



## Barbara Jane Kurfurst

September 14, 1946 - April 8, 2025

BARBARA JANE KURFURST September 14, 1946 ~ April 8, 2025

Barbara Jane (Sousley) Kurfurst was born on September 14, 1946, in Portland, OR to Otis and Ella Jean Sousley. She passed away on April 8, 2025, in Vancouver, WA, surrounded by loved ones.

Barbara grew up in Southeast Portland close to family and friends. Her grandparents lived in the house right behind her. While her parents were at work, her grandmother Ida, who was an excellent cook, would come over every afternoon and prepare dinner for the family. Barbara enjoyed working alongside her grandmother, which is where she acquired her love of cooking. Her childhood consisted of camping trips to Spirit Lake and the Oregon Coast. She continued her love of traveling with her family in their motorhome, mostly to the Oregon and Washington Coast and an annual trek to Wallowa Lake and the Snake River. During the trips to Wallowa Lake and the Snake River, Barbara could be found riding in the boat watching her family fish, swim, surf, wakeboard, and ski.

Barbara graduated from Marshall High School where she was active in Pep Club - rarely missing a game. She excelled in Home Economics, which she continued to study at Portland State College. She was a member of Mt. Scott Presbyterian Church and Youth Group where she met her future husband, Jim. They were married on October 1, 1966, in the church where they met. Barbara and Jim were two of the co-founders and original owners of Butcher Boys in Vancouver, WA which was established in 1969. They moved to

Vancouver, WA in 1970 where they raised their two children, Peter and Shari. Barbara enjoyed volunteering at her children's school where she was a member and President of the PTA. She taught Sunday School and volunteered with her daughter's Girl Scout troop.

Barbara genuinely loved being a wife, mother, and grandmother and caring for her family. Barbara learned to sew from a family friend, Jean Elle, and she made countless outfits for her daughter Shari, Halloween costumes for her children and grandchildren, and hundreds of alterations for her loved ones. She was always a grandmother with open arms to all her grandchildren and was the first line caretaker for them as they grew. Barbara spent countless hours traveling to her children's and grandchildren's activities and cheering them on from the sidelines.

Her life was filled with family and friends and caring for all those who loved her and spent time with her. Barbara leaves an empty spot in so many lives. She was a kind, generous, and giving person and was always willing to help in any way she could. Because she was such a sweet, loyal, and good person, she will be missed not just by her family but also by so many life-long friends.

Barbara is survived by her husband, Jim Kurfurst of Vancouver, WA; son Peter Kurfurst, daughter in law Melissa Kimball; daughter Shari Russell, son in law David Russell; and sisters Karen Rudy, Patty Hampton, and Kim Carter along with her four grandchildren, Todd (Shaye) Russell, Aimee (Masen) Ward, Emily Russell, Patrick Kurfurst; three bonus grandchildren Logan Kimball, Kylie Kimball, Jackson Kimball; one great grandchild Benson Russell; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Otis and Ella Jean Sousley.

A celebration of life in Barbara's honor will be held on June 29, 2025, at 12 p.m. at Fort Vancouver Artillery Barracks on Officers Row in Vancouver, WA. The address is 600 E. Hatheway Road, Vancouver, WA 98661.

# Tribute Wall

VP

“ *To a Wonderful Friend With Many Loving Memories!*

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**Vern & Sheri Petersen** - June 29, 2025 at 12:00 AM

VP

“ *To Jim and Family,*

*Barb, Jim and myself (Vern Petersen) had some wonderfully fun times together when we were young. I treasure those times and think about so many great adventures we enjoyed. One example is when three of us were waterskiing with Barb driving the boat. We decided to make a human pyramid and I was chosen to be on top. While I was climbing up to get on Jim and Tom's shoulders, I slipped, and fortunately was able to catch myself before hitting my face on a ski. The water from the skis below was hitting my swim trunks and much to my distress they were slowly sliding down my legs! I spread my legs to catch my trunks with my feet. When Barb noticed my predicament, she decided to have a little fun and turned the boat toward the shoreline where lots of people were watching. I flew by with everything exposed!!! We laughed about this story for years.*

*Barb was always a good-sport and fun to be with. She also was a hard worker and Jim was a blessed man to have married such a truly nice lady.*

*With Many Fond Memories & Lots of Love,  
Vern Petersen*

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**Vern Petersen** - June 29, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory

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**A Memorial Tree was planted for Barbara J. Kurfurst** - April 11, 2025 at 12:00 AM