



Barbara Jean Mason

January 30, 1935 - January 3, 2026

Barbara Jean Carson's life journey began on July 30, 1935, in the small mountain town of Tryon, North Carolina. The daughter of Charles and Maybell Carson, she was preceded in death by her older sister, Patricia, and her younger brother Charles Donald. Barbara moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, in seventh grade to live with her Aunt Ofelia, and graduated from West Charlotte High School in 1954.

Barbara attended Johnson C. Smith University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education in 1958. She was a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, one of the Divine Nine fraternities and sororities, a venerable sisterhood that survives beyond death. As a student, Barbara met Howard C. Petty from Gastonia, North Carolina, and the two were married in the Johnson C. Smith chapel on Barbara's graduation day, June 3rd, 1958. Howard's service as an officer and pilot in the US Navy led to several posts, including

Hutchinson, Kansas; Patuxent River, Maryland; Argenta, Newfoundland; Honolulu, Hawaii; San Diego, CA; Atsugi, Japan; and Annapolis, MD.

Barbara got her first teaching job in Argenta, Newfoundland. The next job for Barbara was in Olathe, Kansas. There she taught while pursuing a master's degree in elementary education at the University of Kansas.

Later, Barbara and Howard's son, Howard C. Petty Jr., was born at Tripler Army Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii. Barbara stayed at home to care for their son as a toddler. When the family moved to San Diego, she became an art teacher and continued her studies at San Diego State University. Their next move was to Atsugi, Japan, where she taught school and began her work in administration.

While Howard was stationed at the US Naval Academy in 1973, Barbara began teaching at Oak Hill Elementary School in Severna Park, MD. Barbara retired 26 years later as the long-time Principal of West Meade Senior H.S.

After her divorce in 1974, Barbara married her dear friend and coworker, Blondell Mason. They were married for 43 years. Barbara and Blondell enjoyed long, fulfilling, and distinguished careers in service to the Anne Arundel County School system and the county's

youth, and enjoyed a wonderful retirement life together.

Barbara was anchored by her unwavering faith and her dedication as matriarch of the Petty family. A loving grandmother to her four grandchildren, Austin and his wife, Devon, Carson, Thomas James, and Crosby, and mother-in-law to Katherine. Left to cherish fond and loving memories are her nephews Charles, Teddy, Jeffrey, Carlos, and Patrick, other relatives, and very dear friends.

Cemetery Details

Southern Memorial Garden

10155 Ward Rd.
Dunkirk, MD 20754
southernmemorialgardensmd@gmail.com
<https://www.southernmemorialgardensmd.com/>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN **16**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Anne's Parish
199 Duke of Gloucester St.
Annapolis, MD 21401
<https://www.stannes-annapolis.org/>

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ Barbara Jean you taught me so much about life, about teaching, and about growing up in the South as a woman of two races.....I will miss our frequent phone calls....and I am so glad I asked for your recipe for friend chicken. Go to your rest, enjoy heaven, and save a place for me for the future....with much love, Jeanette

Jeanette Irgang - January 30 at 06:17 PM



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



January 15 at 06:23 PM

LP

“ Love, Phyllis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Mason.

Love, Phyllis - January 15 at 06:23 PM

CB

“ Carmen and Beatriz purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Barbara Jean Mason.



Carmen and Beatriz - January 15 at 11:32 AM

CC

“ Charles C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Mason.

Charles C. - January 15 at 12:17 AM

PC

“ Patrick Caple purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Barbara Jean Mason.



Patrick Caple - January 13 at 05:38 PM

LB

“ Larry & Essie Brooks purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Barbara Jean Mason.



Larry & Essie Brooks - January 13 at 11:55 AM

PD

“ Pete & Jackie Dewald purchased the Beautiful Whisper for the family of Barbara Jean Mason.



Pete & Jackie Dewald - January 13 at 11:22 AM

CO

“ Casey, Erica, Cole, Chloe, Claire O'Neill purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Barbara Jean Mason.



Casey, Erica, Cole, Chloe, Claire O'Neill - January 13 at 10:26 AM

CO

“ Casey, Erica, Cole, Chloe, Claire O'Neill planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Mason.

Casey, Erica, Cole, Chloe, Claire O'Neill - January 13 at 10:26 AM



“ I saw Barbara at Suburban Hospital last month before she passed. She reminded me of my parents travels together with her and Blondell for their respective son's entire four years at UVA. They traveled to every game, home and away and our families spent a lot of time together.

When UVA won their bowl game this December it was 11 pm on a Saturday night. I was watching at the Petty's house and the phone rang. It was Barbara, and Howard put her on speakerphone. She recounted every detail in her unique way, making jokes as she went along.

She was lucid, marvelous, and always elegant to the very end. Here's to a life well lived. May she rest in peace.

Ken Stadlin - January 13 at 09:05 AM