



Ione Arlene (Holmes) Barber

February 16, 1935 - July 5, 2023

Ione Arlene (Holmes) Barber, age 88, of Pickford, Michigan, died at Freighter View Assisted Living in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, on July 5, 2023. She was born in Northville, Michigan, on February 16, 1935, to Hiram Herman and Muriel Mae (McKeller) Holmes.

Ione grew up in Northville and graduated from Northville High School with the Class of 1953. She attended Detroit Business School and earned her bachelor's degree in 1957. She met William "Bill" Allen Barber while working at the local Drive-In Restaurant and they got married on December 26, 1957, in Northville. After Bill graduated, they moved to Pickford in 1958, with only a few dollars to their name. While raising their children, Ione worked alongside Bill at the Pickford Veterinarian Clinic as the office manager, bookkeeper, and veterinarian assistant for 32 years. They retired in 1990, when they sold the clinic to Dr. Clinton Groover.

Ione was an active member of the bowling league in Sault Ste. Marie, the Pickford Women's Golf League, the Red Hats Society, the Pickford Historical Museum, the Raber Sportsman Club in Raber, Michigan, and the Pickford Lions Club - where she was awarded the Melvin Jones Humanitarian Award on June 22, 2020. She volunteered, with Bill, for many years at the EUP Fair in the Miracle Life Pavilion. She was a huge supporter of the War Memorial Hospital Women's Auxiliary and for over twenty years she was in charge of

the War Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Annual flea market.

lone enjoyed fishing, boating, gardening flowers, and hunting, especially bow hunting. She loved spending her time outdoors and at the family cabin. lone and Bill also helped rehabilitate many orphaned animals, including “Cubby” the bear and “Bambi” the deer.

lone is survived by her son, Vance (Mary) Barber of Pickford, Michigan; daughter, Jennifer (David) Forrest of Grand Rapids, Michigan; grandchildren, Jennifer K. Forrest, Jaiden (fiancé, Scott Lanz) Forrest, Morgan Barber, and William “Billy” Barber; great grandchildren, Owen Forrest, and Ethan Forrest; and sister, Mary Browning of New Hudson, Michigan.

lone was preceded in death by her parents, Hiram and Muriel; husband, William; brothers, Leroy Holmes and James “Gus” Holmes; and sisters, June Anne King and Gloria Cogar.

Memorial Gathering will be held on Friday, August 4, 2023, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Galer Funeral Homes in Pickford, Michigan.

Final Resting Place will be at the North Raber Cemetery in Raber, Michigan.

Memorial Contributions can be made out to the Pickford Area Historical Museum, P.O. Box 572, Pickford, MI 49774, Women’s Auxiliary, 500 Osborn Blvd, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, or the Pickford Lions Club, P.O. Box 242, Pickford, MI 49774.

Condolences may be left to the family at www.galerfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

North Raber Cemetery

Raber Road
Goetzville, MI 49736

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

AUG 4. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Galer Funeral Homes & Cremation
24549 S M 129
Pickford, MI 49774

Tribute Wall



“ *Ione Arlene (Holmes) Barber*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Ione Arlene (Holmes) Barber*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Ione Arlene (Holmes) Barber.*



August 02, 2023 at 11:36 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of your loss. Our deepest condolences.
Love,
Steve, Danielle, Steven and Nicole*

Steve Majors - July 31, 2023 at 09:57 PM



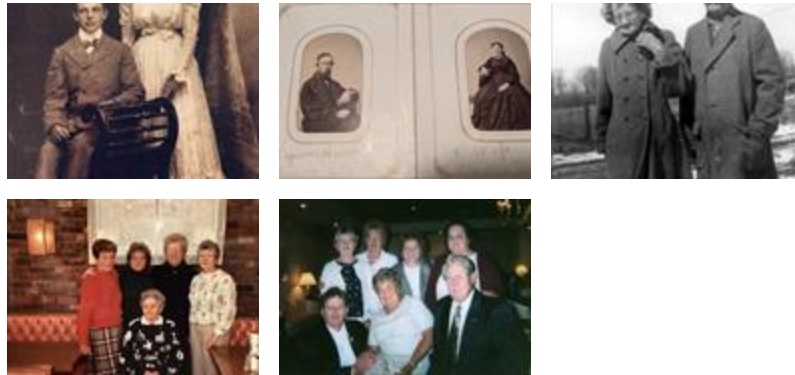
“ *So sorry for your loss. May you find comfort in knowing others care.
Mike & Diane*



M&D - July 31, 2023 at 07:04 AM

MH

“ 6 files added to the album Holmes



Michelle Holmes - July 30, 2023 at 09:01 AM

HC

“ *Dear Vance and Jennifer, I am so saddened by the news I just discovered of dear Ione's passing. I've known and loved your mother since I met her and your dad in 1965 when my husband and I were stationed at Kinchloe AFB. They were both so kind to us and I've loved them ever since. Please know that my thoughts are with you, and them, and in my prayers, always. Blessed to have known them, Helen Cordell in Melbourne, Florida*

Helen S CORDELL - July 27, 2023 at 10:12 AM

JW

“ *Jennifer, I am so sorry to learn of the loss of your mom. May God give you peace and comfort through the days ahead. I enjoyed the time we worked together at RJA! I will be praying for you and your family. Jan Weaver*

Jan Weaver - July 17, 2023 at 08:49 PM

TW

“ I have many great memories of lone. Sending my condolences to Jennifer, Vance and your families.

Tammie (Johnston) Wolfe

Tammie Wolfe - July 08, 2023 at 09:12 PM

MG

“ Deepest sympathy to lone's family. She was wonderful lady. It was great to get to know her through her support of the Mackinac Straits Health Foundation.

Mike Grisdale - July 08, 2023 at 09:02 AM

PS

“ I have plenty of memories from my younger years. You are all in my thoughts.

Peter Schmidt - July 07, 2023 at 12:00 PM

DS

“ lone's interest, dedication, and loyalty to Pickford Area Historical Society and Museum will be a part of her legacy forever. She participated in all of our events, and fund raising activities as well as countless hours serving as a summer museum keeper greeting guests and sharing information. On behalf of the Board of Directors I can only say that she will be missed and we are sad for her family. Our condolences are heartfelt.

Dianne Hanna Schmitigal - July 06, 2023 at 04:49 PM

MS

Saddened by the loss of Mrs.Barber. Remembering my younger days and time spent at their house. She was always involved in someway shape or form within the community.

Mike Soboleski - July 17, 2023 at 06:33 PM

JS

Jennifer, I am so sorry to hear about your mom. My condolences to you, Vance and your families. I have so many wonderful memories of our shopping trips, bowling, and adventures when I lived on Sugar Island. A day with Ione would leave me totally exhausted and she was still raring to go!

Judy Skowronek - July 17, 2023 at 10:17 PM