



Barbara Jean "Barb" Galvin

December 30, 1945 - January 25, 2026

DEERFIELD, NY – Barbara Jean “Barb” Galvin, age 80, a native of Oswego, NY was gently called home to Heaven on Sunday, January 25, 2026, carried on the wings of love by many cherished family members and friends who rejoiced in her arrival.

Born on December 30, 1945, Barbara—known lovingly as Barb—was a graduate of Oswego Catholic High School and St. Elizabeth College of Nursing. Her lifelong dedication to learning and service led her to earn advanced degrees from SUNY Polytechnic Institute and Russel Sage College.

Barb devoted her life’s work to caring for others and lifting those around her. Her distinguished career brought her to St. Elizabeth Medical Center, St. Luke’s Hospital, and Albany Medical Center, among others. She served with compassion, integrity, and leadership as a Registered Nurse, Nursing Instructor, and Senior Vice President, respectively. Through her work, Barb touched countless lives and formed friendships that endured a lifetime.

Barb was welcomed into heaven by those who went before her—her parents, William and Mary (Smith) Galvin; her sister, Patty Robinson; her nephew, Brian Galletta; her brother-in-law, Gary Budd; and her dear friend, Marcia Martin—along with many other beloved family members and friends. The heavens shine more brightly as they celebrate her homecoming.

While Heaven rejoices, Barb leaves behind a world forever changed by her presence. Dr. Gerard T. “Jerry” Capraro was the love of Barb’s life. Together for close to fifty years, their union was a blessing not only to one another, but to all who were fortunate enough to be included in their lives. They enjoyed travel, parties, hockey games, dinners with friends, family gatherings, and quiet evenings at home—treasured partners in every season of life.

Barb’s greatest earthly joy was her family. She leaves behind her devoted sisters, whose bond reflects the true meaning of family: Mary Galvin, Rosemary Budd, Diane Galvin, Kathy (Gary) Stannard, and Terry (Jeffrey) Baum. Sisters were bound by unbreakable friendship.

Her beloved nieces and nephews were among Barb’s greatest treasures, each loved deeply and cherished as her own. Barb also shared a lifelong friendship with the late Marcia Martin and her late husband Wayne, and was a second mother to their daughters, Mary Beth and Diane. The laughter, guidance, and love Barb shared will echo through generations and remain forever in the hearts of all who knew her.

Barb gave of her time and talents for many years through her generous volunteer work. Barb was a wish granter with Make-A-Wish Foundation, connecting with families of sick children and giving them an opportunity to perhaps forget their illness for a moment and enjoy the experience. In addition, Barb generously spent many hours assisting at the Abraham House, allowing patients and grieving families the opportunity to experience a peaceful passing through compassion and love.

Barb loved life and lived it generously. She was a teacher, a healer, and a friend to all. When you look up at the night sky, know that one of those shining stars is Barb—watching over those she loved, just as she always did.

Barb lived her life in service to others, guided by faith and love.

“For it is in giving that we receive.” – St. Francis of Assisi.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the dialysis team at Faxton Hospital for their exceptional care; to the compassionate staff at Wynn Hospital ICU West for their expertise and kindness; and to the Abraham House for providing comfort, dignity, and peace during a difficult time.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Barbara’s Memorial Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life will commence on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. at St. Mary and Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish, 684 Jay St. Members of the Mohawk Valley Nurse’s Honor Guard will assemble for their ritualistic prayers and there will be an opportunity to greet the family at the conclusion of Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Barb’s name to the charities she held close to her heart: Make-A-Wish of Central New York online at www.wish.org/cny or the Abraham House online at www.theabrahamhouse.org/donate; envelopes will also be available at the service.

This obituary was lovingly composed by Barbara’s goddaughter, Diane LoGalbo, with much love and affection.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

FEB 2. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish
648 Jay Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-1482
<https://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com/>

Tribute Wall

KW

“ She was my instructor in 1986, I loved her then, now, and always. I will wear her smile on my heart. So many fond memories. .

Kathy Wages - February 02 at 09:36 PM

JB

“ I remember Barb from her participation in District 7 NYSNA in the 70"s and 80's. She was always willing to help with any project undertaken and always with a smile.

Joanne Byrnes - January 31 at 10:21 AM

TI

“ I worked with Barb for 9 years at St Elizabeth's School of nursing back in the nineties. I have fond memories of her sense of humor and her laugh. She was the ultimate Ob/gyn nursing instructor. I know you will miss her terribly. With deepest sympathy Terry Ismert

Z

Terry Ismert - January 30 at 09:05 PM

MS

“ Dear all the Galvins. so sorry to hear about Barb. it has been awhile since we saw each other. As cousins we are still family.and we share your loss. The Galvins were a big part of growing up in Oswego all our sympathy. Martha Halleran Simoncini and Dave Simoncini

Martha Simoncini - January 29 at 11:48 AM

JR

“ Our parents were best friends and our families spent many times together. Our mothers were first cousins and they only lived a block away. We shared births, deaths, snow storms and gas freezes with them.

My family and I send the Gavin family our sympathy and happy childhood memories spent with them.

Jeanne Halleran Richmond and Gregg Richmond

Jeanne Richmond - January 29 at 09:48 AM

MH

“ Barb Galvin was a longtime Wish Granter at Make-A-Wish Central New York. Her passion for the mission, her commitment to her wish kids, making each one feel more special than the last, was extraordinary. She kept in touch with families long after she granted their children's wishes, that is the kind of lasting imprint she left.

Barb was a valued member of the team and a friend to us all. Her spirit will remain and a candle has been lit in her honor. Sending blessings to her big, beautiful family. Although Barb leaves a legacy of a life well-lived, she will be so missed. - Moe

Moe Harrington - January 28 at 04:35 PM

CF

“ My Dear Friend Diane, I'm so sorry to hear of Aunt Barb's passing. I feel like I knew her just from all the wonderful stories and memories you shared with me. I know your heart is broken and I'm sad for you. You were very good to her. Her and your beautiful mama are together again! May she Rest in Peace and be your forever guardian angel. I love you. Your friend for life, Charlene

Charlene Freeman - January 28 at 03:19 PM

K(

“ My condolences and sympathy to "Aunt Barb"'s family, friends and Uncle Jerry. She was a strong presence in the Capraro family for almost half a century and most of my life. Hoping you're having a good game of cards with Nana Mary. 💕 Till we meet again Lady 💕
Kate Bell (Capraro)

Kathleen Bell (Capraro) - January 28 at 11:30 AM

CB

“ I worked with Barb for many years at the Abraham House. She, along with others, taught me so much about compassion. While talking one day, we realized that Barb was one of my nurses when I gave birth to my twins. Small world. We just ran into each other a few months ago, trying to plan for lunch. I'm going to miss her

Cheryl Bowen - January 28 at 08:06 AM

MC

“ Mary, Rosemary, Kathy, Diane and Terry: Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. We are so very sorry for your loss. Rest in Peace Barb. 🙏🙏 Mary Jo (Gadwau) Cliff & Neil Cliff

Mary jo Cliff - January 28 at 07:29 AM

KD

“ We will miss you Barb and your always smiling face. We were just talking about our trip to Italy with you and Jerry and the Spinas and our villa. It was a very special trip. Our hearts and prayers are with you and your family. You are going to be missed but we know you are in God's hands now.

kathleen DeCarlo - January 27 at 07:10 PM

RP

You will be missed Dear Friend 🙏🙏❤️❤️

Rosangela Putrelo - January 27 at 07:51 PM

RP

Life is short ❤️❤️🙏🙏🙏🙏

Rosangela Putrelo - January 27 at 07:54 PM

CL

There was not a more loving or giving person on this earth. I will SO miss you. You were an inspiration to so many.

Carole litynski - January 27 at 08:28 PM

MV

You will be missed and your legacy will live on. I'm so glad we had our reunions the past couple of years. Our careers began together with Rosanne working OB at St. Elizabeth's after graduation. I will look up and see your star every night. Mary Manfredo Verni

Mary Verni - January 27 at 10:55 PM

BM

Barb our time spent together was nothing less than a gift that is not recognized in the moments when we are busy living our life! I am so grateful you crossed my path ! We had so much laughter and shared some sad times ! You will always be in my heart! Thanking God for your friendship ! Give Marsha a hug ! You lost some battles my girl but you won the war....heaven awaits ! Love hugs and prayers to your family !

Bonnie McCarthy - January 28 at 08:43 AM

PH

Barb my dear friend, I hope that your enjoying all the popcorn in heaven! With all of this snow it reminds me how I met you when your furnace had issues. We will miss you but never forget you!

Pete Huckabone - January 28 at 08:10 PM

BJ

We were very lucky to have Barb as a very dear friend; we will miss her. Beth and Ed Jones

Beth and Ed Jones - January 29 at 04:31 PM

LK

I first met Barb when she and my sister were nurses together on the maternity floor of St Elizabeth's. I can't ever remember seeing her without a smile. She wore it when she asked me, "How do you feel about a nurse delivering your baby?" because my son was coming quicker than the doctor. If he'd been a girl, his middle name would have been Barbara.

At Abraham House, she gently & compassionately cared for my dear friend, Shirley. She was truly a gift from God to this earth and will be missed. Rest in Peace, Barb. I pray that loving memories sustain her loved ones.

Lorraine Kinney-Kitchen - January 31 at 08:20 AM

CM

Dear Jerry and all of Barb's family and friends, I am so sorry for your loss. Barb was my classmate and dear friend leaving a big hole in my heart but so many beautiful memories. She touched the lives of so many and will be greatly missed. Your work on earth is done dear Barb but know that you will be watching over us from above.

Cathy Burke Madigan

cathy madigan - January 31 at 09:32 AM