



## Barbara Jean Yeager

September 15, 1932 - May 2, 2020

Barbara Jean Yeager of Lewes Delaware passed away on Saturday May 2nd at the age of 87. Barbara was born at her family's homestead in Dover, New Jersey on September 15th 1932. daughter of Andrew and Julia Ruschak and she was the youngest of five children. Barbara graduated from Rockaway High School class of 1947 at the age of 15. After attending business school in East Orange, New Jersey she began her 33-year career in civil service eventually working for four branches of the US military. She began her career working for the US Marine Corps in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. In 1963 when her husband was transferred to the US Naval Facility in Lewes, DE she began working for the US Air Force in Dover, Delaware. After the death of her husband in 1967, at the age of 34 with four children to support, she was able to transfer to the Naval Facility in Lewes to be closer to home. When the Navy closed the base in Lewes in 1981, she began the final chapter of her career working for the US Army on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC as a Congressional Liaison. She worked there until her retirement in 1995. In retirement she moved back to the family home in Lewes where she resided until her passing.

Barbara cherished her four children and their spouses, her grandchildren and her great grandchildren and always looked forward to hosting for the Holidays and her famous family July crab parties. Many a Cape Region Alumni will remember Barbara Jean and know that they were always welcome at the Yeager household.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Stephen B. Yeager, her siblings, William Ruschak(Alice), Ann Biddescombe(Richard), John Ruschak(Anne), Mary Bixler(Billy).

She is survived by her children Barbara Helsdon (Dave) of Lincoln, DE, Stephen M. Yeager (Tracey), Sue Smith (Steve), and Stephanie "Teddie" Purnell (Harold II) all of Lewes, DE. She is also survived by seven grandchildren James V. Reed IV (Sheila), Jennifer Knox (Andrew), Harold Purnell III (Erin) Elizabeth Straub (John), Victoria Purnell, Mary "Katie" Yeager, Allie Jean Yeager, 6 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She will also be greatly missed by her Lunch/Cape H.S. sports buddies, Marlys Cowan, Freda Burton, Ann Moore and Charlotte Bastian.

Barbara will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA with her late husband at a date TBD. Services will be private with a celebration of life to be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations to the Lewes Little League P.O. Box 107, Lewes, DE. 19958.

Please sign the online condolences below.

# Comments

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“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Thinking of you all and sending prayers your way. Linda and Kirk

Linda Beebe - May 13, 2020 at 09:25 AM

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“ I worked at NAVFAC Lewes with Barbara from 28 May 1968 to Feb 1981..12 yrs and 16 days to be exact. Barbara was the first civil service clerical worker to be hired and I was the second one. It was my first civil service job. Barb had prior experience so she was a wonderful mentor to me. Our children went to Lewes/Cape schools together and while driving a school bus for Amy Mitchell for 3 years, her children rode my bus. I last saw her to speak with her several years ago in Stango Park while attending a concert.. Marlys Cowan was with her. We had both retired by that time. While I don't know why she passed away - it was just too soon. She was always a vibrant, warm person and will be sorely missed by many. God Bless all the family. Hold on to all those wonderful memories and remain close to each other.

Caddie Ann Joseph, Lewes

Caddie Ann Joseph - May 08, 2020 at 08:09 PM

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“ my heart go out to the Yeager Family you was a great Lady we will miss you I know my mom ( freda Burton ) Love you guys



Sandra Strahosky - May 08, 2020 at 06:21 PM

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“ Our sincere condolences go out to your entire family on the loss of your wonderful mother and grandmother. She was a remarkable woman, indeed; and will be forever admired for her strength and courage. May God comfort each of you as He welcomes her home.

Sincerely,  
Trish (On behalf of the Edgens family)

**Trish** - May 08, 2020 at 05:42 PM

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“ We were sorry to hear of your mother's passing. May God comfort you and fill your hearts with good memories and love.

Blessings, George, Kathy, Rebecca and Hannah Pepper

**Kathy Pepper** - May 06, 2020 at 02:03 PM

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“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Ms. Barbara. She was a very kind lady. Praying for peace during this sad time.  
Nicole Tingle

**Nicole Tingle** - May 06, 2020 at 12:45 PM

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“ Mom Mom was a special person and our lives were the richer for knowing her. She was kind, generous and always great company. She will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her.  
Our love and sincere sympathy to all the family. Ellen and Archie Knox

**Ellen Knox** - May 06, 2020 at 12:42 PM

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“ Our sincere condolences to the Yeager family on the loss of your mother. Many fond memories of my second mom Barbara Jean and her family throughout high school into adulthood! She will be missed but never forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire family during this difficult time.  
Sincerely,  
Squeak and Tuffy Tribbitt

Nancy Tribbitt - May 06, 2020 at 10:11 AM

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“ Barbie and family.....I'm so sorry to hear of your Mother's passing....I remember the fun times at your house and especially the time your Mom drove us to Glassboro State College for cheerleading camp!!! What good times!! Hoping a group of us can get together again.....With love to all of you ...JoAnn

JoAnn Elliott - May 06, 2020 at 06:34 AM

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“ Dear Barbie and Family,

So sorry to hear of the passing of your Mother. I send to you love and prayers. I moved back to Lewes last May to care for my Dad. He is 95!

I hope to see you one day again.

Love,

Sally Cunningham

Sally Cunningham - May 05, 2020 at 09:04 PM

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“ Mom mom was a spirited lady and I have to say it, made THE BEST POTATO SALAD! I will always remember her kind and welcoming heart. I am so sorry for your huge loss and I hope you will all find comfort in your beautiful memories. My love to the Purnells and the rest of the Yeager family. Always, Erika

Erika Strohmayer - May 05, 2020 at 07:41 PM

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“ I met Mrs. Yeager when my daughter, Sheila, became engaged to her grandson, Jimmy Reed. In the years that followed, I enjoyed many visits with “Mom Mom Yeager.” Her stories about her life and career were fascinating to me. But the sweetest thing she ever told me was, “I have four wonderful children... each one is such a good person. I am so lucky.” Let me add that, for all of us who were so fortunate to know her and love her, WE were truly the lucky ones. I send heartfelt sympathy to all her family. May you all be comforted in your cherished memories of this extraordinary woman. Carol Pfordt

Carol T. Pfordt - May 05, 2020 at 06:59 PM

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“ You were one nice lady Barbara. You lived a full life an now you can be at peace with God and your husband. Mary Ann Hammond

Mary Ann Hammond - May 05, 2020 at 04:16 PM

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“ Oh how we will miss you Mrs Yeager. From the time my sister Tracey started dating your son Steve you were in my life. I'm so honored to have been. I loved our long talks, watching Katie and Allie in their sports, you could pretty angry at some of those Refs, we would just laugh. There will be an empty place in this world without you but not in our hearts. I hope Paradise is all that you expected. Love you.



Jennie McCabe-Severs - May 05, 2020 at 03:05 PM