado" by Joe – referring to the speed at which she was always moving. With 6 children and one rather demanding Italian, she knew no other way to get it all done. After raising her children, she enjoyed time with her girlfriends playing bridge, traveling, and watching golf, as opposed to playing. (You could never expect to talk to her during the Masters!) Along with this, she greatly loved time with her grandchildren and attended as many birthday parties and sporting/school events as possible.

When she reached her 80's she didn't stop. She found two new hobbies, puzzling and quilting. As with golf, if you Facetimed her while working on a puzzle, you could expect the phone to be laid down mid-conversation while she continued her search for another piece. And after learning to quilt from her sister, Eleanor, she and her daughter Jayne worked together on more quilts than can be remembered. If you were a lucky recipient of one, you have a very treasured item as she put nothing but love into everything she made. And while her friends, (you ladies know who you are), were such an important part of her final years, Barbara considered her greatest legacy to be her family. She loved each child, grandchild, step-grandchild, great-grandchild, in-law and out-law, unconditionally. She instilled in all of them the joy of loving and caring for others, which she again demonstrated on the final night of her life while explaining that it would take a few days for her to be cremated, so everyone should go home and celebrate Christmas with their families. Even on the final day of her life, she continued to do what she always did, care for others, especially her family.

A memorial visitation will be held from 9 a.m. until the time of the 10 a.m. funeral Mass on Saturday, May 8, 2021 at St. John Paul II- East Campus, formerly St. Teresa Catholic Church.

Arrangements by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais.

Memorials may be made to the Azzarelli Clinic.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

MAY 8. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. John Paul II- East Campus
361 St Joseph Ave
Kankakee, IL 60901

Memorial Mass

MAY 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. John Paul II- East Campus
361 St Joseph Ave
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall

JM

“ *Mrs. A always dressed to perfection and carried that glowing smile. She is reunited with family members some who died to young. You always carried yourself so well during you sadness. You will be missed.*



J Marcotte's - May 12, 2021 at 11:27 PM

MR

“ *While I don't remember speaking personally with Mrs. Azzarelli, I chatted with Mr. Joseph Azzarelli from time to time, as he allowed me to hike and hunt for botanical specimens on Mt. Langham. What a fantastic family! Martina Panozzo Rippon, Madison, WI*

Martina Rippon - January 31, 2021 at 12:05 AM

NC

“ *Blessings to Barb and her family!*



nansi chandlernorum - January 30, 2021 at 11:13 PM

MM

“ *Condolences/Prayers to your family during this difficult time*



Mary Morgan - January 30, 2021 at 06:35 PM

LH

“ Barb was such a dear lady... I was fortunate that she came to my nail salon and was just the sweetest soul. Always, always spoke of her husband and children and how much she adored them... if I ever said “how’d you do it?”... she’d always say “they’re yours kid, love em and keep em going..”. She was dear, hysterically funny, and such a classic... I know she will be greatly missed.... 💜

Louella Thomas Handy - January 30, 2021 at 04:36 PM

MG

“ What a wonderful person. I am definitely better for having met her and spent time with her. My condolences to the great family and friends around her.

Michael Grimsley - January 30, 2021 at 02:12 PM

SS

“ What a wonderful lady! When you got one of her hugs you knew you were loved❤️ and I loved her too.

Shirley Sebastiani - January 30, 2021 at 01:16 PM