



Barbara Ann Markwood

March 21, 1935 - May 4, 2026

Barbara Ann Markwood passed away peacefully on May 4, 2026, surrounded by loving family, at the age of 91. Born on March 21, 1935, in Zanesville, Ohio, Barbara lived a full and vibrant life defined by love, adventure, and deep devotion to her family and community.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Warner and Edna Bates; her beloved husbands, Jack Markwood, with whom she shared 42 wonderful years of marriage, and Phil Thayer, with whom she spent 8 cherished years; her siblings, Velva, Vonda, and Ed; and her treasured great-grandson, Alex Green.

She is survived by her two daughters, Kathy Denhup, Jackie Smoot and her husband Matt, along with her sister Peggy Boleratz. Barbara's legacy continues through her four grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren, all of whom brought her immense pride and joy.

Barbara dedicated her professional life to a distinguished career with the Central Intelligence Agency, from which she later retired. Her work took her across the globe, and she embraced every opportunity for adventure, living in places such as Lima, Peru; Somalia; Greece; the Philippines and Iran. These experiences enriched her life and gave her countless stories to share, as well as a love for entertaining.

A woman of boundless energy and warmth, Barbara had a passion for dancing, traveling, and maintaining a vibrant social life. She loved playing games with friends, cooking delicious meals, and entertaining family and guests. Her home was always a place of laughter, comfort, and welcome.

Barbara was a devoted member of Gainesville United Methodist Church, where she rarely missed a Sunday service. Her faith was a guiding force in her life and a source of strength and community.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made in Barbara's memory to causes close to her heart: Alex's Army Childhood Cancer Foundation, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, or the SPCA.

Barbara will be remembered for her adventurous spirit, her generous heart, and the love she shared so freely with those around her. She leaves behind a legacy of joy, resilience, and connection that will continue to inspire all who knew her.

A reception will follow the graveside service, location to be announced later.

Cemetery Details

Stonewall Memory Gardens

12004 Lee Highway
Manassas, VA 20109
<http://www.stonewallmemorygardens.com>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 8. 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Graveside Service

MAY 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

Stonewall Memory Gardens
12004 Lee Hwy
Manassas, VA 20109
(703) 754-4210

Tribute Wall

MR

“ There are so many wonderful times we’ve had with “Barb” starting in 1970 meeting her in Lima, Peru. I’ll never forget..our babies were 15 mos and 3 mos when we arrived and meeting everyone in our work groups, both babies were crying, fussing and I was the about same. Barb came up, introduced herself and her daughters and said , let us take those babies for a bit and from that moment on we bonded and our families’ friendships were formed forever. Barb was one of the kindest, loving..and full of life and fun.,persons I’ve had the honor to know and love. RIP beautiful lady.
Mary and Bob

Mary Rhoads - May 06 at 09:36 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann Markwood.



May 06 at 08:54 AM

SC

“ Sandee and Chuck purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Barbara Ann Markwood.



Sandee and Chuck - May 05 at 01:56 PM