



Barbara Lynn Smith

March 23, 1956 - January 1, 2026

Obituary for Barbara Lynn Smith

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ROUND LAKE BEACH, IL – Barbara Lynn Smith (née Bechtel), a retired nurse known for her compassionate heart and dedication to her family, passed away on January 1, 2026, in Round Lake Beach, Illinois. She was 69 years old.

Born on March 23, 1956, in Dover, Ohio, Barbara was the daughter of the late Robert and Sue Bechtel. Following her calling to care for others, she pursued a career in nursing, where she was known as a steady, kind presence for her patients and colleagues alike.

Barbara was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 40 years, Larry Wayne Smith. She was also preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Jim; and her sisters, Bonnie and Sherry.

Barbara's greatest joy was her family. She is survived by her loving sisters, Esther, Patricia, and Cathy. Her memory will be cherished by her children: Joseph (Lorraine) Smith, Michelle (Shannon) Strickland, and Jaclyn (Demetrios) Vatisas. She also leaves behind a legacy of fourteen grandchildren, each of whom she loved dearly.

In accordance with Barbara's wishes, no funeral services are planned at this time. The family looks forward to welcoming friends and loved ones to a memorial service, which will be held in the early summer.

Tribute Wall

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“ *My little sister, my best friend. No matter how hard or how bad her health became, she took it with grace. We are forever thankful to her children and grandchildren for taking care of her and giving her a quality of life that few are privileged to have under such circumstances. We are grateful to have had an Aunt, Sister, Mother, Grandmother and friend like Barbara. We love you and will miss you forever. -The Pentecost Family*



Patricia Pentecost - February 10 at 03:30 PM

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“ *Aunt Barb had a way of making every person feel like they were the center of the world. She focused in, asked questions, was truly engaged, and celebrated you. She gave her light away so freely. I am grateful for her love and for the amazing children she raised. Your dedication to her during her struggles is a testament to what a truly wonderful mother she was. I am so sorry she is gone.*

Nora Bowers - January 09 at 10:50 PM

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“ *Auntie Barb listened with and spoke from her heart. I will miss her greatly. I am fortunate to have had the time to learn from her kindness and wisdom — the same I see in her kids and grandkids. She's in peace with Uncle Larry.*

*Love,
Andy*

Andrea Ignelzi - January 09 at 09:06 PM