



Mrs. Barbara A. (Tice) Keyes

October 24, 1946 - November 27, 2021

NEW HARTFORD – Mrs. Barbara A. (Tice) Keyes, age 75, passed away unexpectedly Saturday morning, November 27, 2021, in the comfort and dignity of her home and with those she loved most in her heart.

Born in Utica on October 24, 1946, Barbara was raised locally by her late mother, Rose M. (Vedette) Tice. She attended St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Grammar School and graduated from St. Francis DeSales High School, before she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Education at Utica College of Syracuse University. Additionally, Barbara was able to continue her studies towards her master's degree. Her passionate heart - the heart of an educator – would pave the path from her studies to her career.

A loving and dedicated woman, Barbara married Edward J. Keyes, Jr. on July 31, 1976. The couple shared a close relationship, and wonderfully exemplified true companionship in their life journey of 45 years. Barbara knew she was blessed with a great husband, and she held an abundance of love for him and their daughter; this love would be multiplied by the addition of her son-in-law and, later, her grandchildren. As a mom, Barbara instilled strength and core values into the life of her daughter. Barbara's magnanimity filled her family with love, as well as enabled her to succeed in her caretaking career.

Generosity, kindness, and compassion were virtues and skills that Barbara possessed. Beginning in 1968, she taught at Conkling Elementary School, and afterwards, she accepted a new position at Hugh R. Jones Elementary School. Barbara absolutely loved her students; teaching was her true calling.

She was known for planning special days for the students – days that grew into dear memories, such as “Penguin Day.” Barbara was exemplary, and her colleagues honored her as such by nominating her as “Teacher of the Year” in 1974. This was a proud moment for Barbara, and one she humbly accepted. When she finally retired in 2007, Barbara chose to continue sharing her skills by partaking in activities, programs, and engaged in tutoring students within this community.

Barbara was furthermore known as a woman of grace; she had class and dignity and carried herself well. Barbara was also stylish. She was always well-attired, and her shoe wear was important to her and had a unique style. Barbara cherished being surrounded by people she appreciated, and her endless affection she held for many. She possessed a cheerful and bright personality, and she was admired by many for her determination. Known for her mental and physical endurance, Barbara was able to accomplish numerous tasks in a single day. She was dedicated to improving their home, which was her pride and joy, and she did much of the work herself. Barbara was also a bountiful cook, who would make such an abundance of food, that there were intended leftovers to go around – and her choice of foods was memorably of Italian cuisine. Moreover, Barbara was generous with her hobbies. In particular, she enjoyed knitting and would create treasures to gift others that were specific to the recipients’ choices. Today, many privileged loved ones cherish these gems that she bestowed them.

Barbara leaves behind a legacy of memories; she consistently supported her daughter’s decisions, and as a “Nonnie”, traveled to spend time with her grandchildren. There were countless fun times, when Barbara enriched the grandchildren’s lives by spending that quality time with them and imparting her wisdom. She furthermore bolstered the family’s time together during the holidays by decorating with a great and unique flair! Barbara held such loving pride for each of her dear ones, and none in her family went untouched by her capacity for cherishing them. Barbara possessed a faith-filled heart and followed her Catholic beliefs.

Barbara will remain in the hearts of her husband “Keysie,” as well as her cherished daughter Diana Johnson and her husband Andrew, whom Barbara loved as her own son. She will be a legacy to her grandchildren, Evan, and Mira Johnson. Barbara is predeceased by her brother Harold Tice. She is survived by her niece Jessica Pray and her husband Jared, and their children Kylie, Mackenzie, and Keira; her cousins including Elaine and Ralph Polito and their children Mary Margaret, and Joe; and her sister-in-law Susan Tice and Ed Troha; and sister-in-law Gloria and David Reynolds, and their children Linda, Karen, and Michael. Barbara was blessed with wonderful neighbors, beloved friends, and fellow educators, who will all carry her in their hearts. She is predeceased by several uncles and aunts, especially Mary and Michael Cristalli; and Carol and Bill Fiore; as well as her cousins Michael Cristalli; Dr. William Fiore; and Richard Fiore.

A Memorial Gathering in Barbara’s honor will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2022 from 5:30-6:30 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Barbara’s Memorial Service and Celebration of Life will commence at 6:30 at the funeral home. Memorial contributions in Barbara’s honor may be made to the New Hartford Fire Department online at <http://www.nhfd.com/donate>; envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

APR **14.** 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Memorial Service

APR **14.** 6:30 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara A. (Tice) Keyes.*



April 13, 2022 at 10:50 AM



“ *My heart was broken when I was told of Barb's passing. Not only a dear friend, but an incredible teacher, a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Her world revolved around Diana, of whom she was so very proud of, husband Ed and her precious grandchildren.*

I've known Barb just about all my life , as we grew up on the same block (Brinckerhoff) in Utica. She wasn't just a friend, fellow educator but family to me.

There will be a void in my life but I will always, dearly, have a place in my heart for this wonderful person. Rest in peace, my friend.

Jeanette Spina

Jeanette Spina - December 16, 2021 at 01:38 PM



“ *Met Barbara 43 years ago when we first started teaching at Conkling School. The most caring and loving teacher and mother-ever generous to others- enthusiastic in her affections and a loved friend. She was an exceptional woman. Condolences to her family- may memories of her give you strength to endure your loss.*

Margery Grant - December 05, 2021 at 12:59 PM

AN

“ Ed, I am so very sorry for the loss of your precious wife. My heart goes out to you and your family and all who knew and loved her. You are in my prayers. Anne Chaplo

Anne - December 03, 2021 at 08:14 PM

AV

“ To the best godmother anyone could ever ask for. You made me feel very special and very loved and for that I will always remember you and keep you in my heart.

Audra VanDreason - December 02, 2021 at 07:55 AM

SK

“ Sharon Keyes lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Barbara A. (Tice) Keyes



Sharon Keyes - December 01, 2021 at 08:12 PM

HK

“ Howard & Sharon Keyes lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Barbara A. (Tice) Keyes



Howard & Sharon Keyes - December 01, 2021 at 08:10 PM

CO

“ Oh Ed I am so very sorry. My daughter Angela called to tell me since Barbara was my grandsons reading teacher at the JCC. I loved running into her as we subbed together at Lourdes. Barb was one of a kind. Connie Gigliotti Forte

Connie - December 01, 2021 at 05:25 PM

LM

“ Ed, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. My deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Lisa McClethan - December 01, 2021 at 04:12 PM

FR

“ I had the pleasure of working with Barbara at Chicago Market on Mohawk Street. We both ended up as teachers. What a wonderful person she was. My sincere condolences are sent out to her family and friends. Frank Russo

Frank Russo - December 01, 2021 at 10:23 AM

DM

“ Donna Merhib lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Barbara A. (Tice) Keyes



Donna Merhib - December 01, 2021 at 08:38 AM

DM

“ Ms Tice as she was know at the beginning of her tracking career at Conkling school was the most wonderful teacher. My daughter loved her and wanted Ms Tice to be proud of her work so she worked very hard. One day she brought a note home (which we have always kept) and was so afraid for me to open it. It was such a beautiful letter telling me how polite and kind Lisa was. She made her students love school May she Rest In Peace.

Donna Merhib - December 01, 2021 at 08:37 AM

CH

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of Mrs Keyes. I was a student at Conkling School probably when she began her teaching career. I have never forgotten about her. She was a sweet and gentle soul. May she Rest In Peace.
Cathy H.

cathy huss - November 30, 2021 at 02:49 PM

RB

“ Rest In Peace my beautiful friend. I'll always cherish the wonderful years together at Jones School , the laughs and tears . Your students loved you and you will remain in my heart forever.

Rosemary Brown - November 30, 2021 at 02:36 PM

RB

“ Rosemary Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Barbara A. (Tice) Keyes



Rosemary Brown - November 30, 2021 at 02:32 PM

KM

“ My deepest condolences. I am saddened to hear of the passing of dear Mrs. Keyes. She was my teacher when I went to Conkling in the late 80s. I can't express how special she was. There are some teachers that leave an imprint on your heart and she was one of them. She was kind, loving, patient and funny! I never had another teacher like her. She made you feel so important and cared for. For Christmas she bought me a pair of heart shaped earrings that I wore for many years. Mrs. Keyes, may you rest in peace. Much love, Kari Macero

Kari Macero - November 29, 2021 at 09:30 PM

DI

These words are special to us. Thank you for sharing. She so loved her students and teaching.

Diana - November 29, 2021 at 09:47 PM

GJ

From our family in England, Pete, Jill, Nikki, Jon, Keah, Jo, Kern and Connie, we send our American loving family so much love and treasure the times we spent with Barbara and Ed on our wonderful visits. Barbara was a bright light in our lives and will remain so always.

gillian johnson - November 30, 2021 at 07:06 AM

RK

so sorry for your loss, eddie. from cousin richard

richard keyes - November 30, 2021 at 02:15 PM

KM

“ Kari Macero lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Barbara A. (Tice) Keyes



Kari Macero - November 29, 2021 at 09:27 PM

NP

“ So sad to hear this. Mrs. Keyes was a great teacher, one that stuck with you forever. She always checked in to see how I was doing. I'll always remember her kindness and the love we shared for Clay Aiken in the prime of American Idol . She even wrote me some sweet letters the summer after her class. I'll remember her forever.

Nicole Pupa - November 29, 2021 at 08:02 PM

KM

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Kari Macero - November 29, 2021 at 09:21 PM