



Barbara Priscilla DeBonte

JAN 12, 1940 - MAY 9, 2023



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Barbara Priscilla DeBonte

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Barbara Priscilla DeBonte, 83, of Lewes, Delaware, passed away on May 9, 2023, with her family at her side. Born on January 12, 1940, in New York, she was the daughter of the late Walter and Frances (nee Jenkowski) Jozwicki.

Raised in Brooklyn, New York, Barbara graduated from Washington Irving High School where, among other distinctions, she received the Alliance Francaise Award. She later attended Hunter College and the City College of New York. Barbara worked as an administrative assistant at McGraw-Hill in New York City, as well as with Union Carbide, Joseph L. Muscarelle, Inc., Paul O. Abby Engineering and Movers International, Inc.

On September 17, 1960, Barbara married the love of her life, Cornelius DeBonte, and together they created a wonderful life and a loving home for their family. After raising their children in New Jersey, Barbara and Cornelius moved to and enjoyed many years on Cape Cod in Massachusetts. In 2019, Barbara and Cornelius moved to the Delaware coast, settling into a beautiful home in Lewes.

Not only did she instill the importance of education in her children, Barbara also demonstrated the value of community service through her extensive volunteer work. While a resident of New Jersey, she volunteered as a care provider for children with AIDS in Jersey City. As a breast cancer survivor, Barbara was active with North Jersey cancer support groups, dispensing hugs and words of encouragement to all she met. She was a dedicated volunteer at Cape Cod Hospital and the Atwood Museum while a resident of Massachusetts. Barbara belonged to the Little Falls (NJ) and Chatham (Massachusetts) Women's Clubs.

Barbara was a fierce pickleball competitor and also enjoyed tennis, golf, and skiing (water and snow). She had a divine gift for gardening, with a particular passion for white orchids. Barbara was a devout parishioner at Our Lady of the Holy Angels Catholic Church (NJ), Holy Redeemer Catholic Church (Massachusetts), and St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church (Delaware). Barbara's deep, life-long belief in the healing power of prayer was unwavering.



Obituary

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Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Frances Jozwicki; her husband's parents, Angeline and Cornelius DeBonte; her sister and brother-in-law, Leona and Clement Olfano; and her brother-in-law, Domenick Randazzo. She is survived by her beloved husband of 63 years, Cornelius DeBonte; her daughter Donna DeBonte (James Rauch); her son, Neal Michael DeBonte (Claudia DeBonte); and her daughter, Kim DeBonte (Nancy Massaro). Barbara's love for her three grandchildren, Olivia, Molly and Sophia, was obvious and profound.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 11:00 AM, at St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, 152 Tulip Drive, Lewes, DE, where friends may call beginning at 10:00 AM.

All who cannot attend in person are invited to join the services at St. Jude the Apostle via live streaming by visiting the following link on their website:

<https://www.youtube.com/@StJudeTheApostleChurchLewesDE/streams>

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Barbara's memory may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 (www.stjude.org) or the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, 13770 Noel Road, Suite 801899, Dallas, TX 75380 (www.komen.org).

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE DELIVER ALL ARRANGEMENTS BY 3:00 PM ON TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023, TO OUR LEWES LOCATION.




Events


Barbara Priscilla DeBonte

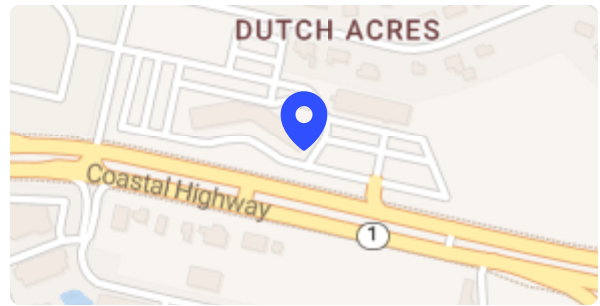
JAN 12, 1940 - MAY 9, 2023

Visitation

 **Wednesday**, May 17, 2023

 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET


 **St. Jude The Apostle Catholic Church**
152 Tulip Drive, Lewes DE 19958

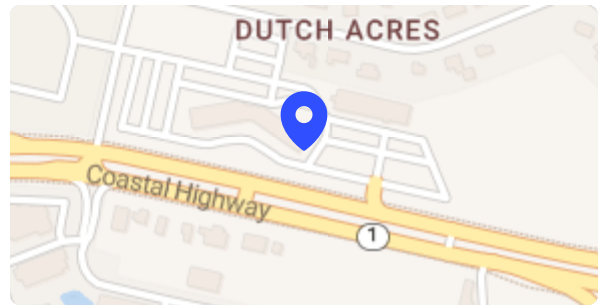


Mass of Christian Burial

 **Wednesday**, May 17, 2023

 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

 **St. Jude The Apostle Catholic Church**
152 Tulip Drive, Lewes DE 19958





Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the DeBonte family.



May 15 at 8:13 AM



Frank Sofia posted:

Barbara was a terrific woman, full of life and laughter. We will truly miss her. Our sincere condolences and prayers to Neil and her family.

May 15 at 3:38 AM



Maureen And Bill Walsh posted:

Our sympathy and sincere condolences are sent out to Neil and the family at this most challenging time in dealing with the loss of their beloved wife and mother. Barb was an amazing lady who would light up any room she entered. I feel blessed to have known her for several years as a neighbor and friend. She will be sadly missed by many, but remembered always in our hearts. May God watch over and guide her through her journey to her forever home to be reunited with those she loved who left this earthly world before her. Maureen and Bill Walsh

May 14 at 8:41 AM



Michael And Susan Meath posted:

Barbara was one classy lady. Friendly, poised, open-minded and always welcoming, she made Susan and me feel right at home when we moved to Lewes in 2021. We offer our heartfelt sympathies to Neal and the entire family. (Michael and Susan Meath)

May 13 at 5:23 PM



Jackie Burdick posted:

I remember how excited Barb was to buy Sophia's gown for her baptism. As with everything that Barb did, the gown was amazing. It was a show piece, and Sophia looked like an angel in it. Yes, she was proud of her grandchildren. I know she will be missed. Our love to her family and praying for comfort for all. Love, Jackie and Gary Burdick

May 13 at 3:50 PM



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DS

Darlene Seanor posted:

Barb's absence in our strength training is already felt. Her smile and kindness were always with her. I will especially miss her unexpected one liners that would put all of us in stitches. So quick witted! My heartfelt sympathy goes to Neil and the family.

May 13 at 12:24 PM

PD

Peter Delahunt May 31 at 6:34 AM

Please accept my condolences. There is a season for all of us, yet regardless of its expected nature; the ensuing period of mourning is difficult. There is an old Gaelic passage that is meant to ease one's mourning, I hope you find it helpful ... Barb has returned to the Creator, who gave her to us. Yet, as our Creator did not lose her in giving, so we have not lost her forever by her return. For what is the Creator's is always ours, as we are of the Creator. Life is eternal, love is immortal and death is only a horizon and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight. May these thoughts lift us up, that we may see further and cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly - Draw us closer to our Creator, that we may know ourselves nearer to our beloved who are with the Creator - That where they are, and the Creator art, we too may one day be. In Sympathy, Peter Delahunt

JP

Jeanne Marie Pavia May 16 at 5:17 PM

Our deepest sympathy to Neil and Barb's family during this very difficult time. Barb's smile was always so warm and welcoming and will be greatly missed. (Joe Neenan & Jeanne Marie)

DS

Dian Stein posted:

Barb was a sweet, kind and wonderful neighbor – always upbeat, smiling and the first to bring her warmth and a hot meal to your door if you were under the weather. She was a skilled pickleball player who was patient and generous with the rest of us who were mostly beginners. She taught us the finesse of the game including a little move we all fondly still refer to as “The Barb”. I’ll always cherish the dry, witty comments she would share with me while we did Aquacize. During the first summer at the Belle Terre pool she was spending time with her granddaughter, Sophia, while many of us were gathered together and chatting. After a while Sophia lovingly said “Babcia, go make friends!”. Barb came over to the group and shared this and, of course, we all assured Sophia that her Babcia already had many friends! In the time since then Barb went on to make many, many more friends at Belle Terre and she will be sadly missed. My prayers and deepest sympathy go out to Neil and her entire family. May her memory serve to comfort you during this time of grief.

May 12 at 8:43 AM



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BC

Barbara Campione posted:

We are so very sorry to hear about Barb's passing. She was one of those people that everyone immediately liked. She had a quiet warmth and an infectious smile. She will be sorely missed by her Belle Terre family. Our deepest sympathy to Neal and her family. You're in our prayers at this very difficult time. Barbara & Tom Campione

May 12 at 5:56 AM

JH

Jen Heilmann posted:

Barbara will always remain in our hearts, the beautiful woman that she was. She was kind and caring and made others feel warm in her presence. My deepest sympathies to Neil and all the members of her family. She will be so missed.

May 12 at 3:43 AM

MK

Marie King posted:

I will truly miss my dear friend. She was a special soul, sophisticated, endearing and always had a smile. Will miss our fun days in the pool and just chatting. Our condolences to Neal, her children and grandchildren. Barbara will surely be missed by myself, John and our Belle Terre Community. Rest in Peace my friend.

May 12 at 3:30 AM

CH

Chaz posted:

I remember Barb always having a smiling face and an upbeat personality. She came down to dart night with Neil several times and we all had fun together. She will definitely be missed.

May 11 at 2:45 PM



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KW

Karen & Wilfred Pla posted:

I loved Barb. She was a beautiful soul and a gorgeous woman, full of wit and wisdom. She taught me how to play pickleball. When I had to have emergency surgery, she personally delivered her homemade chicken noodle soup that was the best I ever had. I will always remember her extraordinary class and sophistication and wonderful, spry sense of humor. She was a killer darts player too. She was a lady in every sense of the word, and a loving neighbor and friend. Our sincere condolences to her husband Neal, and their three children and grandchildren. Belle Terre will miss Barb dearly. May her memories comfort the family, always. Karen & Wilfred

May 11 at 2:19 PM

MO

Marie Olsen posted:

Barbara was one of the first people I met at strength training. She was very welcoming and gracious. I will miss her smile.

May 11 at 1:34 PM

AK

Ann Kennedy posted:

Always very friendly and up beat at exercise class with my wife and I. Ann & Rog Kennedy

May 11 at 1:09 PM

AW

Angela Wendolowski posted:

Always enjoyed a laugh with Barbara. I was very saddened to get this news today. She will be missed. Condolences to Neal and family. Angela Wendolowski

May 11 at 12:26 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Barbara by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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