



Barbara Kaye Hamblin

December 28, 1938 - April 10, 2020

Barbara Kaye Smith Hamblin, 81, of Cape Girardeau, died peacefully in her home, surrounded by family, on Good Friday, April 10, 2020.

Kaye was born on December 28, 1938, in Booneville, Mississippi, the first child of Ralph R. and Elsie Caveness Smith.

She married Bobby Hamblin on June 10, 1960, at Candler's Chapel Baptist Church in Prentiss County, Mississippi.

Kaye graduated from Booneville High School and Delta State University. She earned a master's degree in elementary education at the University of Mississippi. She taught first grade in Baltimore County, Maryland, and Batesville, Mississippi, and was the director of Kinder Care Learning Center in Cape Girardeau. Known for her kind, gentle, compassionate spirit, Kaye touched and blessed the lives of countless individuals.

A longtime member of First Baptist Church, Cape Girardeau, she taught a children's Sunday School class and sang in the sanctuary choir for more than 50 years. One of the first women deacons ordained by the church, she served two terms as chairperson of the deacon body. She also organized and led mothers' day out and after-school tutoring programs for the church.

Kaye's many interests included music, travel, history, reading, writing, gardening, and bird-watching. She played the clarinet and the piano, and she taught both her children and both her grandchildren to play the piano. With her husband she traveled to 49 of the 50 states and 19 foreign countries, England being her favorite. She felt privileged to live in London on two separate occasions when Bobby taught in the Missouri London Program.

She and Bobby were awarded the Judith Ann Crow Residential Historic Rehabilitation Award by Old Town Cape, as well as an Excellence in Historic Preservation Award by the Southeast Missouri State University Sigma Pi Kappa chapter, for the restoration of the historic home located at 313 Themis Street in Cape Girardeau. They successfully applied to have the home placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Kaye's book about the home and its first owner, Julia Russell Harris, *Finding Julia*, was published by Southeast Missouri State University Press.

Kaye authored a popular children's story, "The Bird That Found a Home," for which she also drew the color illustrations. She and Bobby co-authored a biography of her father, *An Ordinary Man, An Extraordinary Life*. She wrote for her grandchildren a memoir about growing up on a farm in Mississippi.

She was a member of the Nancy Hunter Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Survivors include her husband; a brother, Ralph G. "Buddy" Smith (Josie) of Booneville, MS; two children, Laurie and Stephen, of Cape Girardeau; two granddaughters, Kaleigh Hamblin (fiancé Andrew Semaan) of Cape Girardeau and Abigail Morrow (Seth) of Fredericktown; twin great-granddaughters, Annabelle Susan and Sarah Grace Morrow; and several nieces and nephews.

A private graveside service will be held in Fairmount Cemetery, with Ford and Sons Funeral Home in charge of arrangements and Reverend Mike Shupert

officiating. A public memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

“Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!”

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial gifts be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, 9370 Olive Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-3214, Southeast Hospice, 10 Doctors Park, Cape Girardeau, MO 63703 or Cape Girardeau First Baptist Church, 1289 Lexington Ave., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701.

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

Cemetery Details

Fairmont Cemetery

835 Caruthers
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

CL

“ *Changlei Li sent a virtual gift in memory of Barbara Kaye Hamblin*



Changlei Li - June 04, 2020 at 11:35 PM

CL

“ *Changlei Li lit a candle in memory of Barbara Kaye Hamblin*



Changlei Li - May 10, 2020 at 10:20 PM

CL

“ *Dear Kaye, On Mother's Day, I heard the worst news you have passed away. This is a great surprise and I am really sorry to you for the later pray. Whin the late April, I have lost two mothers. This is the worst thing. I've never forgotten your kindness, smile and generocity to me and my family. Without your help, I could not have achieved the success in Faulkner studies and American Culture. Thank you so much for what you did to me and you will live in our heart. God bless you. Changlei, your adopted Chinese son.*

Changlei Li - May 10, 2020 at 04:05 AM

LT

“ Dear Bob and the families, I'm very sorry to hear Kaye has passed away. My son Miki still keeps the Beginners' Bible sent by Miss Kaye six years ago. She is a wonderful lady writing *The Bird That Found a Home*, which I have shared with my students in China. Now she is in another peaceful home, and in our heart forever.
Cheryl, Zack, Miki and Alicia

Liwei Tang - April 17, 2020 at 03:22 AM

PK

“ Dear Mr. Hamblin, Laurie, and Stephen,
May eternal peace and comfort be with Mrs. Hamblin. I pray that your cherished memories keep her warm and loving spirit in your hearts.

Pamela Kiser - April 12, 2020 at 09:27 AM

RH

Many thanks, Pam. She loved watching you kids grow up on Price Drive and was very proud of the fine person you became.

Robert Hamblin - April 13, 2020 at 12:03 AM

AL

“ Auburn and I send our heartfelt love and comfort to you and Stephen and Laurie. Kaye was a lovely lady and so creative and loving to her family. It has been a special time knowing and being with Kaye. We will miss her and will keep all of you in our prayers and thoughts during this time.

Just cherish the memories which you have and always remember Kaye with such love and fondness. We are thinking of you and wish to be there in person.

Love, Linda and Auburn

Auburn and Linda Lambeth - April 11, 2020 at 04:08 PM

MD

We are praying for comfort for you & your family during this sad time. May you have peace & God's hands on you through this hard time in your lives. We are so sorry for your loss.

The Clyde and Christine Palmer Nichols Families

Marcia Nichols Ducker - April 11, 2020 at 06:43 PM

RH

Many thanks, Linda and Auburn. One of the great joys of her late years was getting to know you fine folks. Love and all best wishes to you.

Robert Hamblin - April 13, 2020 at 12:05 AM

RH

Many thanks, Marcia, to you and all your family.

Robert Hamblin - April 13, 2020 at 12:07 AM

DE

“ *Donna Essner purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of Barbara Kaye Hamblin.*



Donna Essner - April 11, 2020 at 03:14 PM

DE

“ *Dr. Hamblin, Laurie, and Stephen,*

Please accept my heartfelt sorrow on the passing of Kaye. Please know that I will keep each of you in my prayers. Kaye was a wonderful soul, and I am so proud to have known her. God bless each of you.

Donna Essner - April 11, 2020 at 03:02 PM



Thank you Donna a thank you for the gift.

Laurie Hamblin - April 11, 2020 at 05:37 PM

RH

Many thanks, Donna, for your kind words and meaningful gift. We'll place the stone in Kaye's flower garden.

Robert Hamblin - April 13, 2020 at 12:09 AM

GL

“*Laurie. I'm very sorry to hear. I pray for you that God will walk with you and comfort you in this time. Greg Lincoln*

Gregory Lincoln - April 11, 2020 at 01:48 PM



Thanks Greg.

Laurie Hamblin - April 11, 2020 at 05:39 PM

BH

Many thanks, Greg.

Bob Hamblin - April 15, 2020 at 01:38 PM

HH

“ Dear Bob, Laurie, Stephen, and extended family,

It's hard to give up a wife, mother, grandmother, and friend at any age. Even though we know that they are in a better peace, we still hurt and our hearts ache.

As Kaye once held each of you tenderly, secure and warm, so Jesus is holding her lovingly now in the circle of His arms. She is well again. What a comfort!

It is our prayer that your faith will bring strength for each new day, and that the wonderful memories that you shared will also bring much comfort.

*God's love and ours,
Harold and Jeanine Hager*

Harold & Jeanine Hager - April 11, 2020 at 12:42 PM

RH

Many thanks, Jeannine and Harold, for your gracious words and prayers. Love and best wishes to you and your family.

Robert Hamblin - April 13, 2020 at 12:11 AM

LN

“ *Kay was my children's choir teacher and very close family friend. She and Bob were role models to us and so many others. Mary Alice and Norman Tullis express their warmest love, prayers, and sympathy. Our family's prayers are with you now. John 14.*

— Laura Norman and family

laura norman - April 11, 2020 at 12:01 PM



Thank you Laura.

Laurie Hamblin - April 11, 2020 at 05:40 PM

BH

Many thanks, Laura, to you and all your family. We love you.

Bob Hamblin - April 15, 2020 at 01:32 PM

LS

“ *A kind and lovely lady. My deepest sympathy to Bob, Laurie and Stephen. You only had to be around the Hamblin family for a little while to know how devoted Bob and Kaye were to one another, and how much love they both had for their family. May the memories of the wonderful life you shared bring you comfort in the days ahead.*
Lisa Speer

Lisa Speer - April 11, 2020 at 11:21 AM



Thanks Lisa.

Laurie Hamblin - April 11, 2020 at 05:41 PM

BH

Many thanks, Lisa. Love and all best wishes to you.

Bob Hamblin - April 15, 2020 at 01:33 PM

GW

“ *Kaye was a gifted person who had a wonderful life. All of the family are in our prayers, Gerald and Julie Walton*

Gerald Walton - April 11, 2020 at 10:46 AM

BH

Thanks, Gerald and Julie. Love you.

Bob Hamblin - April 15, 2020 at 01:32 PM

DK

“ *I will miss Kaye and her sweet smile and special love.
Remembering you all in prayer.*

Donna Komorech - April 11, 2020 at 09:43 AM

BH

Thanks, Donna. Love you.

Bob Hamblin - April 15, 2020 at 01:33 PM

RR

“ *Uncle Bob, Laurie, and Stephen, we are truly sorry for the passing of Aunt Kaye. She was a very accomplished lady with a loving heart! She touched many lives! We know you will miss her very much. We know y'all will always cherish the precious memories she helped create! It's wonderful to know that she is praising God in Heaven now with all of our other loved ones!*

Rob, Lori and Carson Rogers

Rob, Lori and Carson Rogers - April 11, 2020 at 09:01 AM

BH

Many thanks, Lori, Rob, and Carson. Love you.

Bob Hamblin - April 15, 2020 at 01:35 PM

RS

“ Love and prayers for the Hamblin family. Kaye was such a wonderful Christian lady and we loved her dearly. Her books are treasured by many people and we are blessed to have copies of them. We remember her as a faithful Sunday School teacher, a person willing to fill any position at church that was needed, a supportive coach's wife (not an easy job), a loving and caring mother and a person who made the best peach cobbler you've ever eaten. She would bake it and bring it to our house when we needed some encouragement. We still have the recipe and I make it often. God be with you during this time. Truman and Ruth Smith

RUTH SMITH - April 11, 2020 at 08:57 AM

BH

Many thanks, Ruth and Truman. Kaye loved you and your family very much, as do I. Love and best wishes to you all.

Bob Hamblin - April 15, 2020 at 01:36 PM