



Ms. Barbara Lynn Percy

April 11, 1949 - July 16, 2025

Life's Reflections

Each day comes yielding its own gifts. On April 11, 1949, in Lewisville, Arkansas, God untied the ribbons of the gift of a spirited and inquisitive baby girl given to the care of Emma Jean Henry under the watchful eye of her granny, Ms. Rennie. This child was named Barbara. While she may have been small in stature, she embraced life with a “bigness” that implied she was the boss. Mama Rennie and Papa Charlie, the doting grandparents she spent most of her time with, only helped to reinforce the idea that she was the boss as they spoiled her rotten. She completed her journey on July 16, 2025, at the Heather Manor Health and Rehab Center in Hope, Arkansas.

Barbara committed her life to Christ at an early age and was baptized at Union Hill Baptist Church where she remained active until moving to St. Louis in 1972. Soon after moving to St. Louis, she united with the Antioch Baptist church where she remained active for over 50 years, serving as chairperson of the 4th Sunday Usher Group and was a member of the Clara Etta Smith Mission Circle. She was also actively involved in the Mustard Seed ministry, a support group for cancer survivors. On her return to Lewisville in 2020, she briefly attended Unity Baptist Church. After covid restrictions forced churches to abandon public worship in 2020, she began to listen in on the telephone services of Cedar Grove Baptist Church and later joined in 2023. Her

declining health prevented her active participation, but she faithfully listened in on Wednesdays and Sundays and supported her church.

After graduating from Foster High School in 1967, Barbara attended Henderson State College in Arkadelphia, graduating in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree in Home Economics. She later earned the Master of Arts Degree in Communication Arts from Webster University. In 1982, she completed the Master of Arts +30 at Webster University in Family and Consumer Sciences. She received her lifetime state of Missouri public school teacher's certification in 1975 in vocational home economics.

Barbara was married to Willie Percy in 1977 and that union ended in divorce in 1983. While she was not blessed with children, she enjoyed playing "favorite auntie". She would collect little gifts all year to send her annual Christmas boxes to nieces and nephews.

Barbara began her 35-year teaching career at Sumner High School in 1972 and remained on staff there until her retirement in 2007. Barbara served on the Executive Board for Local 420 Teachers and School Related Personnel Union for 25 years and was acting president for several years.

After retirement, Barbara kept busy with Corinthian Chapter 9 Order of Eastern Star, where she served at various times as worthy matron, chapter treasurer, and outreach secretary. She was honored at the 125th Annual Harmony Grand Chapter in 2015 for 40 years of service.

Barbara also was very active as Courtesy Chairperson of Gamma Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority having become a member in 1987. She proudly repped that pink and green in her attire, her luggage, her jewelry and her home décor.

After surviving breast cancer in 1992, she got involved with the Susan G. Komen foundation as a spokesperson advocating for testing and public awareness. When her cancer returned in 2022, her training kept her vigilant in her treatment plan and care.

Barbara worked with the Parent Infant Interaction Program, an after-school program to help teenage parents for many years and was honored by the St. Louis Teacher's Union for that work.

While she was quite busy trying to give back to the community and support her church, chapter and sorority, she still found time to be a part of the Henry Thurston Family Reunion Committee. The reunion started in 1989 and has been held bi-annually since then. Barbara has never missed a reunion. She hosted the reunion in St. Louis in two different years.

With all this going on, Barbara still found time to engage in entrepreneurship by co-owning and running a catering business. In addition, she was a high dollar sales agent with both Mary Kay and Avon.

In 2018, Barbara was officially diagnosed with Parkinson Disease. As the disease progressed, it debilitated her body to the point that she needed specialized and continuous care. She spent the last 6 months at Heather Manor with caring and competent staff.

Barbara is preceded in death by her father, Givens Jackson Sr, her maternal grandparents, Alice (Ms. Rennie) and Charlie Braggs and Willie Henry, her brothers: Willie Henry, John Jackson and Anthony Jackson; her nephew, Ryan Jackson, and her best friends for life Gwen Harper and Linda Pace.

Barbara leaves to cherish her memories with her mother, Emma J. Jackson of

Hope, Arkansas; her sister, Evelyn Trammell of Lewisville, Arkansas; her brother, Givens (Martha) Jackson, Jr. of Leland, South Carolina; her nieces, Kiffany, Keidre, Shon, Christina, Jennifer, Cheryl and Kandace; her nephews, Garry, Kelvin, Rico, Justin, Pierce, and James, her God-daughters, Cecelia Elliott of St. Louis, Missouri and Patrice Lee of Little Rock. She was cherished by many extended family members, including great-nieces, great-nephews, tons of cousins and many friends who adored her.

Celebration of Life services will be held Sunday, July 27th, 2025, at St. Paul Baptist Church in Lewisville, Arkansas at 2:00 p.m., with burial to follow at Old Town Cemetery in Lewisville, under the direction of R.L. Reed Funeral Home LLC. Minister McArthur Turner, Eulogist.

A visitation will be Friday {Jul. 25th} from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., at R.L. Reed Funeral Home.

“For precaution due to the COVID-19, Masks are Encouraged but Not Required While Attending the Services and During Visitation Hours. However, wearing masks ensures safety for you and others. Thank you.”

Cemetery Details

Old Town Cemetery

Lafayette County Rd #13
Lewisville, AR

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 25. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

R.L. Reed Funeral Home
100 Hwy 79 North
Magnolia, AR 71753
(870) 901-3536

Celebration of Life

JUL 27. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Paul Baptist Church
303 Fort St.
Lewisville, AR 71845

Tribute Wall

CP

“I extend my deepest sympathy to the family during this difficult time. Ms.Percy was a valued member of our team at Sumner High School. I worked with Ms Percy from 1986 until she retired in 20087. She and Mrs.Ball ran the Hone Econmics Department , Homecoming Activities, and Student Council with finess and pride.Ms Percy was a leader with a servant's heart. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

*Respectfully,
Carol A. Primm*

Carol Primm - August 23, 2025 at 06:07 PM

HK

“ Even though this condolence message is late, I started working at Sumner High School in the late 1990s and this is where I met Mrs. Barbara H. Percy. Moreover, I found out that she was originally from Arkansas, my home state also. Furthermore, I remember Mrs. Percy as an awesome/wonderful person, always willing to assist the Administrative Staff, Faculty Staff, Student body and other Auxiliary Support Staff, in planning/preparing effective educational academic, social, emotional goals and objectives, which was designed to encompass life long learning for student patrons. Lastly, i wish you peace and comfort in the absence of Mrs. Barbara Lynn Percy May God continue to bless each of you.

Dr. Harold Kelsey, Ed. D.

Harold Kelsey - August 22, 2025 at 07:22 PM

LH

“ FZROM: Linda Harding; Wow I am so sorry to hear about Barbara Percy. We worked together for many yeas I retired from Sumner high school in 2018 and remembered when Barbara retired. I call her Barbara now but at Sumner most of the teachers friends or no were called by their last name. I have many fond memories of Ms. Percy and yes I was one of her best AVON customers. My condolences to all her family. GOD BLESS

Linda Harding - August 01, 2025 at 04:24 PM

JB

“ The Beaver family and the LCHS-FHS Alumni sends sincere condolences and prayers to the Jackson family. Barbara will truly be missed.



Julia Beaver - July 25, 2025 at 09:13 PM

BD

“ My sincere condolences to the family of Ms. Barbara Percy. May God grant you peace and comfort during your time of sorrow.

Bonnie Daniels - July 25, 2025 at 08:42 PM

FJ

“ Dear Barbara,
I remember the great times we had years ago!
RIP: my dear friend and cousin
I will miss you!!

Fannie Jones - July 25, 2025 at 03:05 PM

BW

“ *Barbara Walker sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Barbara Lynn Percy*



Barbara Walker - July 25, 2025 at 11:29 AM

SG

“ *Shirley Grigsby lit a candle in memory of Ms. Barbara Lynn Percy*



Shirley Grigsby - July 22, 2025 at 03:47 PM

LC

“ *Sincere condolences to the family*



Lisa Clark - July 17, 2025 at 11:14 PM

CF

“ *Sending our prayers and condolence.* 🙏❤️

Cathy Revels McNeil & Family - July 17, 2025 at 05:10 PM



“ Thanks for always being an aunt who was present in my life. You were always there and I appreciate the love and memories we share. I know i get my sense of fashion from you. 😊
RIL auntie. See you on the other side!



Keidre Toyati - July 17, 2025 at 01:32 PM



“ Dearlean Hughes sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Barbara Lynn Percy



Dearlean Hughes - July 16, 2025 at 02:17 PM



“ I love you Mrs. Barbara. She always had a kind word of encouragement and a smile when I seen her. Get your rest and please tell your nephew that I really miss him down here. Until we all meet again. ❤️🙏

Elonda Williams - Jackson - July 16, 2025 at 08:27 AM



I love you Barbara
We had some good times together!!! ❤️❤️❤️🙏🙏🙏
Your cousin Fannie Pierce Jones

Fannie Pierce Jones - July 16, 2025 at 12:33 PM



Praying without ceasing...🙏

Barbara Walker - July 25, 2025 at 11:30 AM



Barbara was an elegant lady

Aldoris Hudson - August 02, 2025 at 10:38 AM