



Barbara Gessel

February 3, 1962 - January 7, 2019

Barbara Gessel, JD
1962-2019

Barbara “Barb” Gessel, of Saugatuck, Michigan, loving wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt and friend passed away Monday, January 7, 2019 at the University of Iowa Hospital, following a courageous battle with cancer since August 2017. She was 56 years old. Barb was the daughter of Raymond and Kathryn (Rauch) Gessel.

Barb was born February 3, 1962 in Marietta, Ohio. She enjoyed a loving relationship and marriage to Jennifer Roe for 14 years, and she was a devoted mother to Anthony Lazzaro.

Barb was of the Catholic faith and a member of St. Peter’s Church in Saugatuck, Michigan.

She attended Ohio University for her undergraduate studies and went on to obtain a juris doctorate degree from the University of Toledo Law School. Her meaningful and lengthy career spanned multiple industries with many roles, focusing in the areas of labor relations and human resources. While most of her career was spent touching lives in the Toledo area, her final role was Chief Human Resources Officer for the Mercy Health Network, Iowa, where she retired following her diagnosis. Upon retirement, her dream was to live near a lake, so she and Jennifer settled in the resort area of Saugatuck, Michigan, where she enjoyed many trips to Oval Beach and bike rides along the lake

shore.

The highlight of Barb's life always included spending time with family and friends. She enjoyed her annual family trips to Myrtle Beach and golf trips with friends. Her vacation destinations were usually dictated by the number of beaches and golf courses. One of her many joys was her deep and meaningful relationships with her infinite number of friends.

Barb was preceded in death by her father, infant sister Karen and her father- and mother-in-law, Raymond and Mary Jane Roe. Barb is survived by her wife, son, mother and three siblings, Alan (Sherry) Gessel (Highland Village TX), Tom (Kelly) Gessel (Durango, CO) and Erica (Fred) Golden (Galloway, OH); her sister and brother-in-laws, Patrice (David) Gilbert, Michael (Terri) Roe and Matthew Roe. Many wonderful nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, cousins and many dear friends also survive.

Barb's best pal, Sammy, her toy yorkie that came into her life 10 years ago, and brought her so much joy and comfort, especially over this past 1.5 years. He was her favorite side kick and was at her side or on her lap constantly. It was Barb's wish to be cremated. Funeral services will be held at Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 South Reynolds Road, Toledo, Ohio, with visitation from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Saturday, January 12 and from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Sunday, January 13. A Catholic prayer service will begin at 4:00 pm on Sunday, officiated by Father Joseph Cardone.

In lieu of flowers, please consider Barb's request for contributions to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation. Please leave a condolence message for the family at CoyleFuneralHome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 12. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Visitation

JAN 13. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Funeral

JAN 13. 4:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Tribute Wall

LC

“ Kathryn and family, Although I didn't know Barb, I'm so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you. May God bring you comfort during this time.

Love,
Linda (Winters) Clary

linda clary - January 21, 2019 at 10:12 PM

IS

“ It is difficult to hear Barb has passed. She had such a zest for life and was a wonderful friend to many people. She will always hold a special place in my heart and I know many people feel the same way. My condolences to her friends and family!

Irene Stevens - January 16, 2019 at 01:16 PM



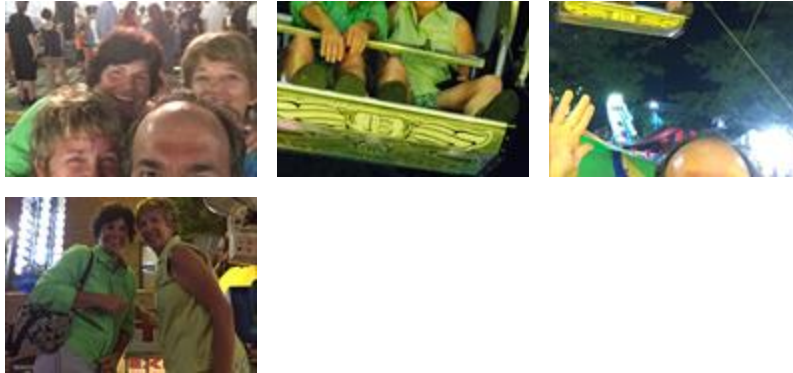
“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Gessel.



January 12, 2019 at 09:28 AM

TR

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Terri and Mike Roe - January 12, 2019 at 09:09 AM

SD

“ Kathryn & family, we were so saddened to read of Barbara's passing. Even though we did not have the opportunity to know her, we can see by the wonderful remarks and memories of her, that she was a very special lady. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you all during the coming days.
Sally (Winters) Drake & family

Sally Drake - January 11, 2019 at 11:11 PM

AM

“ We are so sorry to hear about Barb's passing . You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Allen and Cindy Mallahan - January 11, 2019 at 08:58 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Barbara Gessel.*



January 11, 2019 at 08:09 PM



“ *Heartfelt condolences to the Gessel family from your friends back home in the Barlow-Vincent.*

Nathan & Andrea Proctor - January 11, 2019 at 07:14 PM



“ *Jen and Family,
I am so sad and heartbroken to hear of Barb's passing. I was so lucky to have been able to work with her for CHI and MHN. Not only was she a professional and expert HR colleague, she became a very treasured friend. I will truly miss her.
Robyn Wilkinson*

Robyn Wilkinson - January 11, 2019 at 05:12 PM



“ *To the Family of Barb Gessel:*

Please accept my heartfelt condolences on Barbara's untimely passing. She was a great lady and good friend

May God be with you all during this time of great sorrow.

Tom Crothers - January 11, 2019 at 01:15 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Gessel.*



January 11, 2019 at 12:35 PM



“ *Wow..... I remember many summers spent playing night time hide and seek..... Visiting Ohio sights and taking them on trips around MD..... I'm so extremely sad to hear this and pray for you all at this most difficult time*

Diana Meyer Justice - January 11, 2019 at 11:48 AM



“ *I was privileged to work with Barb at Mercy and Sylvania Franciscan . It was indeed a privilege -her wicked sense of humor , her dedication,her genuine kindness to others always came shining through. She was frequently involved at key points in my career for which I am deeply grateful. My love to Jen.*

Rest In Peace old friend.

Barry Hudgin - January 11, 2019 at 11:22 AM



“ *I was blessed to cross paths with Barb while I served on the Mercy Health Partners board. She was a talented individual and I enjoyed her friendship. My sympathy to her family and many friends. Karen L. Fraker*

Karen L. Fraker - January 11, 2019 at 10:17 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Gessel.



January 11, 2019 at 10:12 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Barbara Gessel.



January 11, 2019 at 09:45 AM



“ Dear Mrs. Gessel, Erica, Tom, and Family,
I was so sorry to learn that Barb had passed away and extend to all of you my sincere condolences. When I began teaching at Warren HS in 1980, I got to know Barb through student council and other activities. She was a beautiful, intelligent person of great integrity. May your faith be a comfort to you as you cope with this heartbreak.
Jim Williams
Marietta, OH

James Williams - January 11, 2019 at 09:35 AM

EL

“ Jennifer and Family, I am so sorry Barb has died. She did a great job at St. Vincent's. I appreciated her easy manner and working with her was a blessing. May she rest in Peace. I pray you find comfort through support from loving friends and Jesus' promise of the Resurrection. Peace, Elaine M. Ladd

Elaine M. Ladd - January 11, 2019 at 08:52 AM

MK

“ My deepest sympathy to Barb's family and friends. She was a great co-worker and friend. I will always remember her strong family attachment and the down-home wisdom passed on from her dad. Gone too soon.

Marcia Klunk - January 11, 2019 at 07:45 AM



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



January 10, 2019 at 09:20 PM

JS

“ To Kathryn, my heart goes out to you and your family on the passing of your daughter. As we grow older we lose touch with some of our relatives and I didn't get to know your children. Reading these memories I can see she was a beautiful person. I hope you will find consolation in knowing how much she was loved and respected during her life. May God bless your family in the coming days ahead.

Janet Schaad - January 10, 2019 at 08:23 PM

CV

“ *My prayers and condolences to Barb’s family. She was always such a kind, helpful person.*

Chris Anderson VanNoy - January 10, 2019 at 04:40 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Barbara Gessel.*



January 10, 2019 at 04:10 PM

BF

“ *So sorry to read this. I remember Barb from Warren high school as a friend of my children No parent should ever have to bury a child no matter the age or reason. My heart breaks for you But we will see our children again. Till then they live on in our hearts.*

Barb Wells and family. - January 10, 2019 at 04:01 PM

HA

“ *I had the opportunity to work with Barb at Mercy Health Network. She was an incredibly graceful leader. She was so very knowledgeable, but always asked me for my opinion and treated me like a valuable expert (even though I am 100% sure she knew more than I did.) Her mentoring and thoughtfulness stay with me everyday. Her sense of humor and unflappable spirit will be missed. I consider myself truly lucky to have had the opportunity to work near her for the short time I did. Much love to her friends and family.*

Heather Akers - January 10, 2019 at 03:59 PM

TF

“ *The Carolyn Barrett Family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Barbara Gessel.*



The Carolyn Barrett Family - January 10, 2019 at 03:47 PM

MP

“ *Tears streamed down my face as I read the passing of a truly awesome person! We worked together many years ago at The Blade and I will never forget her smile, welcoming spirit and professionalism. Barb in my mind is someone who you only meet a few people like during your life. A fantastic mentor, who showed genuine compassion for others, while maintaining a professional focus for the task at hand.*

An individual of the highest integrity.

My prayers and condolences to Barb's family. May you rest in peace!

Mike Pitchford

Mike Pitchford - January 10, 2019 at 02:53 PM

LD

“ *Heartbroken to hear of a dear friend passing. Barb was an honest to goodness band friend. Trumpets will play for your entrance to heaven. Thank you for being the person I could call friend, calm, quiet, smiling, trustworthy, smart, talented in so many activities. RIP an know you will never be forgotten. Ducky*

Lorena Webster . Aka. Ducky - January 10, 2019 at 02:07 PM

TD

“ Tom & Betty, David & June, Michael & Denise purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Barbara Gessel.



Tom & Betty, David & June, Michael & Denise - January 10, 2019 at 01:03 PM

SB

“ I had the pleasure of working with Barb for a very short 18-24 months while she was in Iowa. During that time she demonstrated nothing except compassion, expertise, and friendship. She was always very positive and had a great laugh. My heart, thoughts and prayers go out to all of her family and friends. She will always hold a special place in my heart. Suzanne Burt (HR Director - Mercy Health Network - Waterloo, IA)

Suzanne Burt - January 10, 2019 at 12:06 PM

RF

So sorry to hear about Barb. She was a great friend and neighbor growing up. I'll never forget how she taught me to play softball and basketball. She was always polite and nice to everyone. I've thought about her over the years and will never forget her. She was always an inspiration to me

Renee (Owens) Freshour - January 14, 2019 at 04:35 PM

KE

“ I had the privilege of working with Barb at Mercy Health Network. She was an incredible leader with great determination and drive. I miss not having her with our organization. Barb was also a very kind and compassionate individual. I am grateful to have known her, even though it was for such a short period of time. My condolences to Jen and Barb’s family. Kevin Elsberry, Mercy Health Network, Iowa

Kevin Elsberry - January 10, 2019 at 11:58 AM

CB

“ I was Barb's Resident Assistant her first year at Ohio University. We then became co-workers when, she too, became a Resident Assistant her second year. It was that year that she introduced me to one of her "hometown friends", Mike Barrett. We eventually married (Barb was in our wedding) and had thirty-five wonderful years together! I will forever be grateful to Barb for playing match maker, being an awesome friend and just being Barb! Love and support to all her family and friends! Carolyn Barrett

Carolyn Barrett - January 10, 2019 at 10:23 AM

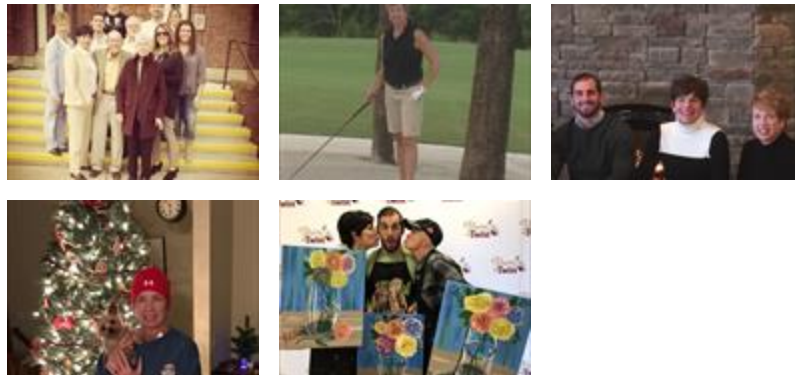
SB

“ I had the privilege of working with Barb while at Mercy Health in Toledo. A consummate professional and just all around wonderful person. Some of my favorite memories was working on projects with her and just learning from her insight and experience. I can still hear her laughter to this day! She was just a great and beautiful person. Heaven just got brighter with her spirit. Jennifer and family--I am so sorry for your loss. May the memories and love carry you forward. Thinking and praying for you. --Sarah Bednarski

Sarah Bednarski - January 10, 2019 at 09:14 AM

JE

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Jennifer - January 10, 2019 at 08:55 AM

MR

Great pictures that you picked! A lot of happy memories there.

Matt Roe - January 10, 2019 at 04:59 PM

SD

“ I worked with Barb for several years at The Blade and there was no one as kind and compassionate as she was. I'm so sorry to learn of her health struggles but I'm certain she is in heaven and at peace. God bless her wonderful soul.

Susan Medure Decatur - January 10, 2019 at 08:10 AM

JD

“ I remember her as kind and affable when I played golf with her. My condolences to her families. God's comfort be with you during this time.

Joel Davis - January 10, 2019 at 07:05 AM

BH

“ A truly beautiful person who impacted so many life's. My heart goes out to her family and Jen I am not sure any words will be comforting. Heaven is now blessed with Barb and her infectious laugh.

Buzz and Suzzan Hermann

Buzz Hermann - January 09, 2019 at 11:02 PM

BH

“ A truly beautiful person who impacted so many life's. My heart goes out to her family and Jen I am not sure any words will be comforting. Heaven is now blessed with Barb and her infectious laugh.

Buzz and Suzzan Hermann

Buzz Hermann - January 09, 2019 at 11:02 PM



“ Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Barbara Gessel.



January 09, 2019 at 10:24 PM

TR

“ At times like this, I always search for just the right words, but I’ve come to realize sometimes they just don’t exist. I was fortunate to have been friends with Barb for many years. I will miss her. I will miss our friendship, her genuineness, her caring, her compassion, her love of life and zeal. I will miss her laughter and her smile, and her stories. We often joked about her writing a book about some of the bizarre things she saw, heard or experienced that she always prefaced with “you can’t make these things up.” She made the world a better place and will be missed. My heartfelt condolences to the entire Gessel and Roe family, and to her many friends. Terri Rudd

Terri Rudd - January 09, 2019 at 08:27 PM

BH

Terri, reading your heartfelt message made me remember Barb's response whenever I saw her and said the are you doing... The response Was "living the dream"

Buzz Hermann - January 09, 2019 at 11:28 PM

CK

“ Janet and I are so pleased to have known Barb and had the opportunity to work with her on a variety of civic endeavors. She was also a most welcome member of our golf foursomes, usually our "A" player and always a joy to be with. Our sincere condolences to her spouse, son and family. We lost a fine, talented and gracious lady. Janet and Chuck Krueger

CHARLES H KRUEGER - January 09, 2019 at 05:52 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Barbara Gessel.*



January 09, 2019 at 05:18 PM



“ *A number of angels have crossed my life's path here on earth. Barb was one of those angels. She was kind and caring. She was a leader to many. Barb was a role model for all of us. I will miss her.*

David N. Branch - January 09, 2019 at 03:13 PM



“ *Barb was truly one of the kindest and gentlest souls I've met in life. I appreciated her genuine smile and soft-spoken manner. It was always a pleasant surprise to see her when she stopped by the office. She will certainly be missed by all those who knew and loved her. May fond memories lighten the feelings of loss for family and friends.*

*Sincerely,
Nancy Tronco*

Nancy Tronco - January 09, 2019 at 02:42 PM



“ *When I picture Barb I see her warm smile, and I remember how she truly cared about others. When she asked how you were doing, or what's new, she was genuinely interested in the answer. Thanks for the fun memories Barb.*

Dan Schroer - January 09, 2019 at 02:31 PM

MR

“ *Barb was always so good with Ray and Mary Jane as they went through health problems. She could always bring a smile to their faces!* ”

Matt Roe - January 09, 2019 at 01:52 PM