



The CANNONADE

Barbara Fuge Dedication

Emily Lake, Editor

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Barbara (Wiley) Fuge

December 9, 1946 - February 9, 2022

Canandaigua – Barbara (Wiley) Fuge, age 75, passed away peacefully at home, on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, with family and friends by her side. She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Bill Fuge; two siblings, Caroline Mathieson and Jason (Jean) Wiley; sisters-in-law, Barbara Wiley and Ellen Fuge; three nieces, Jessica Mathieson (Micah Thompson), Anna (Justin) Skillings and Rachel Wiley; three nephews, Richard Mathieson (Diane Deffenbaugh), Scott Mathieson (Melissa Gladish) and Eric Wiley; and sibkid, Wylie Bay. She was predeceased by her brother, Allan Wiley in 2012.

Barbara was born in Oberlin, Ohio and was the daughter of Robert and Lydia (McCurdy) Wiley. She grew up in Geneva and was a graduate of Geneva High School, class of 1965. Barbara earned her bachelor's degree from Beloit College in Wisconsin in 1969 and her master's degree from Washington University in St. Louis in 1970. She later earned her MBA from the Simon School, University of Rochester. Barbara and Bill met while attending Beloit College and were married on June 20, 1970 in Geneva.

Barbara was a Certified Public Accountant and started her career with KPMG in Rochester. Her next job was chairperson of the accounting department at St. John Fisher College. From there, Barbara moved on to Columbia Banking Federal Savings Association as Manager of Audit and Asset Evaluation. She was then hired by the First National Bank of Rochester as their Risk Manager and later became Sr. Vice President and CFO of Genesee Regional Bank.

Much of Barbara's life was devoted to serving the community, local non-profits and charities. She served on the board of Alternatives for Battered Women (now Willow) and was also the Treasurer. Barbara was a volunteer for the United Way of Greater Rochester on the Provider Financial Information Team (ProFIT). She served on the board of the Financial Executives Institute,

Rochester Chapter as President. Barbara was on the board of the United Way of Ontario County, serving as President, Vice President and Chair of the Community Investment Committee, on the campaign cabinet. She served on the Board of Trustees for the Ontario County Historical Society and Granger Homestead, both as Treasurer and on the board of the Canandaigua Yacht Club, serving as Treasurer and President. Barbara was a member of the Canandaigua Rotary Club for 12 years and has served on their board as well. She received the BPW/PWFL Woman of the Year Award in 2002 and was the recipient of the Canandaigua ATHENA Leadership Award in 2007.

Barbara enjoyed skiing at Bristol Mountain and the annual ski trip to the Rockies, sailing, biking, hiking and civil war reenacting. She and Bill also enjoyed traveling internationally and throughout the United States. After ski season, they would drive their RV to Myrtle Beach to welcome in Spring. Barbara looked forward to planning all the trips, most recently their cruise on the rivers of Europe.

For those that were
unable to make it to the
service, click below to view:

[Memorial Service](#)

[Memorial Slideshow](#)



Barb Fuge *By John Beatty*

On behalf of Sandy, myself and our Reynolds' Battery family, I would like to thank Barb's husband Bill for sharing Barb with us. I am sure that the countless phone calls, emails, texts, flowers, meals, visits, and thoughts and prayers from our members have been both comforting during this difficult time and have been a reminder of the impact that Barb had on so many of us.

Despite living a full life she took on another passion when she joined the battery. Besides being a valuable civilian, cannoneer and our own Dr. Mary Walker, few of you will ever know how much Barb worked for us behind the scenes as a board member of the Granger Homestead and helped us maneuver through countless obstacles over the many years we did our Living History encampment there.

Barb was truly an exceptional woman that cared for others, especially among the friends she made in the battery. It was always a treat to get her to hang out with her at Spangler Farm, reenactments in Gettysburg or at the many places we parked our tents. I will never forget her contagious laugh and lighthearted spirit that she reserved for only those few of us who genuinely made her laugh. She taught me much about the members who I had limited interaction with and



I attribute the leader I am within the battery today to those conversations that she took the time to have with me.

I know that many of you may be hurt that Barb was taken from us when she was. But I would like to ask you remember her dedication to the battery and celebrate Barb's life with me. Find that piece of Barb within yourself and continue her professionalism and dedication to the battery by having fun whenever we are together. Doing that will leave a legacy in a way that will make you remember the person that we all knew and respected.



Barb Fuge - A 'Dandy' Soldier

Rick Lake

We will miss Barb around the camps of Reynolds' Battery, both as a Private and as Dr. Mary Walker. Barb always had a mannerism that would calm and relax anyone that would speak with her. It could even be a 'Good Morning' or a smile as she passed in the area. I never had a conversation with her that I did not feel my best as we parted for the day's duties.

When the Private was working the limber at an event one time, I stepped up behind him and noticed that his military vest had some a pretty, floral pattern material on the back. I mentioned that I hoped that this was a repair to his vest of material from home and not the only material that our Northern Textile Suppliers were able to procure. We thought that if this was the only material available, that we would have some pretty 'Dandy' looking boys in our unit.

Our loved ones never truly leave us. They live on as memories that we will cherish forever. Barb's memory will forever be in our hearts.



In Remembrance

Bill Leet

Beautiful woman, always enjoyed seeing her and Bill at the Reynolds' Battery events. She will be missed.





**Meet Dr. Mary Walker:
The only female Medal of Honor
recipient
By Katie Lange, Dept. of Defense
News, Defense Media Activity
Originally Published
March 7, 2017
Submitted by Bill Fuge for the
August 2021 Cannonade**

Out of the nearly 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients, only one was a woman -- just one -- and her medal was actually rescinded just before she died.

In honor of Women's History Month, we're looking back on the life of that exceptional woman: Dr. Mary Walker, who helped change the face of medicine during the Civil War.

Walker was born in Oswego, New York, to abolitionist parents who encouraged her to pursue an education. She really embraced that idea and in 1855 graduated as a medical doctor from Syracuse Medical College.

Walker went into private practice for a few years, but then the Civil War broke out in 1861. She wanted to join the Army as a surgeon but wasn't allowed because she was a woman. Because of her credentials, she didn't want to be a nurse, either, so she chose to volunteer for the Union Army.

Helping However She Could

Walker worked for free at the temporary hospital set up at the U.S. Patent Office in Washington, D.C. She also organized the Women's Relief Organization to help the families of the wounded who came to visit them at local hospitals.

In 1862, Walker moved on to Virginia, this time treating the wounded at field hospitals throughout the state. In 1863, her medical credentials were finally accepted, so she moved to Tennessee, where she was appointed as a War Department surgeon. Her position was paid, and it was the equivalent of a lieutenant or captain.

Walker was captured in April 1864 by the South and held as a prisoner of war for about four months. She and other Union doctors were eventually exchanged in a prisoner-of-war swap for Confederate medical officers. According to the National Library of Medicine, sources say Walker had been captured intentionally so she could spy for the North, but there is little evidence to support that claim.

Not long after being released by the Confederates, Walker returned to her craft as an assigned medical director at a hospital for women prisoners in Kentucky.



Supporting Feminism

Aside from her wartime efforts, Walker was also an outspoken advocate for women's rights.

As the war raged on, feminists also struggled to further their cause, which included being able to wear clothing that enabled better mobility.

Walker chose to wear what was known as the "Bloomer costume" as a modified uniform throughout the war. It was a dress-and-trouser combination that had gone out of favor long before the war began, but she didn't care -- she wore it anyway.

Walker eventually switched to wearing men's clothes and was even arrested for impersonating a man several times. In her defense, she argued that she was given special permission by the government to dress that way.



Medal of Honor Controversy

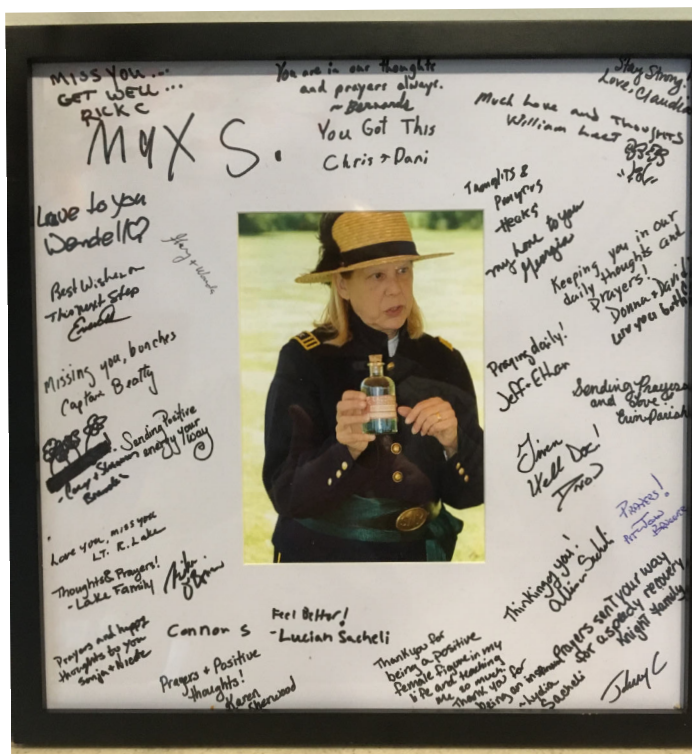
In November 1865, having left government service for good, Walker was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Andrew Johnson, even though she was a civilian who had never been a commissioned officer in military service.

That civilian status is why Walker's medal was rescinded in 1917, two years before she died -- along with 910 others

Walker refused to return the medal, though, and continued to wear it until she died two years later.

Sixty years after that, in 1977, President Jimmy Carter restored the honor in her name, thanks to efforts made by her family.

So thank you, Dr. Mary Walker, for representing all women in this long list of honorable Medal of Honor recipients!





In Remembrance Allison Sacheli and the Sacheli Family

It's not often that you have a photo of the first time you meet someone. I think that it is a gift that we have this photo of our beloved friend Barbara Fuge as Dr. Mary Walker as Lucian Anthony had his military physical to become a full member of Reynolds' Battery. Barb was so welcoming and encouraging to my children and the children of my 4-H Time Travelers

group. She would come to meetings and perform civil war physicals for the new entrants to military life. She most notably would speak to the young ladies about the importance of following your interests and dreams as Dr. Mary Walker did. She has left a stamp on the heart of our entire family and will be deeply missed.

In Remembrance Lucian Anthony Sacheli

I don't have one clear memory of Mrs. Fuge. Bill is the "the Fuge State" superhero to me but Barb will always be "Mrs. Fuge". She is the kind of wife I hope to find some day. Smart, classy, supportive, athletic and of course a reenactor!



DR. MARY EDWARDS WALKER AND THE MEDAL OF HONOR

By William M. McKinnon M.D.

Submitted by John Beatty

By an act of Congress on March 3rd, 1863 the Medal of Honor was created as a permanent decoration "for officers and enlisted men of the army and volunteer forces who have distinguished or may distinguish themselves in battle during the present rebellion". Since that time some 3525 Medals have been awarded, with about 40% given during the Civil War. Only once has a Medal ever been awarded to honor a woman.

Mary Edwards Walker was born on November 26th, 1832 in Oswego, New York into a family of abolitionists, with parents who were "free thinkers", progressives who questioned many of the accepted customs of the times. She and her siblings were home schooled and worked on the family farm. Believing in dress reform, her parents allowed Mary to wear "bloomer" pants instead of the skirts and corsets women were expected to wear at the time, as she and her parents thought the usual feminine garments too restricting. Mary came to strongly oppose long skirts with petticoats not only for their discomfort and decreased mobility, but also because they collected dust and dirt that were felt to be carriers of disease. She became a strong advocate of dress reform and experimented with a number of new combinations of attire, eventually settling on trousers with suspenders under a knee length dress with a full skirt and a tight waist. Such attire became a lifelong habit.

After finishing her home schooling, Mary attended the Falley Seminary in Fulton, New York. Prepared as a teacher, she taught in Minetto, New York, where she was ridiculed for her clothing choices by her students and their parents. She left teaching and decided to

pursue her dream of becoming a doctor. She saved her teacher's earnings, was accepted into the Syracuse Medical College, and graduated in 1855 as the second female to do so. She married classmate Albert Miller, though she declined to include "obey" in her vows and she refused to take her husband's name. Together they started a practice in Rome, New York that failed, presumably as the public would not yet accept a female physician. She separated from her husband because of his infidelity and they were officially divorced 13 years later.

With the beginning of the Civil War Dr. Walker volunteered as a surgeon for the Army but was rejected promptly because of her gender. She worked for a time as a volunteer nurse at First Bull Run and at the Patent Office Hospital in Washington, D.C. She thereafter began to work as an unpaid field surgeon on the front lines and was at Fredericksburg and Chickamauga. All the while, she continued to wear a modified men's uniform during her work, reporting that it made her duties easier.

In 1862 she volunteered as a spy, but again was denied. In 1863 she was finally hired as a contract assistant surgeon by the Army of the Cumberland—but remained technically a civilian. In this capacity she treated both Union and Confederate soldiers as well as many civilians on both sides of the lines. It was doing this that led to her capture by Confederate forces, and she was imprisoned as a spy in Castle Thunder in Richmond for four months in 1864. She was exchanged and was pleased to see that she was traded for a male Confederate surgeon with the rank of major, giving her some vindication. Filling a vacancy, she was later appointed contract assistant surgeon of the 52nd Ohio Infantry by Gen. George Thomas. Though she was weakened by muscular atrophy suffered while imprisoned, she continued to serve as a physician in several locations until the end of the war.



Teenage Mary Walker



Mary Walker in the War



Late in life



Her grave in Oswego, New York



Her statue in Oswego

Dr. Mary Walker at Spangler Farm Emily Lake

One of the first times I remember Barb in the persona of Dr. Mary Walker, was at Spangler Farm in July of 2014. It was our first weekend there and none of us knew what to expect.

This was also the weekend I bought my new fancy camera and was excited to test it out. I remember going around and taking as many pictures as I could, and getting pictures of each station. Barb set up her triage station on the side of the barn.

While there were not as many guests as we had thought, it was kind of nice in the way that more time could be spent with the individuals who did show up. Some of the afternoons were spent hanging around camp and enjoying each others company.

Upon my many walks around to all the stations, it did not matter if there was a small group of two or three people or a group of 10 or 12, Barb was making sure that everyone was engaged with what she had to say. She passed on all of her knowledge about Mary Walker and connected her to the Spangler Farm. I found that I was paying more attention to what Barb was saying, that I never got a picture of her in action with spectators that weekend.

In additon to being Dr. Mary Walker, she occassionally assited our own Doc Evarts with physicals for the new members! She and Doc made a great duo.

She had certainly done a lot of research and always spoke so passionately, whether as Dr. Mary Walker or in everyday conversation. Barb will be missed by all.





Battery Biography Barb & Bill Fuge

(Originally published in September 2011)

Reenacting is not new to this month's featured couple. Bill joined the NSSA in 1960, and his first major reenactment was the 100th anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas in 1961. In the 70s they were both involved in reenacting the 200th anniversary of the Revolutionary War.

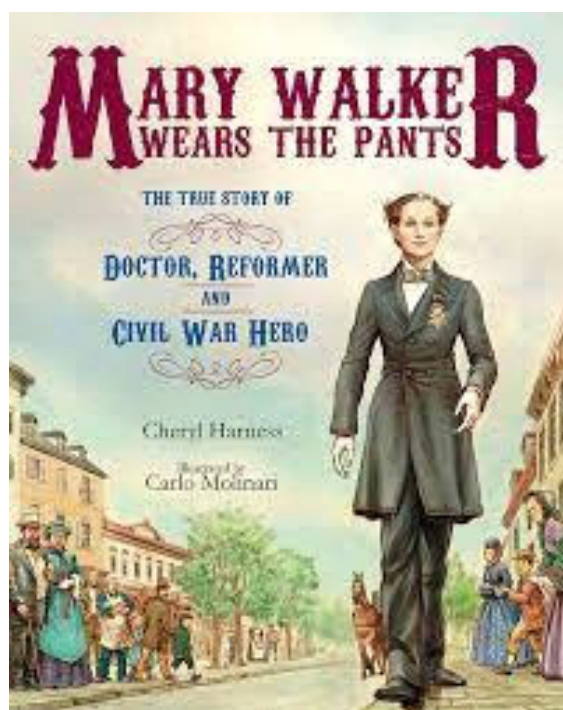
They live in Canandaigua, were recruited at the Granger event by David Suhr, and joined the battery in the fall of 2006. Ironically, Reynolds' Battery is historically tied to Bill's earlier unit, the 6th Wisconsin Vol. Inf. Regiment of the Iron Brigade when both units fought side-by-side in the 1st Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

They both enjoy learning about Civil War history and the battery's dedication to accuracy and authenticity to the original unit. Back in 1860, Barb (Bob) was a teacher or professor, and Bill was a peddler of sorts.

They both appreciate the camaraderie, teamwork, and everyone's willingness to help one another. Barb's favorite position is #5, and Bill's is probably #2 or #4, although gunner is very exciting. Their favorite events are Gettysburg and Granger, and both are looking forward to the 150th national events over the next few years.

Barb Fuge and Mary Walker Lydia Sacheli

My memories of Mrs. Fuge are of her as Mary Walker. I was in 7th grade and we went to events. It was before my mom had a real impression and there was Mary Walker. A woman who did things with the military. We talked about how important it was for women to have a voice and a role in the hobby and that they could do so much more than the cooking and cleaning part. She inspired me, not only me but lots of other girls in our 4-H club when she came to meetings as Mary Walker in her uniform that was not just a uniform but better. She gave me a book that I have since shared with the 4-H girls as an inspiration of what women can be—in a time where there weren't many opportunities Mary Walker made her own—in this time of chances and choices for women we can do no less.



In Remembrance Donna Schmidt



The first time I met Barb was at Spangler Farm. I was new to the Battery that year. Barb made me feel very welcomed. She was portraying Doctor Walker. Her impression was spot on. That was the year that I stayed at a hotel, I regretted

not staying overnight, only to find out that Barb didn't stay at the farm either.

The second time was at Cedar Creek. It was July and very hot. On the last day after the last battle many people struggled with the heat. I was one of them. David had just packed up his truck along with our cooler. When he came back, I let him know that I was in trouble. He took me to his truck and got out some fluids. He sat me in the truck with the air on. The next thing I knew was Barb knocked on the door and got in next to me. I was a little anxious about how the heat was affecting me. She was a very calming influence for me. We chatted about our families and the events of the weekend. She stayed with me until the unit was all packed up and David came back to the truck.

The last time I saw Barb was New Year's Eve 2021. Allison, her mom and I went with food for our early party. We had a wonderful time! Great food, wine and great company. We spent our time talking about old times. Barb was feeling good that day. She was looking forward to the meeting in March.

Barb and Dante Robin Rohrer

My first memories of Barb and Bill Fuge don't include their names... only the name of their beloved dog Dante. At least once a week I went to take my beloved dog George to "walking club". That's what I called it but really it was to take my dog for a walk at the Canandaigua VA. They had great paths and many people did the same thing. You would have a passing acquaintance with many of the people who were there on the same schedule—like when you join a health club or community pool and see the same faces day to day but rarely speak and don't exchange names. In this case we often shared our dog's names in passing. When I went to Granger Homestead to visit my daughter Alli and her kids who had joined Reynolds' Battery I was pleasantly surprised to see "Dante's people" were members. Over the years we would have many more times of seeing the Fuges, many more memories, but Dante was often a part. Like New Year's Eve afternoon 2021 where we gathered with the Ladies at Fuge's house Donna Schmidt, Alli, Barb and myself—and of course Dante who spent time sitting with the ladies (even wore a New Year's crown and necklace for the occasion—He is a party animal after all)—and the last time with Dante sitting quietly next to Barb and then moving over to his couch by the fireplace (and letting the people know that he wanted it turned on- he is a clever boy). My first and my last memories of Barb included Dante.





Bill Fuge

Lest we forget, Barb, in her earlier years with the Battery was a certified cannoneer. I can't tell you all the events that she served on the gun, but she served during the 150th anniversary years. 150th Manassas, 150th Antietam, and 150th Gettysburg. We were never on the same gun crew by design but she especially liked to work the box with Georgia, and whoever was gunner or Sgt. Of the piece enjoyed having her on their gun crew because she always had an accurate count of rounds and primers in the box or expended.

She didn't really want to serve on the gun because it frightened her, but she obligingly went in uniform so she could participate with me. Then she got interested in Dr. Mary Walker and decided she could participate without serving on the piece.



In Remembrance John Baronich

When I think of Barb Fuge, I picture her dressed as Dr. Mary Walker and being a skilled living historian with a passion for researching the doctor's life so she could really "live" the character. Barb's commitment to the detail of the station was truly her passion. So much so, that when she presented at the Gettysburg Foundation's Spangler Farm the president of the foundation personally visited her and spent time with Barb discussing Mary's life and experiences during the Civil War. I remember my conversation with him after he had spent time with Barb and recalled his kind words and being extremely impressed with her knowledge regarding Dr. Walker's trials and tribulations because she was a "woman in a man's field of work".

As I listened to Barb during her presentation at Spangler's Farm, I too realized that Barb had spent an enormous amount of time preparing for her presentation and was continually pleased by the number of visitors that stopped and listened intently. Hands down, Barb's living history presentation was one of the very best that I have seen. I heard comments from people that they really believed that Barb was Dr. Mary Walker. This was not only a tribute to Dr. Walker but also to our dear friend, Barb Fuge.

In addition, I could always count on Barb to help me navigate the scheduling of the Granger Homestead event that Reynolds' Battery in conjunction with Granger offered to the public. For a number of years Barb served on the Granger Board of Directors and worked behind the scenes to make sure everything went smoothly for both Granger and Reynolds' Battery. I can never thank her enough for what she did for both organizations without any recognition. I will truly miss you Barb.

In Remembrance Ave Bauder

I am pretty sure I got to know Barb before anyone else in the Battery besides Bill. I had the great honor and privilege to serve with her on the Board of Directors of the Ontario County United Way when I was working at Hobart and William Smith in the 2000s. As I recall she chaired the Allocations Committee (the committee that decided who got the money) and eventually the overall Board. She was without question my favorite person to work with on that Board.

Serving on a United Way Board is as close as many of us will ever come to being a philanthropist giving away money to good causes and Barb took that role very seriously. She studied an organization's proposal, asked great questions, and would at times make constructive suggestions to improve their program. At the heart of her approach was how she could help them to help others for the greater good. She was always in a good humor and upbeat. You felt immediately at ease and included in her presence. She led by example. She made the group into a team and it was one of the most enjoyable Boards I have served on.

Barb was then everything that we came to know and love about her in the Battery. I was pretty excited when she and Bill joined and we had a chance to renew that friendly relationship. As all of you know, she brought that same wonderful smile and beautiful spirit of giving to the Battery. Barb was simply someone you enjoyed being around and spending time with. It was great to have our own Dr. Mary Walker to work with kids and the public and I will always be particularly grateful for her contributions at Rose Hill and Spangler Farm. I will miss her very much.



In Remembrance Karen Sherwood

Barb was an extraordinary person. I was amazed at all the organizations she was a part of! I first met Barb at Granger several years ago. She was Dr. Mary Walker and was set up next to Company Mess. It was my first event, I spent the time observing and I was in awe at her station. She was so confident and knowledgeable. She had a knack for engaging the students and a wealth of information to share with them. She inspired me to think of a station that I could do. In this "mans world" of Civil War, she stood out and I am sure inspired some of the young girls that they too could go beyond what was the norm. In conversations outside of "school days" she was funny and a great conversationalist. In the past few years she has been both optimistic and courageous in dealing with her cancer...a model for all ~looking at the glass half full rather than half empty. She will truly be missed.

Shane Wiegand

Bill, Jennie and I are so sorry for your loss. We have fond memories of seeing Barb at Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve! Keeping you in our prayers.

Nancy Stelnyk

Bill, my deepest sympathy to you in the loss of beautiful Barb. I have been fortunate to get to know her over the years and serve on various committees with her. She will be missed so much by everyone.

Kate Spencer

So sorry to read of Barb's passing. She was a true model for me at KPMG, and a classy woman.

Lynne Stewart

Bill SO sorry to hear of the loss of Barb. Thinking of you.

Joie Komarmi

I met Barbara through NY Masters Ski Racing. I was newbie volunteer and didn't know anything about registration, time keeping, scoreboard etc. Barb welcomed me and worked with me. After the race we would take a few ski runs together. Laughed a lot, and got to know each other. She loved her mom and Bill. I think that I remember that yellow was her favorite color. Heaven is full of daffodils. Will miss you Barb.



Joyce Martelli

Barb was such an amazing woman. I have such fond memories of working with her. Her kindness will definitely be missed. Rest in peace, Barb.

Beth

Such an accomplished life! I have fond memories of my cousin Barb as kids in Geneva and Beacon. Also Perry St visits, the Chicago reunion, Christmases and other family events. She'll be missed. So sorry, Bill.

Colleen and Jeff Stobbe

Our times with Barbara and you at family reunions were such fun. Barbara's outlook on life, her laughter and sense of humor was enriching to us all. We also fondly remember your kindness to drive to meet us on the Erie Canal and have dinner together. Sweet times with Barbara and you. Dear memories.

Barbara is deeply missed. We send our love and sincerest condolences.

Barb Rauscher

Bill, sending you my deepest sympathies. Barb was such a fighter. Her strength amazed me. You remain in my thoughts and prayers. May she rest in peace after such a long battle.

Kristin Calkin

We will miss Barb greatly. I have so many memories of her (and Bill) on Thanksgiving and Christmas and having s'mores and a glass of wine around the bonfire. She fought so hard and for so long, she was stronger than most. My thoughts are with you, Bill, and I'll be sure to have a drink in her honor.

Cynthia Wallace

My honor to have been in your company. Beautiful, brilliant, loving woman. Dante and Bill and your loving family, will forever be cherishing all the memories. Rest in Peace and may your peace, become their's.

Sharon and Ben Gullo

Barb was always very sweet and understanding. She helped me a great deal when I was a candidate for the Athena Awards and I will always remember her encouraging spirit. Our sympathies and prayers go to Bill and the family. Please know that you are in our prayers.

Tim Johnson

A beautiful service. Barb was a very special person and my office neighbor and friend at First National. Laurie and I offer our deepest sympathy to Bill and to Barb's family.

