



Barbara J. Baker

May 9, 2018

Barbara J. Baker of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, passed away Wednesday, May 9, 2018, with her daughter by her side.

She was born to the late Harry and Alma Carrow Palmer in McClure, Illinois, and was the youngest of their 11 children.

She and Howard Baker were married March 6th, 1960 at the Marquette Hotel in Cape Girardeau. He preceded her in death in July of 1968.

Barbara graduated from Shawnee High School in Wolf Lake, Illinois and graduated from the Office Training Center in Cape Girardeau. She was employed by International Harvester in Chicago, Illinois.

During their marriage, Barbara and her husband Howard owned and operated several businesses, downstate vendors which supplied jukeboxes, pinball machines, and cigarette machines, Baker Distributing Company that supplied Falstaff, Pabst, Blue Ribbon, Stag, and Sterling beers, Town and Country Motor Inn and Truck Stop, and several nightclubs and gambling joints in Southern Illinois, including the Colony Club, Baker's Club Flamingo, the Thunderbird, the 21 Club, and the Purple Crackle Club, among others.

After Howard's death in 1968, Barbara moved to Cape Girardeau and became

one of the first women in the area to obtain her real estate license. She worked at Key Realty, was the broker at Century 21 Key Realty, before buying Town & Country Realty in 1980, which she operated for 28 years.

Barbara received several awards during her professional career including being named the first Realtor of the Year through the Cape Girardeau Board of Realtors. She also served on many state and local committees. Barbara served as the President of the Board of Realtors and was on the Governor's Task Force for the Homeless. She was a member of the Lindsey Cemetery board and founded the Cape Girardeau Chapter of Parents Without Partners.

She was a member of Centenary United Methodist Church.

Barbara was a pioneer of working women in the era. She liked to say that "the best man for the job is probably a woman." She was a classy and beautiful lady, inside and out, who always knew what to wear to an event two weeks in advance. Throughout her lifetime, Barbara enjoyed reading, fishing, hunting, shooting craps, bowling, waterskiing, and good scotch. She was always up for a good time. Barbara had many fantastic friends and cherished every one of them. The two joys of her life were her children, Kim and Randy, and then her grandchildren came along, and Kim and Randy instantly took a backseat.

Survivors include her daughter, Kim Baker (Chris Lix) of Cape Girardeau; son Randy Baker of Decatur, Illinois; daughter-in-law, Carole Starzinger of Decatur, Illinois; five grandchildren, Savannah Seyer, Jordan Baker, Hayley Baker, Katie Baker, and Courtney Baker, and three step grandchildren, Josh, Ethan and Wyatt Lix.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Howard; brothers, Bud, Lee, Denny and Pat Palmer; sisters, Lucille Hurtt, Beatrice Simpson, Erma Tucker, and three infant sisters; and her beloved grandson, DJ Baker.

Visitation will be 4 pm to 8 pm Friday, May 18, 2018 at Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home.

Funeral service will be at 10 am on Saturday May 19, 2018 at the funeral home with her good friend, Joanna Toler and granddaughter, Savannah officiating.

Burial will follow at Lindsey Cemetery in McClure, Illinois.

Memorial donations may be given to the Alzheimer's Association.

Online condolences may be shared at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Lindsey Cemetery

McClure, IL 62957

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 18. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Service

MAY 19. 10:00 AM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

SS

“ *Kim-
So sorry to hear of your mom's passing. I'll always remember her as the strong, fun, beautiful woman she was. Your so fortunate to have had such a wonderful mom, and I was lucky to have known her. Bless you and your family.
Seth*

Seth Siemers - May 19, 2018 at 10:04 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Barbara J. Baker.*



May 18, 2018 at 10:57 AM

 Mary Sparkman

“ *Kim and Family- Thinking of you during this time of loss. Your mother was a great friend and mentor in our years together in the Real Estate Business. I have many fond memories of our good times together-traveling, dining, and laughing. She was a special person to me, and my family. Barb was a beautiful person inside and out. She will be be deeply missed. I am thankful our paths crossed years ago. She will forever be with me (and my family)..... Sorry we will not be able to attend the visitation and service, but you are in our thoughts and prayers.
Mary Sparkman, Teresa Reyna, Greg Sparkman and Family*

Mary Sparkman - May 17, 2018 at 04:19 PM

BL

“ Kim I'm so sorry to hear about your mama the Lord be with you

Bobby Long - May 16, 2018 at 11:31 PM

SO

“ Kim, I am so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. I am praying for you and your family during this very difficult time.



Susan O'Connell - May 16, 2018 at 09:47 PM

KP

“ i will always remember my aunt Barbara she was a wonderful soul and 100% palmer. i remember thanks giving 1972 or 73 she was helping my mom serv up turkey i got a picture but not digitalized though. sometimes i would drop by her work and just talk for awhile about nothing and everything at the same time. rest easy barb randy and Kimmy you guys take care of yourself too.

kevin palmer - May 16, 2018 at 06:43 PM

FS

“ Frank and Joanne Schoenborn purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Barbara J. Baker.



Frank and Joanne Schoenborn - May 16, 2018 at 08:39 AM

TB

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Kim, Randy and the rest of the family. I was not aware of all of her amazing professional accomplishments, but mostly knew her as the fun and compassionate mother of my good friend, Kim. As teenagers, my friend, Ted, and I would go over to pick up Kim. Of course Kim would never be ready yet (sorry Kim :-)), so Ted and I would visit with Barbara while we waited. She always made us feel right at home and she always seemed to enjoy talking to us. Just very good memories of her. She was a wonderful lady. Kim and Randy, sorry again for your loss.

Tim Busche - May 15, 2018 at 10:31 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara J. Baker.



May 15, 2018 at 08:24 PM

LP

“ Lana Abercrombie Piner lit a candle in memory of Barbara J. Baker



Lana Abercrombie Piner - May 15, 2018 at 07:23 PM