



## Barbara Ellen Johnson

June 18, 1961 - January 18, 2019

Barbara Ellen Johnson, age 57, passed away peacefully with family by her side on January 18, 2019. She was relocated from Des Moines, Iowa to Saint John, Indiana in 2014. Due to her declining health she recently was a resident at Great Lakes Healthcare in Dyer, Indiana, where she received loving care by all the staff.

Barbara was born on June 18, 1961 in Dell Rapids, SD, to the parents of Floyd and Pat (Heldenbrand) Johnson. When she was 2 years old she was diagnosed as being deaf. She then entered the South Dakota School for the Deaf which was located in Sioux Falls just a short distance from her small hometown of Valley Springs, SD. Fortunately, she was able to come home on the weekends, unlike many of the other students enrolled in school. After graduating from high school Barbara attended Temple Deaf Bible College in Peoria, Illinois. Upon graduating from college, she moved to Rochester, NY. Between those two locations she made many life long-lasting friends. Those friends would later become a great support as she faced the future diagnosis of cancer.

In 1997, she moved to Des Moines, Iowa to be closer to family. While living in Des Moines she worked at various jobs provided through Easter Seals. Another blessing she had while in Des Moines was making friends with Sonja and Joleen, who would later become her only support with her cancer as family had moved away from the area.

In 2001, Barbara was diagnosed with cancer of the appendix. This cancer became an extremely difficult disease to live with in the following years. There were many times that doctors didn't feel she would recover after surgery. However, God had other plans for her to continue living on this earth. After her last surgery in 2014, she was placed in a rehabilitation facility. However, she wasn't receiving proper care and her sister, Susan Anderson, and brother-in-law, Todd would move her into their home in Indiana to care for her.

Barbara once again bounced back and was able to live alone once again. She remained on her own until last summer when the cancer reared its ugly head. From that hospital

visit she would be placed on Hospice and live her remaining days at the Great Lakes Healthcare Center. During the last few months Barbara enjoyed being around others and smiled at all those working or living at the center.

She is survived by her mother, Pat (Heldenbrand) Wiles of Texas; sister, Susan (Todd) Anderson of Indiana; niece: Amanda (Steve) Herrmann; nephew: Spencer (Katherine) Anderson; dearest and longtime friends: Sonja Kayser, Joleen Gallant and Tracey Saville.

She was preceded in death by her father, Floyd Johnson; step-father, Merle Wiles; brother, Ken Johnson; both sets of grandparents; cousin, Kim; and many great aunts and uncles.

A Memorial Service will be held for Barbara on Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at the Memory Lane Funeral Home, 6305 W. Lincoln Highway (US 30), Crown Point, Indiana. There will be a one-hour visitation prior to the start of the service. You may contact the funeral home for further information (219) 322-2050.

[www.memorylanepark.com](http://www.memorylanepark.com)

# Events

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**FEB**   **Visitation**                      10:00AM - 11:00AM

**16**

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Memory Lane Funeral Home  
6305 W. Lincoln Highway (US 30), Crown Point, IN, US, 46307

**FEB**   **Memorial Service**    11:00AM

**16**

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Memory Lane Funeral Home  
6305 W. Lincoln Highway (US 30), Crown Point, IN, US, 46307

# Comments

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“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Ellen Johnson.



February 16, 2019 at 08:02 AM

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“ Esther Frandsen and Diane Tott & family purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Barbara Ellen Johnson.



**Esther Frandsen and Diane Tott & family** - February 15, 2019 at 10:20 AM

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“ Pat, Susan and Todd, I send my deep condolences on the passing of Barbara. And I didn't realize that Ken has been gone just 6 weeks. I enjoyed a few good, deep conversations with Barbara once I realized she was in Des Moines. She always felt a kinship to our family, I believe, because Mark was also Deaf and we were so often at Russ and Mary's home. May God hold you in His hand and give your comfort and peace. Susan, you have been a generous sister to take in Barbara at her time of need. God Bless You! Marsha Gunderson

**Marsha Gunderson** - February 08, 2019 at 03:50 PM

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“ Ron & Bev, Dean & Becky, Curt & Kay, Vince & Sandy purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Barbara Ellen Johnson.



**Ron & Bev, Dean & Becky, Curt & Kay, Vince & Sandy** - February 07, 2019 at 06:55 PM

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“ Judith Spicer lit a candle in memory of Barbara Ellen Johnson



Judith Spicer - February 06, 2019 at 09:48 PM

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“ My thoughts are with her Mom, Pat, sister and her husband. I'm happy to read that brother in law was very good to Barbara as well her sister and her Mom. She is now at peace with Jesus Lord.  
I had few good memories with Barbara while at SDSD and with Mary and Russ Gunderson's family (Jean, Joanne & Janet).

Mark Gunderson - February 05, 2019 at 01:26 PM

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“ Barbara is a shining light in the deaf community. She is a tremendous example of the joy of the Lord, consistently and sincerely. Though I am sorry that I never got to see her since TDC, I am glad that she is beyond happy now, and look forward to seeing her in that bright Morning.

Marla Pendleton OBrien - February 02, 2019 at 08:16 PM

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“ Barbara came to Live with Susan and in 2014. I would ALWAYS LOVE to tease with Barbara and she would tease right back. I wasn't the best at sign LANGUAGE...sometimes Shrades or Slang Sign. It was an adjustment for ALL 3 of us living TOGETHER. I would TELL her certain things she had to do...if NOT go to her room and I would point to the Shed in the BACK yard...it was our inside Joke. Another time I came home from work at 10:30pm ...Barbara had come home from Wednesday night Bible study, while trying to get in the front door, she fell OFF the front porch...Now My wife was out of town. I came around the corner, here she sat under the tree in tjhe front yard...smiling and waving at me, like nothing had happen. She was NEVER Bitter or Angry...Just Sweet Barbara. The Lord had her back and she was a Living Lesson unto me.... you WILL be Missed. Her Brother went 6 weeks in front of her. God showed him around and when he got familiar with Heaven...He said " Now it is time and go get your sister and bring her home" The first Voice she heard we Jesus and is singing with the Angles TODAY!!



“ We met at south side Christian church, she was new and visiting. Funny thing she did told me that she did not expect me at all as minister’s wife, I wore differently than other ministers wife. I wear nice jeans with nice top. When my husband introduced ourselves and she was surprised at me. That was funny so we became very good friends, we talked and listened closely together as we go out and have MOD pizza. She loved hanging out with us, studying bible and worshipping our God. I miss her hugs as she get excited to see me and hugs me tightly. Oh gosh I miss her so much. I’m deeply saddened by her passing, that I haven’t see her recently because I been so busy with work and families from holidays. I do regret it that I missed the chance. But I know that she is at peace, no more pain and suffering. Our very deepest condolences to the family. Be with Jesus and I know you would be happy up there.



**Katie & Martin Dych** - February 01, 2019 at 09:56 PM



“ Katie and Martin, you are so very good to my sister! Thank you for your friendship and the time spent driving to and from church and activities.

**Susan** - February 02, 2019 at 04:16 PM

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“ Knew Barbara at SD School for the Deaf and from what I have seen of other comments, she has not changed her sweet self! At SDSD she’s shy sort of but always have friendly disposition! May she sit with God she so loved! Rest In Peace Barb!

**Mark B. Johnson** - February 01, 2019 at 08:23 PM

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“ So sorry to hear about the passing of Barbara. I attended Tempe Deaf College with her for 2 years. I had the opportunity of interpreting on the phone for her in a phone booth. She was so excited that the phone was ringing that I almost lost my hearing too!!!! She was the sweetest lady ever! She always had a smile on her face. She is now smiling bigger than ever and singing loudly the best songs to our Lord and Saviour! See you later, Barbara!

**Judy Scott** - February 01, 2019 at 07:12 PM

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“ Barbara and I shared an apartment with Lila Neal and several other girls in Peoria. Please do not ask me the dates!! We were attending TDC. I had a bad habit of talking to myself when I was cooking or cleaning, etc. Barbara used to love to copy me. It was all in good fun and I would laugh. I remember to this day, her bright smile. I was very happy when I attended Deaf Seniors Bingo in Crown Point and saw Barbara sign her name and I realized she was my friend from TDC. What an unexpected blessing. I am grateful for the time we had together. Barbara loved Jesus and she was ready to go home to Him. I am profoundly grateful she is with her Beloved and she will no longer suffer. I look forward to the time when I will see her again and perhaps she will once again tease me by copying my behavior!! I pray that the family will find great comfort in knowing Barbara was loved by many friends. May the Lord gather you close to His heart as you grieve the loss of this beautiful spirit.

Good bye, my sweet friend. I would have loved to have had more time with you. I am just so thankful God brought us together and we shared our life stories. It was fun remembering TDC and the things that happened there. Like the time the zipper in my choir dress broke and I had to borrow yours... I will see you soon in heaven. What a time of great joy that will be!! I love you!!!

**Rene Gonzalez** - February 01, 2019 at 03:24 PM