



Barbara J. Creal

December 7, 1930 - November 24, 2021

Barbara J. Creal passed away peacefully at her home in Olympia Fields on Nov. 24, 2021 after a brief illness, just 2 weeks shy of her 91st birthday. She is survived by her sons: Bill (Kathy) Creal, Tom (Diane) Creal; her grandchildren: Tracy (Neal), Ellen (Will), Theresa (Jeff), Tom (Jaime), Ellen (Will); her great-grandchildren: Caleb, Jack, Max, Amelia and Calvin. She was preceded in death by her sister the late Dorothy Ann Lengerman, brother Doug Hunter, and her husband Richard Creal. Born on December 7, 1930 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Roy and Lena Hunter and raised in Ann Arbor with summers at Whitmore Lake, Barb was both a tomboy and a Queen Elizabeth type lady. She was 11 years old when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Her daddy broke the news to her during her birthday party that the world was at war. This instilled in Barb a very high level of patriotism and service to others. She proceeded to collect rubber and metals to support the war. She also sold war bonds with her daddy. Barb played field hockey in high school when equipment was non-existent, and water ski'd with the best of them at the lake. She grew into becoming the first lady for Prairie State College, located in Chicago Heights, Illinois, as her husband Richard was college president, as well as becoming one of the top volunteers the world could ask for. Along the way she raised two sons, Bill and Tom. Working as a medical typist for over 65 years and as the Manager of the thrift shop that she co-founded in 1977, her leadership of the volunteers was enough each year to purchase a van for Grand Prairie Services to allow for patient transportation for those that couldn't afford it. She was named Volunteer of the Year in 2014. She was also known just as "Barb". Not to just her co-workers, but to family and friends too. It was always Grandma Barb or just Barb. She insisted on always being just one of the gang. As a tribute to Barb, a Holiday Luncheon honoring the Repeat Boutique Volunteers will be held next month. A date will be announced soon. Inurnment at Bethlehem Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan and a reception at Whitmore Lake, Michigan in the summer of 2022. For information or to sign the guestbook please visit www.Heartlandmemorial.com or call Heartland Memorial Center at 708-444-2266. In lieu of flowers, Memorial Donations may be directed to Grand Prairie Services Residential Clients through Repeat Boutique at www.GPSBH.org

Tribute Wall



“ *Very sorry to hear of your loss.
I have special memories of my Whitmore Lake days and she sure was a part of them.*

Dave Crosby - January 09, 2022 at 11:30 AM

MB

“ *Hi Bill - we are so sorry to hear about your mom. Our thoughts & prayers are with you & your family. Hope all is well with you. We're doing good.*

Mike Bitondo - December 23, 2021 at 07:39 PM

DE

“ *Rest In Peace remember the good times.Don Eschelbach.*

Donald Eschelbach - December 23, 2021 at 01:41 PM

 Mary
Grace
Wilkus

“ *Barb was a good friend to my Mom (Rosalie Wilkus), and I believe that Mom has met up with Barb, and they are already figuring out how to help up there in Heaven. Mom volunteered at the Repeat Shop for more than 25 years. I received several calls a year from Barb, who was always letting me know how the Repeat Shop was doing and how donations were being used. I loved getting Barb's typed on the typewriter Thank You letters. Barb is an inspiration to me. I have always looked up to her and I do my best to rise as a better person based on her unparalleled dedication of helping others.*

Mary Grace Wilkus - November 28, 2021 at 07:33 AM