



Drucilla Freeman Barbee

March 27, 1950 - December 16, 2018

Drucilla Freeman Barbee died peacefully in her sleep on December 16, 2018 in Sugar Hill, Georgia after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born on March 27, 1950 in Roanoke, Virginia; the daughter of Margie Hodges Freeman and the late Wilbur (Bill) Freeman.

In addition to her Father, she was preceded in death by a brother William Terrell Freeman; and two sisters, Donna Freeman Hawkins, and Patricia Freeman Amato.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by her husband Zeb J. (Jerry) Barbee III of Sugar Hill, GA, two sons, Taylor Wade Barbee of Sugar Hill, GA, and Zeb J. Barbee IV, and his wife Crystal Barbee and grandson Zeb J. Barbee V of Buford, GA, her sister Anita Freeman Phillips and husband Tom Phillips of Altavista, VA, and her brother Bryan Freeman and wife Angela Freeman of Philadelphia, PA, and numerous beloved nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews.

After graduating from Altavista High School and CVCC, she worked for VEPCO in Altavista, VA, Duke Power in Charlotte, NC, and Georgia Power in Atlanta, GA.

After her son Taylor was born with Down syndrome on March 9, 1985 Dru

became a dedicated and relentless advocate for people with intellectual disabilities, especially Down syndrome. She was the convention coordinator and resource specialist for the National Down Syndrome Congress headquartered in Atlanta. She held national conventions across the United States in places like Los Angeles, Miami, Wichita, Pittsburg, Washington, DC, Atlanta, St. Louis, and Dallas. Dru then served as the Executive Director of the Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta for several years.

Dru and Jerry fell in love in 1964 and were married in 1970. She was a loving wife to Jerry and a wonderful mother to her sons Taylor and Zeb. She enjoyed every weekend on her houseboat at Holiday Marina on Lake Sidney Lanier, just north of Atlanta, from 1981 until 2003. She was also a member of the Lake Lanier Ladies' Society sorority.

Prior to moving back to the Atlanta area in 2017 to be near her son Zeb IV, his wife Crystal, and grandson Zeb V, she was a devoted member of First Baptist Church in Altavista, VA where she served as a deacon, prepared communion, chaired the flower committee, taught Sunday school, and organized the Christmas decorations.

Her wish is to be cremated and her ashes scattered over Lake Lanier along with her husband's ashes. A memorial service will be held at the First Baptist Church in Altavista, VA on January 12 at 2 PM with Rev. Dr. Mike Lee officiating.

The family will receive friends in the fellowship hall immediately following the service, and at all other times at the home of her mother, Margie Freeman at 100 Kent Circle, Hurt, VA.

In lieu of flowers, she would like all who wish to honor her life to please consider the First Baptist Church in Altavista, VA.

Flanigan Funeral Home and Crematory of Buford, Georgia is assisting the family.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 12. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church
1001 Bedford Ave.
Altavista, VA 24517

Tribute Wall



“ *Marian sent a virtual gift in memory of Drucilla Freeman Barbee*



Marian - February 04, 2019 at 10:05 AM



“ *Marian lit a candle in memory of Drucilla Freeman Barbee*



Marian - February 04, 2019 at 10:05 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Drucilla Freeman Barbee.*



January 09, 2019 at 06:56 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Drucilla Freeman Barbee.*



January 09, 2019 at 12:14 PM

MM

“ Mike and Debra Meisel purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Drucilla Freeman Barbee.



Mike and Debra Meisel - January 08, 2019 at 11:01 AM

BM

“ Brian & Marie, Marcus & Michele purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Drucilla Freeman Barbee.



Brian & Marie, Marcus & Michele - January 07, 2019 at 09:24 AM

KA

“ Kay Tucker Addis lit a candle in memory of Drucilla Freeman Barbee



Kay Tucker Addis - December 23, 2018 at 09:34 AM



“ Dear Freeman and Barbee Family, I was sorry to hear about the passing of Dru.
Our thoughts and prayers are with your and your family.

Sincerely,
Dennis & Edie DeLappe

Dennis DeLappe - December 20, 2018 at 01:50 PM

LC

“ *may god comfort your family and strengthen you during your loss. memories are forever and she will surely be missed.*



lloyd catron - December 20, 2018 at 10:51 AM

DT

“ *Debbie Layne Thurman lit a candle in memory of Drucilla Freeman Barbee*



Debbie Layne Thurman - December 19, 2018 at 10:09 PM

JK

“ *Jerry, I am so sorry to hear the news of your lose. Drew was so sweet to us when Dad passed away and while we were in Altavista. She was a special person.*



Jeannie Kenney - December 19, 2018 at 05:21 PM

CP

“ *Cindi Parsons lit a candle in memory of Drucilla Freeman Barbee*



Cindi Parsons - December 19, 2018 at 01:27 PM

JR

“ *Dru and I were very close in several of our short walks in life. She was such a sweet girl, loving wife, and soooooo dedicated to her special boys. Truly a Beautiful person both inside and out.. She leaves a very empty space in the hearts of many as she departs from this earth. Thoughts & Prayers going out to Drucilla's family and especially to her husband Jerry.*



Julie Rountrey - December 19, 2018 at 12:04 PM

MW

“ *Myra Walker lit a candle in memory of Drucilla Freeman Barbee*



Myra Walker - December 19, 2018 at 08:56 AM

MW

“ *Mike & Jo Ann Weeks lit a candle in memory of Drucilla Freeman Barbee*



Mike & Jo Ann Weeks - December 18, 2018 at 07:49 PM

DR

“ *Thoughts and prayers to each family on the loss of one so dear.*

Darlene M Robertson - December 18, 2018 at 04:36 PM

DR

“ *Darlene M Robertson lit a candle in memory of Drucilla Freeman Barbee*



Darlene M Robertson - December 18, 2018 at 04:33 PM

LC

“ *Larry and Christy Coffman purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Drucilla Freeman Barbee.*



Larry and Christy Coffman - December 18, 2018 at 02:34 PM

PV

“ *Paul VanKerckhove lit a candle in memory of Drucilla Freeman Barbee*



Paul VanKerckhove - December 18, 2018 at 01:04 PM

JC

“ *So long for now sweet Dru. Our graduation class was a close one. You will be missed by each and everyone of us. What a wonderful mother you were Dru. Such an advocate for your son and devoted to your family. Your sense of humor was so great. So many fun times we had. I so enjoyed being your friend. Feeling sad for your family and many friends but happy for you in your new heavenly home. Until we meet again I will treasure my memories of you.*

Jane Chapman - December 18, 2018 at 09:00 AM

SS

“ Jerry and Family, I have such fond memories of our Southern Bell “group” in Lenoir and all the fun times we experienced!! Dru was always a bright light as we were all so young and enjoying living life as newlyweds!! Southern Bell took our lives in different directions, but thoughts of Dru were never far. Years passed and we were back in touch, I just wished I had been able to say good-bye sweet friend. Sending love and prayers to you Jerry and the rest of the family 💕

Susan Simpson - December 18, 2018 at 07:04 AM

JM

“ Jimmy Marr lit a candle in memory of Drucilla Freeman Barbee



Jimmy marr - December 17, 2018 at 09:18 PM



“ Jerry and all,
Heaven's gain is truly our loss. Dru was honestly one of the sweetest, dearest people I've ever known. Words are not adequate to express the sadness I feel for all of her loved ones. Thank you so much for sharing her with us at Avoca last summer. I'm so grateful I had the opportunity to give her a hug and say "love you". Know that you're all being lifted in prayer now and will be in the days to come.
Blessings,
Judy Finch

Judy Finch - December 17, 2018 at 08:07 PM

SB

“ My condolences goes out to Jerry and his Family I'm sorry for your loss she was a sweet person praying for your strength
Mrs. Shirley B. Taylor



Shirley B. Taylor - December 17, 2018 at 07:28 PM

KW

“ Kathy And Ray Walker lit a candle in memory of Drucilla Freeman Barbee



Kathy and Ray Walker - December 17, 2018 at 07:25 PM

AK

“ Big hugs and prayers to Margie and all the family.



Alice Krantz Keesee - December 17, 2018 at 04:41 PM

 Guy
Firor

“ TO ALL THE BARBEE FAMILY. OUR FAMILY FEELS FOR YOUR LOSS.

BEV AND GUY FIROR

Guy Firor - December 17, 2018 at 01:44 PM

MA

My heart goes out to you all. I only knew Dru for the few times that we talked. And I could see that she was a strong and good hearted person. So I can say to her mom ,husband and all other loving family members that she will never be truly gone. Dru will forever live within our heart and. Memories.

Marty - December 17, 2018 at 04:47 PM

ES

Sorry for your loss Jerry and boys. God bless you!

Etta Skinnell - December 17, 2018 at 11:48 PM

AP

“ 1 file added to the album *dru*



Anita Phillips - December 17, 2018 at 01:42 PM

SC

Prayers for you and your family ❤️🙏

scottie - December 17, 2018 at 06:24 PM

RH

Prayers for Jerry and family and her mom . Went to school with Dru all of our years. She was a beautiful and very sweet girl that I will never forget. Ronnie & Joan Hagood

Ronnie & Joan Hagood - December 18, 2018 at 10:08 AM

SH

*To the Barbee and Freeman family,
Dru was one of a kind. My childhood memories are full of times spent
at our grandparent's house, many sleepovers at our houses and early
years visiting at VT. You were always a daredevil and I willingly
followed you in our escapades. I always trusted and loved you. You will
be dearly missed.*

Sylvia Hodges Hutto

Sylvia Hutto - January 01, 2019 at 06:41 PM