



Barbara Billberry

April 10, 1940 - August 25, 2020

Barbara Jean Billberry was born Barbara Jean Gildersleeve on April 10, 1940 in Thomasville, Alabama, the 13th child of Lonnie and Onnie Gildersleeve. She attended the Good Shephard Lutheran School in Thomasville for elementary school, and then for middle school she attended Alabama Lutheran Academy and College in Selma, Alabama.

She moved from Alabama at the age of 14 to San Pedro, California in 1954, where she attended San Pedro High School. Where she met the love of her life Doyle (Mickey) Bilberry there, and then in April 1956 they married at Union Baptist Church in San Pedro, CA. From their union, they had two children: Michael Doyle, and Roslyn Denise. The Family eventually settled in Los Angeles spending time on Towne Ave and 120th. Once the children were of school age, Barbara entered the workforce at Mattel in Hawthorne as an assembler and by the time she left, she was promoted to supervisor. She then left to work at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in Downey as a Certified Nurse's Assistant. Barbara attended East LA and Long Beach City Colleges. In 1966 the family Relocated to Compton, CA. In 1967 she then finally settled in at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department as a Fingerprint Interpreter, starting her 30 years of civil service. While working at the Sheriff's Department, she also worked part time for a nursing registry. In 1978, she opened her home and heart and became a foster parent. Barbara and Mickey opened up their home to numerous family and friends along their journeys in life, They never met a stranger. Barbara had an intense passion for fashion which eventually led to her opening up her own clothing boutique called Sophisticated One in the Carson Mall. She ran the store for 3 to 4 years. Barbara After her retirement in 1977, she kept busy as a caregiver, a volunteer at various churches in the area, and at the Long Beach Police Department. In her free time, Barbara enjoyed travelling with her kids and grandkids, and loved following politics on CNN and a looooong phone call. Barbara was a loving person with a strong work ethic that will live on through her son Michael and daughters Roslyn and Cheryl (who preceded her in death), her 6 foster sons, Oliver Jones, Adrian, Antonio, Alfred, Andre, and Andrew Young. Her legacy will continue through her grandchildren, Takii Clements, Jar'Reese Billberry, Joshua Billberry, DeAngelo, Angelica, Dominique, Mario, Marcus, Shian, Markel, Lariyan, Ohleer, Naljee, Joseph, Brianna, Tamia, and

Xerces. She was also a loving Great Grandmother to Helen Ann, Issac, Jovan, Jordan, Jaeden, Autumn, and Judah. Three Godsons, Charlie Parker, Jonathan Nevels, and Johnny Hewing; Two Goddaughters, Stephanie Moore, and Tashonda Anthony. She also leaves behind to celebrate her life sisters Wilhelmina Johnson of San Pedro, CA, and Patricia Haynes of Bixby Knolls, CA; her brothers, Clenzo Gildersleeve of Mobile, AL, and Richard Gildersleeve of Los Angeles, CA, and a host of sister-in-laws, brother-in-laws, cousins, nieces, nephews, and devoted friends.

Mickey preceded her in death in 2002.

Comments



“ Wazzetta Williams lit a candle in memory of Barbara Billberry



Wazzetta Williams - September 19, 2020 at 06:39 PM



“ We love you Aunt Barbara!

Wazzetta - September 19, 2020 at 06:40 PM



“ Aunt Barbara was so good to us (Your Uncle Leo, her oldest brother, and you Aunt Georgia Lee kids here in Alabama (Jane, Elaine, Sonny, Leon, Vera, Jimmy, Mary, Me-Catherine (Cat), Paul, Paula, Tony, Corine. She treated all of us as if we were her own. We always knew that she loved us and we love her too . We thank God for allowing her to touch our lives in more ways than she ever knew. Take care and we love you guys 😊



Catherine Gildersleeve-Snowden - September 19, 2020 at 03:17 PM



“ Sending my deepest condolences to you all. Aunt Barbara came to Detroit when my mom, Elaine passed in 2008. My siblings and I really appreciated her for traveling for such a distance to pay her respect to my mom. My mom always shared good thoughts of Aunt Barbara. Praying for your comfort and strength during this difficult period. Rest in Heaven Auntie Barbara.

Gwendolyn - September 19, 2020 at 03:30 PM



“ Even though I have never met you guys in person I feel it proper to send my condolences on behalf of my dad, (late) Leon Gildersleeve. Like Gwen, my dad along with his brothers and sisters have always shared loving stories and memories of Aunt Barbara with us as well. When he passed in 2002, she was there for my mom and my siblings (9 of us) too. So I am sending you hugs and love from our family to yours. May God comfort you guys and give you strength and peace!

Coquesa Dotson - September 19, 2020 at 04:09 PM



“ Joyce Billberry lit a candle in memory of Barbara Billberry



Joyce Billberry - September 19, 2020 at 05:42 AM