



Barbara Martin Centlivre Stevens

March 24, 1929 - December 11, 2015

Barbara Martin Centlivre Stevens, 86, Topeka, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, Friday, December 11, 2015, at Midland Care Hospice.

Barbara was born March 24, 1929, in Columbia MO, the daughter of Alfred “Rocke” and Dorothy Branham Martin. Her parents were actors in the 1920s and her mother sang on the radio until 1936. Barb loved music and sang on the “President” riverboat in the 1940s and acted in productions on a showboat in St. Louis.

Barbara married Robert Centlivre (deceased) in 1948. They later divorced. From 1981 to 1988, she lived in Shreveport LA, where she met Raymond “Steve” Stevens (deceased) and they married in 1984.

Barb was active in Girl Scouting for 14 years as a neighborhood chairman, troop organizer and trained Girl Scout leaders for camping. She was the leader of Troop 272 at Holy Name School. She was past president of Kan Kan Chapter of American Business Women of America, was a member of the St. Patrick’s Day Committee, Women of the Moose and Walkers and Talkers. She was a friend of KTWU and the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. Barb was active in the Democratic Party, starting with George Docking and continued through Bill Roy and Kathleen Sebelius. Barb noted that back then,

“When you were born in Missouri, you were spanked a Democrat.”

Barb's career was in women's retail clothing. She began at Jane Lee's on Kansas Avenue at the age of 15. She worked at Fashionaire on Gage Blvd. in 1968, then Rosie's Show Off and Seifert's. She relocated to Shreveport and stayed active as a clothing buyer for women's ready to wear. In 1989, in Liberty MO, she established a business women's boutique called Donly & Company. Barb retired in 1990 and returned to Topeka.

She enjoyed traveling, singing, reading and being with friends and family. She liked to play Rummikub, pitch, and Hand and Foot. She loved life, loved her family and her friends.

Survivors include her children, Cheryl Thomas (Jim) Lyndon KS, Gary Centlivre (Becky) Topeka, Karen Osborn (Randy) Topeka, Kevin Centlivre, Largo FL and Nancy Centlivre Becker (Phil) KCMO; step-children, Dr. Doris Davenport, Clarksville TN and Danny Jo Stevens, Clarksville TN; step-brother, George Wiley (Lillian) Dallas TX; 12 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her sister, Marjorie Miller.

Barb's family will greet friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, December 16, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Thursday at Most Pure Heart of Mary Church. Inurnment will follow at Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Most Pure Heart of Mary Church or Midland Care Hospice, sent in care of the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 16. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 17. 10:00 AM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church
3601 SW 17th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Barbara Martin Centlivre Stevens



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - December 15, 2015 at 02:57 PM



“ Barbara Martin Centlivre Stevens

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ Mickey and Jane Lassen purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Barbara Martin Centlivre Stevens.



Mickey and Jane Lassen - December 16, 2015 at 11:20 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Barbara Martin Centlivre Stevens.



December 15, 2015 at 09:06 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Barbara Martin Centlivre Stevens.*



December 15, 2015 at 01:20 PM



“ *Gary, Becky, Drew and Family,*

I am terribly sorry to hear of your loss, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. May this not be a time of sorrow but a time of healing and love with the stories and memories you share. Remember she will continue to live on in your hearts every time you think of her.

Thoughts and Prayers,

Becky (Jack/Shisler) Warner

Rebecca Warner - December 14, 2015 at 08:35 AM



“ *Dear Karen and all family members of Barb: What a loss to this world. What a beautiful face, wonderful smile and great laugh. Dick and I hold dear many memories of years gone by when we were with her having some of the best times in the world. We know she will be greatly missed and want you to know you are in our thoughts and prayers at this time. Love, Dick and Dorothy Taylor.*

Dorothy Taylor - December 13, 2015 at 12:38 PM

TH

“ TOM AND CINDY HUDSON purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Barbara Martin Centlivre Stevens.



TOM AND CINDY HUDSON - December 12, 2015 at 03:21 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Barbara Martin Centlivre Stevens.



December 12, 2015 at 12:25 PM

DC

“ Dennis & Krista Centlivre purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Barbara Martin Centlivre Stevens.



Dennis & Krista Centlivre - December 12, 2015 at 12:15 PM

DD

“ To all of Barb's birth family, our thoughts and prayers are with you. We have lost something that is not replacable until we meet her again in heaven as she sings with the angels. She has many friends in Tennessee who send their condolences. We will all have some blackberry wine and play rumikub when we are together again. She graced us all with her loving heart and infectious laughter.
Doris Jean, Kevin, Danny, Paul, & Peggy - family by love

Doris Davenport - December 12, 2015 at 11:07 AM

CT

Mom loved all of you so much! She considered all of you a special bonus that came with marrying Steve!!

Cheryl Thomas - December 13, 2015 at 01:41 PM

JU

“*Karen and family, my thought and prayers are with you all. May your precious memories give you strength and comfort.*

Judy



Judy - December 12, 2015 at 09:24 AM