



Barbara Ann Burke

August 22, 1940 - February 23, 2026

Hampton - Barbara Ann Burke, nee Collard, 85, of Hampton, passed away peacefully on Monday, February 23, 2026. She was the loving wife of William T. Burke (Retired, Chief of Police Portsmouth 1987 to 1999.)

Born August 22, 1940, in Arlington, TX, Barbara Ann was the daughter of the late Clarence Benjamin and Sarah Louise (Barber) Collard. Raised and educated in Dumas, Texas, Barbara Ann attended Dumas High School. From there she went on to attend North Texas University, graduating in 1962. She worked as a teacher in Amarillo and Pampa Texas. On a spontaneous trip to California with her best friend Tommy-Kay, she met William on a blind date in Hermosa Beach, CA on July 29, 1964. They were married 6 weeks later on September 4, 1964; it was love at first sight and a marriage of 61 years! In October of 1965 William Jr was born and in November of 1973 Katherine was born. In Ann's time in California she worked for the Los Angeles Unified School District and later as a Librarian in Malaga Cove. They made a home in Palos Verdes, CA for nearly 17 years and would drive every summer from Los Angeles to Cape Cod, visiting Texas family on the way, seeing the country then enjoying the sands of the Cape, which Ann truly loved. In 1987 they relocated to New Hampshire where Ann enjoyed friends at Newcomer's Club and substitute teaching at Newmarket Jr High School. She loved walking the beach in Cape Cod, looking for sea glass and she loved tending to her garden in New Hampshire.

As a mother , teacher and community member with stints on both coasts, her dedication to family and community is nothing short of outstanding. She taught us accountability and to never give up. She did this through the patience of Job, and the humor and kindness and compassion of a true Texan: Firm but fair, loving and consistent in making sure we kids were accountable in our actions and upbringing.

In addition to her husband, Barbara Ann is survived by her children, William T. Burke Jr. and his wife Donna of Morro Bay, CA, and Katherine Jean Smith and her husband Aaron of San Marcos, CA, her siblings, Nancy Hilliard of Flower Mound, TX, Roberta Jean Collard of Lewisville, TX, Benjamin Collard III of Eagle Nest, NM, and Daniel Farley and his wife Laura of Big Spring, TX. She also leaves her 6 grandchildren, Shaw, Daniel, Kayla, Dylan, Magdalena, and Celeste, as well as many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will gather to honor and remember Barbara Ann for a Mass of Christian Burial on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Theresa's Church, 815 Central Rd., Rye Beach, NH 03871.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Barbara Ann's memory to St. Vincent de Paul of Hampton by clicking here. (<https://svdphampton.com/>)

or by mail

St. Vincent de Paul, Hampton
289 Lafayette Road, Hampton 03842.

Barbara's obituary to follow.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 27. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Theresa Church
815 Central Rd
Rye Beach, NH 03871
(603) 964-6440

Tribute Wall

RS

“ *Bill,*

So sorry for your loss. We will always remember the time we spent together in San Diego.

Rich & Chis Silverman

RICH SILVERMAN - March 01 at 08:35 AM



“ *Thinking of you and your at your time of loss. My pleasure helping and meeting you both.*

Pat Rowell - February 28 at 01:04 PM



“ *Sending you lots of love from the Brady family... I have nothing but fond memories of your wonderful Mom, except for that time we ate that bottle of Flintstones vitamins. "They're not CANDY, Billy!" (sure tastes like candy)*
Hugs to your whole family!
Jon

Liz Brady - February 28 at 12:07 PM

JS

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Ann, and your family. You will be missed at our family gatherings .*
Sincerely, John & Becky

John & Becky Smith - February 27 at 02:10 PM

CB

“ *Bill and family so sorry to for your loss.*

Cathy and John Bearce - February 27 at 01:49 PM

LD

“ *So sorry to hear of Ann's passing Chief. She was such a kind person. If time is the balm to ease all pain I wish you and the family godspeed.*

Len DiSesa

Len DiSesa - February 27 at 08:48 AM

JD

“ *Please accept my sincere condolences for the passing of Ann. I only met Ann briefly at a Portsmouth Symphony concert but am a long time friend of Bill's.*

Joe Diament - February 27 at 12:46 AM

MH

“ *Chief, Sorry for the loss of your wife, Barbara. We are thinking of you and your family.*

Matt & Rebecca Hester

M Hester - February 26 at 08:42 PM

RP

“ *Bill my friend. I am so sorry! Sad day in a beautiful life. Rod Philbrick*

Rod Philbrick - February 26 at 07:20 PM

CM

“ Bill, Craig and I are so sorry to hear of Ann’s passing. May the many happy memories you shared be with you always. May her memory be eternal

Carol Miller - February 26 at 04:48 PM

RH

“ Rest in Eternal Peace, Love, Nancy Hines planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Ann Burke.

Rest in Eternal Peace, Love, Nancy Hines - February 26 at 02:20 PM

RH

“ Rest in Eternal Peace, Love, Nancy Hines purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Barbara Ann Burke.



Rest in Eternal Peace, Love, Nancy Hines - February 26 at 02:20 PM

YF

“ Your atria Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Barbara Ann Burke.



Your atria Family - February 26 at 02:13 PM

MS

“ Bill - I am so sorry to hear of Ann's passing. I fond memories of you guys form hockey during the Snively and Whit days. My thoughts are with you and family. Mandy (Davies) Savage

Mandy Savage - February 26 at 12:41 PM

TH

“ Tom and Kathy Hines planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Ann Burke.

Tom and Kathy Hines - February 25 at 06:23 PM

TH

“ Tom and Kathy Hines purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Barbara Ann Burke.



Tom and Kathy Hines - February 25 at 06:23 PM

L(

“ Love Patty and Bob Connelly (Hines) purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Barbara Ann Burke.



Love Patty and Bob Connelly (Hines) - February 25 at 10:20 AM