

Obituary for Barbara Beck-Ramsay

With broken hearts, we are saddened to announce the passing of precious wife of 33 years, Barbara Beck-Ramsay, and amazing mother at 2:35 am, Feb 2, 2008. She died peacefully in our home surrounded throughout the week by her husband, children, grandchildren and friends in her favorite room of the house.

Born in Pittsburgh; raised by grandparents Robert Ramsay and Nina Allshouse in a spacious Victorian home in Greensburg, PA. She always remained a modern spirit of Victorian design. Avid and accomplished genealogist she mapped over 5000 relations back to the 1600s. Scotland held her heart and she cherished the Ramsay clan slogan "Ora et Labora", Pray and Work.

Resident of Avon with loving husband, Mark Silvestri, since 1980. Mother of 4 sons, Mark, Erik, Jason and Adam and 2 daughters, Carrie and Heather. As a mother she taught her children the importance of compassion, education and to always strive for a better life.

Grandmother to Matthew, Chloe, Justin, Conner and Ethan. Referred to as "Nana", Barbara was a natural in the role of grandmother. Even as her illness progressed, she would send the children stickers in the mail, work on graphic art of the kids sent through email and was genuinely touched by even just voices of her grandbabies in person or on the phone. She was ever determined to stay a part of their lives and put a smile on their faces even if she wasn't there to see them. Just knowing what she had done for them was always enough.

Woman hear me roar! Graduated Penn State, BA with Highest Honors. Inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi honor societies. Completed Masters degree course work and taught at Northeastern Univ. Enterprise Avon correspondent from 1983 – 1995. Winner of numerous 1st, 2nd and 3rd place journalist awards. On the spot reporter for town murders and Centennial celebrations. Always an advocate for a good town cause, she mustered support for town projects from new ambulances, school projects, roads, police cars, town trucks to school playgrounds.

Within Avon she was a member of town committees such as Emergency Planning, Centennial and Historical. She documented Avon veterans and presented the volume to the Avon library.

Innovative graphic artist. Both her story and graphic art accepted by the Smithsonian Sept 11 digital art repository. Avid antique post card graphic restoration artist. Many thousand images, stories and creations are on her website, www.beck-ramsay.com, especially focused on history, winter scenes, holidays and family.

Funeral services will be held at Sampson-Hickey-Grenier Funeral Home, 309 Main Street, Brockton, MA 02301. Tue 7-9pm; Weds 2-4pm; 7-9pm; church services at St. Michaels Church, Main Street Avon, MA Thurs, 10:30 am.

Our Shooting Star!