



Barbara Cox McDonnell

October 2, 1948 - April 20, 2017

Barbara Cox McDonnell, age 68, died on Thursday, April 20, 2017 while surrounded by loving friends and family. She was called to her eternal home after a long battle with chronic illness. From her birth in Clarksdale, MS on October 2, 1948 to her death on Thursday she nourished people around her with love, faith, and dedication, especially her family.

She was born in Clarksdale, MS to Harmon and Johnnie Cox and was the oldest of three children. She graduated from Clarksdale High School in 1966 and matriculated to the University of Mississippi, where she met her eventual husband, Dr. Fred J. McDonnell and graduated in 1970. At Ole Miss, Barbara was crowned Miss Ole Miss in 1969 and inducted into the Ole Miss Student Hall of Fame in 1970. Barbara and Fred married on August 2, 1970 in Clarksdale. Following Fred's completion of medical school and residency, the young couple settled in Hazlehurst, MS, where they have lived since 1977. Barbara and Fred raised their three children in Hazlehurst and enjoyed a life filled with friends and family.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 46 years, Fred; three children, Alison McDonnell Alger (Corey) of Oxford, MS, Ashley McDonnell Lane (Matt) of Nashville, TN, and Preston Bell McDonnell (Candi) of Crystal Springs, MS; 10 adoring grandchildren; brother, Raymond Cox (Carrie) of Oxford, MS; step-mother, Majorie Cox of Wesson, MS and many nieces and nephews. Barbara

was preceded in death by her parents, and brother Harmon (“Bubba”) Cox, Jr.

Barbara will be remembered for her warm disposition, her faith in Jesus Christ, her love of all things Ole Miss, but mostly for her unwavering devotion to family.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 2:00 pm at Hazlehurst United Methodist Church located at 127 North Caldwell Drive, Hazlehurst, MS. Burial will follow at Hazlehurst Cemetery in Hazlehurst. The family will greet friends from 4:00 to 6:00 pm on Friday, April 21 at Stringer Family Funeral Home in Hazlehurst, and again at church on Saturday from 1:00 pm until the time of service.

The McDonnell family would like to extend our gratitude to all the staff at the Copleah County Medical Center for their attentiveness and loving care. The family would also like to extend our sincerest gratitude and love to Ms. Maggie Stewart and Mr. Kenneth Durr for their love and care of Mrs. Barbara during her waning years.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Barbara’s name to the Hazlehurst United Methodist Church Building Fund or to the Copleah Academy Endowment.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **21**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Stringer Family Funeral Home - Hazlehurst
PO Box 884
28023 Hwy 28
Hazlehurst, MS 39083
(601) 894-1331
stringerfuneral@bellsouth.net

Service

APR **22**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Hazlehurst Methodist Church
127 Caldwell Dr
Hazlehurst, MS 39083
(601) 894-1709

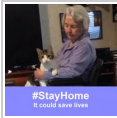
Tribute Wall



“ *Stringer Family Funeral Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Barbara Cox McDonnell*



Stringer Family Funeral Service - April 21, 2017 at 01:13 PM



Beautifully done of a beautiful lady and her family.

Ann Wert - April 23, 2017 at 07:58 AM



“ *Barbara Cox McDonnell*

January 28, 2023 at 04:45 PM



“ *As I knew Barbara in Clarksdale growing up she was already ultra special, a light of Christian faith and caring. Always intelligent she was admired by all and was poised and a lady, even as a teen. She is one I looked up to as an example to follow. I had no idea she was ill and would have loved to have written to her to tell her what an influence she has been on me. With deepest sympathy to all of you who were blessed to call her mom, wife, sister, SIL, Daughter and friend,*
Penny Bennett Frazer

Penny Bennett Frazer - April 23, 2017 at 01:13 PM

ES

“ Dearest McDonnell family, Barbara and I used to visit when Mr. Cox and my sister, Nelda, were in the nursing home here in Hazlehurst. We often talked about Jesus's soon return and she personified the true spirit of the 'Hope' of all of us in His coming. She was so loving and kind to Mr. Cox and that same care was shown to everyone she came in contact with. She was truly a lovely gem in this present world and I know that she shines bright as the sun in her Father's Kingdom now. Randy and I love you all and remember you in our prayers. Elaine Shealy

elaine shealy - April 21, 2017 at 02:10 PM

JA

“ John and Pat Adams purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Barbara Cox McDonnell.



John and Pat Adams - April 21, 2017 at 01:08 PM



“ 84 files added to the album Life Tributes



Stringer Family Funeral Service - April 21, 2017 at 12:25 PM

SM

“ Dear Fred and family so sorry to hear of Ms Barbara's passing, but we all know she is in a much better place. She will be greatly missed by all who have had the pleasure to have known her. God be with all of you. Our prayers are with you. Ray and Sherry Morse

Sherry Morse - April 21, 2017 at 11:21 AM

CH

“ Dr. Fred, Ashley, Alliaon & Preston, I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Ms. Barbara. She was a sweet lady but she is now at peace and in the presence of her Lord & Savior. I pray you all find peace in knowing you will see her again when we all get to heaven. God be with you in the coming days.

Cindy Howard - April 20, 2017 at 11:43 PM

LF

“ Dr. Fred and family we are so sorry to hear of your loss. Praying for you and you family.
Phillip and Lori Ann Fortenberry

Lori Fortenberry - April 20, 2017 at 11:36 PM

CF

“ Dear Fred and the rest of your family I am praying for all of the family.

Charlotte Farthing - April 20, 2017 at 08:40 PM

HJ

“ Dr. Fred, Alison, Ashley and Preston:

I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of Mrs. Barbara. What a wonderful lady she was and I have many fond memories of growing up in your home. She will be greatly missed. I love you all and will have you and your families in my thoughts and prayers. Heidi Jackson

Heidi Jackson - April 20, 2017 at 08:36 PM

DH

“ Fred, I'm so sorry to hear this sad news of your loved one leaving way too soon. God bless, my friend

Denny Hydrick - April 20, 2017 at 07:03 PM

BJ

“ Such a sweet lady. So sorry for your loss.

Brad Johnson

Brad Johnson - April 20, 2017 at 06:16 PM

OK

“ To Fred and Family, So sorry to hear of Barbara's passing. She left a huge mark on this earth and on my heart and life. Much love and prayers to all of you in the coming days as you learn the new "normal".

OHara Koerber - April 20, 2017 at 05:42 PM

PG

Dr. Fred, Alison, Ashley, and Preston, will be in my thoughts and prayers for the coming days. May the Lord wrap all of you in his loving arms and give you the strength and courage that will help you all during this sad time. God Bless You all! She was a super nice lady who was loved by many and will be missed by all.

Peggy Gunter - April 21, 2017 at 08:37 AM

SG

Dr. Fred, I am so sorry for the loss of your wife. I did not know her, but I could tell when you talked about her that she was loved by all. It is very hard right now, but , take it from me, it does get easier with time. I pray for strength for you and your family. Please know that this whole community loves you.

Shirley Givens - April 21, 2017 at 09:45 AM

KT

Dr. Fred, I'm so sorry for your loss. Barbara was such a special person and she will be missed by everyone. Prayers for you and your family. Much love, Karen Cliett Teesdale

Karen Cliett Teesdale - April 21, 2017 at 11:02 AM