



Barbara Walls Westerhouse

March 13, 1939 - May 6, 2019

Barbara Walls Wilson Westerhouse, age 80 of Manassas, VA died at her residence on May 6, 2019. She was a Folk Singer, Actress, Teacher, Wife, Mother and Chorister.

She was born on March 13, 1939 in Reading, PA, daughter of the late Kenneth Alden Wilson and Grace Walls Wilson.

Barbara Wilson grew up in Cumberland, MD and at the third grade, her family moved to Currituck, NC where her father worked and where she graduated from Moyock High School. She continued her education at East Carolina College, graduating with a degree in Elementary Education. She taught briefly in Winston-Salem, NC and they pursued a career as a folk singer throughout NC and surrounding areas. She was an actress with the Barn Dinner Theatre chain throughout the south east and was featured in multiple productions of plays and musicals.

She met her husband Jim Westerhouse at the Barn Dinner Theatre in Greensboro, NC on New Year's Eve, 1965, when she joined the cast to take over a role of another actress who was leaving the production. Jim was the music director for the production and when they finished the run at Greensboro, they travelled to Atlanta for another month's run of the show.

After finishing the show in Atlanta, Barbara went on to Williamsburg, VA, where she was an actress at the Wedgewood Dinner Theatre and a guide and folk singer for Colonial Williamsburg. In the meantime, Jim had gone back to New York to put together another show for the dinner theatre chain. He opened the show in Richmond, VA, and while there Jim and Barbara resumed their relationship. This time resulted in a proposal and culminated in their marriage which took place on July 29, 1967, in Winston-Salem, NC, where her parents were living. They returned to Richmond where Jim was enrolled at Richmond Professional Institute (RPI, now VCU) and Barbara began her teaching career in Chesterfield County, VA, while Jim was in school. After finishing school, Jim obtained a teaching position in Fairfax County, VA and they moved to Manassas, VA with their young son, James, Jr., and Barbara began her teaching career in Prince William County.

While living in Manassas, Jim became the organist and choir director at Trinity Episcopal Church for seven years and the director of the Manassas Choral Society in 1973-1974. Barbara sang with both ensembles and was a frequent soloist at church. In 1976, Jim began graduate studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, and while there he and Barbara both sang with the U of MD Chorus under Dr. Paul Traver. While with the chorus, they sang with the National Symphony under Antal Dorati at the Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap Park and Carnegie Hall. A highlight of their chorus experience was to sing for the dedication of the nave of the National Cathedral attended by President Gerald Ford and Queen Elizabeth II of England.

Barbara continued teaching in Prince William Co., where their second son John was born and Jim moved on to Fauquier Co, VA, where he was a string orchestra teacher. While there, he was the organist/choir director for St. James Episcopal Church in Warrenton and later for Piedmont Parish churches in Delaplane, VA. During this time Barbara had roles as a singer/actress in productions of the Fauquier County Community Theatre and the Middleburg

Players as well as a soloist in Sacred Music concerts given by the respective church choirs.

Barbara and Jim both retired from teaching in 1994 and they opened Premier Music Center in Manassas where Barbara was Office Administrator. Jim became organist/choir director at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Haymarket, VA and Barbara joined the choir there. They later joined All Saints Catholic Church where Barbara was a singer in the church choir. Jim became the organist at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in 2009, when they closed Premier Music Center and they have been active in music at Holy Trinity Catholic Church until the present.

Survivors include her husband James H. Westerhouse, SR of Manassas, VA; sons James H Westerhouse JR and wife Allison and children Brianna, Brennan and Brittany of Mechanicsville, VA and John Alden Westerhouse and wife Sarah and son Alden Westerhouse of Culpeper, VA; her brother Kenneth A. Wilson, JR and wife Karen and their daughter and husband Kelly Wilson Miller and Andy Miller of Ashburn, VA; a brother in law Ronald Westerhouse and wife Margie of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; a sister in law Carolyn Muthig of Brillion, Wisconsin and by numerous cousins and friends.

The family will receive friends at Pierce Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA on Thursday, May 16, 2019 from 6-8 PM. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 8213 Linton Hall Road, Gainesville on Friday, May 17, 2019 at 1:30 PM. Private interment at Culpeper National Cemetery.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **16.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY **17.** 1:30 PM (ET)

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
8213 Linton Hall Rd
Gainesville, VA 20155-2997
(703) 753-6700

Tribute Wall



“ *Lisa Jackson lit a candle in memory of
Barbara Walls Westerhouse*



Lisa Jackson - May 14, 2023 at 06:25 AM

SH

“ We are so sorry to learn of Barbara’s death. The three of us (the Chandler sisters) were together this week and spent some time reminiscing about living next door to the Wilsons for years in Currituck, NC. The Wilsons were wonderful friends and neighbors with whom we made many childhood memories. Music was always a big part of their lives. Barbara’s mother formed our local music club and Barbara was the first president. In the summer when our windows and doors were open, we could hear Barbara practicing her scales...she had a beautiful voice! We spent many a summer afternoon playing canasta, hearts, and spades with Barbara, Ken, and their sweet grandmother Honey. Barbara and her family watched “I Love Lucy” at our house every week and would bring popcorn and Pepsi’s to share. Margie Jean recalls the many hours she spent with Barbara in her upstairs bedroom that could only be accessed by a steep pulldown stairs. Barbara was one of a group of teenagers our father took to Norfolk to see Elvis Presley...when they went backstage to get his autograph, Elvis touched her hand and she said she was never going to wash that hand again. We are grateful to have known Barbara and having her as such a big part of our lives growing up. Please accept our heartfelt sympathy on her passing. She is surely part of the choir in heaven now.

Fondly,

Margie Jean Chandler Prevatt

Eva (EG) Chandler Mitchener

Sue Lee Chandler Harris

Sue Harris - May 29, 2019 at 05:22 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Walls Westerhouse.



May 16, 2019 at 12:44 PM



“ Ron and Marj Westerhouse Carolyn and Tim Muthig purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Barbara Walls Westerhouse.



Ron and Marj Westerhouse Carolyn and Tim Muthig - May 16, 2019 at 11:05 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Barbara Walls Westerhouse.



May 16, 2019 at 10:48 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Walls Westerhouse.



May 14, 2019 at 07:17 PM

FR

“ *FRANCINE purchased the Meat & Cheese Sympathy Gift Crate for the family of Barbara Walls Westerhouse.*



FRANCINE - May 14, 2019 at 04:39 PM

SD

“ *Sarah D. purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Barbara Walls Westerhouse.*



Sarah D. - May 14, 2019 at 04:38 PM

SD

“ *Sarah D. purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Barbara Walls Westerhouse.*



Sarah D. - May 14, 2019 at 04:34 PM

FF

“ *FRANCINE DUNCANSON AND FAMILY purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Barbara Walls Westerhouse.*



FRANCINE DUNCANSON AND FAMILY - May 14, 2019 at 04:29 PM

BA

“ Barbara Miskelly Al-Turki purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Barbara Walls Westerhouse.



Barbara Miskelly Al-Turki - May 14, 2019 at 10:39 AM

AM

“ Andrew & Kelly Miller purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Barbara Walls Westerhouse.



Andrew & Kelly Miller - May 14, 2019 at 10:01 AM

TF

“ The Dohl family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Barbara Walls Westerhouse.



The Dohl family - May 14, 2019 at 09:40 AM



“ Garden of Sweet Memories Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Barbara Walls Westerhouse.



May 12, 2019 at 05:13 PM

SF

“ Dear Westerhouse Family,

What a beautiful tribute to the wonderful life Barbara lived. She was such a beautiful and talented woman. It was a great pleasure for our entire family to get to know her. Jim, you and Barbara are so important to us. Barbara will be greatly missed. It was such a pleasure to perform with her at the Haymarket Baptist Church for their various cantatas. I know she is in the arms of Jesus, her reward for eternity.

All of our love

Mike, Sheryl, Matthew, Greg, and Dominik

Sheryl French - May 10, 2019 at 12:16 PM

RK

“ Dear Jim and family,

Please accept my heartfelt sympathy on the loss of your beloved Barbara. I still remember her sweet smile and kind eyes when I worked at Premier Music. She will always be in your heart and my prayers.

With deepest sympathy,

Morgan & Jerry Kraus

R.M. Kraus - May 09, 2019 at 09:50 PM

KH

“ *Jim and family,*

I am so sorry to learn you have lost Barbara.

*Sincerely,
Karen Holmquist*

Karen E. Holmquist - May 09, 2019 at 03:17 PM

SK

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. What a great lady and will be missed by many.*

Sarah A Kelly - May 09, 2019 at 10:29 AM