



Barbara Harmack Taggart

June 28, 1926 - July 9, 2015

Barbara June Harmack Taggart was born June 28, 1926 in Gary, Indiana to Edwin and Gladys Harmack, the youngest of three daughters. She married Dean Milburn Taggart on June 14, 1947 in Indianapolis, Indiana. They had four children; David Bruce, Tara Sue, Michael Dean, and Jill Ann.

After graduating from Lew Wallace High School in Gary, Indiana in 1943, she attended

Indiana University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work in 1947. She later returned to Indiana University and graduated with a Master of Arts in Teaching in 1962. She was a life member of Indiana University Alumni and Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority

Barbara's professional career included working as a Field Director of the Indianapolis and Marion County Girl Scouts (1947-1951); a teacher in the Elkhart, Indiana School District (1951-52); Executive Director of the Women's Student YWCA of Indiana University; Director of the National Student YWCA in New York City (1968-1971); Director of the Greenville, SC YWCA (1971); a social worker with the Greenville County Housing Authority (1972-1989); a Peace Corp worker in Jamaica (1989-1991), and a housing counselor for Sunbelt Human Advancement Resources in Greenville (1991-1995).

She served as chairperson of the following boards of directors in upstate

South Carolina: the Greenville County Health Planning Council, Volunteer Greenville, the Community Housing Resource Board, the Special Student Services Advisory Council of Greenville Technical College, the Homeless Coalition, and the Upstate Homeless Coalition. In addition, she served as a board member for the following: the Greenville Hospital Advisory Council, the Greenville County Home Health Services Council, SC Home Health Service, Girl Scout Council 096, and Family Counseling Services. Barbara was well-known and loved for her ability to foster communication and cooperation among the wide variety of local public service providers with whom she served.

Her many recognitions and awards include the Girl Scouts Thanks Badge 2 Award (the highest national award made to a local volunteer), the Jefferson Award (the highest national award made to a local volunteer), and the naming of a street in her honor; Taggart Drive, a perimeter road surrounding an Upstate Homeless Coalition housing site in Spartanburg County which was named in honor of her work in the founding of that Coalition.

The highlights of her career included participation in the 1964 summer Asian Seminar with the World University Service during which she traveled to Japan, Thailand, China and India; Director of a YWCA project in Lebanon in which she worked with Palestinian refugees; her appointment as the Worldwide YWCA International Nongovernmental Representative to the United Nations; her Peace Corp work in the Kingston City Dump in Jamaica; and her work in founding the Upstate Homeless Coalition.

Barbara was a member of the Greenville County Baha'i Community.

She is survived by her children David, Michael (Kathy), and Jill (Bob); her granddaughter Starr Elizabeth Morris (father, Jamie Morris); and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by

her sisters Gladys Harmack Forgey and Wahneetah Harmack Donaldson, her granddaughter Grace June Taggart, and her daughter Tara Sue Taggart.

Graveside service will be Friday, July 10 at 3:00 PM at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Greer.

A Celebration of her life will be held at the Baha'i Center Sunday, July 19 at 3:00 PM. The center is located at 132 Greenacre Rd, Greenville, SC 29607.

Memorials may be made to Meals on Wheels-Greenville County, 15 Oregon St, Greenville, SC 29605 and Greenville County Animal Care, 328 Furman Hall Rd, Greenville, SC 29609.

Jill, her daughter and caretaker, would like to thank all the special friends who were so supportive of her and her mother. Jill's appreciation is also extended to Patriot Hospice for their gentle care.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Memorial Gardens

14050 E. Wade Hampton Blvd.
Greer, SC 29651
(864) 879-3819

Previous Events

Service

JUL 10. 3:00 PM (ET)

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14050 E. Wade Hampton Blvd.
Greer, SC 29651
(864) 879-3819

Tribute Wall

LE

“ Dear Jill. I am so sorry to learn of the passing of your mother. She has been on my mind the last couple of days. Perhaps she wanted me to re-connect. I am Walter and Emma Harmack's daughter, Lesley. My mother would tell me stories regarding your mom and I know they kept in touch with each other until my mothers passing on April 18' 2012. I have such a void in my life--my mom passed 8 months after my husband. So I spend a lot of my days reminiscing. I still work 4 days a week but hope to retire at years end. Again, I am so sorry for your loss. I can only imagine the reunion that took place when she reached the other side. May God bless. Lesley Esway..

Lesley Esway - June 04, 2016 at 07:48 AM

KB

“ Dear Jill and family, I had the pleasure of getting to know your mother in the later years of her life. She was a pure delight and had so many stories to tell of her life's adventures. Your mother had a life well lived and you should be so proud of her. I know you will miss her terribly but rest in knowing you were there for her right until the end. Sending my love and prayers to you. May God bless and comfort you.

Kathy Barefoot

Kathy Barefoot - July 19, 2015 at 06:01 AM

MI

“ My Dear Jill, I am so proud of the way you helped your Mother in the last few years of her life. I know being with you gave her so much comfort. She was a wonderful and talented woman. I know she is proud of you too.

All my love,
Michele

Michele - July 15, 2015 at 10:57 AM

MF

“ The Irish Community of Greenville and the upstate are truly sorry to hear of Barbara's parting. She was a friend of our Irish Cara Organization and a gentle and kind spirit among us. Her many good deeds live on.

Marty Flynn

Marty Flynn - July 14, 2015 at 03:05 PM

PM

“ Jill, I am sorry to hear of the death of your mother. I am glad I got to meet her a few times when she would come by our office to put a face to the person in so many of your stories. It was obvious that she was a quite a character and I could see where some of your personality came from. I know you are proud of the positive impact she had on so many lives. I always appreciated her sharing the special oranges that she would order, I think they were called "honey belles".

I will keep you and your family in my prayers. You will always have a special place in my heart for your friendship.

Phil McCollum

Phil McCollum - July 12, 2015 at 05:49 PM

JW

Many thanks. I appreciate this.

Jill wilson - October 16, 2015 at 03:13 PM

JW

Please contact me Phil. jillson1012@aol.com

Jill wilson - October 17, 2015 at 06:28 AM

MB

“ *When I first volunteered with Friends of the Library, Barbara was one of the first to welcome me. Through the years, I found her to be a most fascinating lady. Visits with her always ranged over a wide range of topics. We will all miss her but know that hers was a life fully realized.*

Marguerite Brace

Marguerite Brace - July 09, 2015 at 09:10 PM