



Barbara Joan Wasem

May 8, 1943 - February 22, 2026

Barbara Joan Wasem, age 82, passed away unexpectedly on February 22, 2026 surrounded by her family.

Born in San Francisco, CA on May 8, 1943, to Thomas J and Dorothy E Timmons, Barbara did not know a stranger and loved spending time with family and friends in both Visalia, CA and the Bitterroot Valley in Montana. She is survived by her husband John Wasem, her children Janet Martinusen (Jack) of Visalia CA, Brian Wasem (Amber) of Castro Valley, CA, Scott Wasem (Denise) of Visalia CA and Julie Wasem (Barbara) of San Francisco, CA, her 13 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and all of her beloved friends. She is also survived by her sister in-law Susan Sevier (Rodney) of San Diego, CA and her half-sister Laura (Marion) Timmons-Rowlinson of Connecticut. We cannot forget to include her constant canine companion, Charlie.

She was preceded in death by her parents Tom and Dorothy Timmons, her parents in-law Leota Wasem and John Wasem, as well as her stepmother in-law, Elaine Wasem and brother in-law William Wasem.

Barbara will be remembered for her positive attitude in life, her generous heart, her unending capacity to make her friends feel special, and her unwavering love of her family. She endured many physical hardships, yet never complained.

In her early years in San Diego, Barbara was captain of her high school flag team in 1960/61 and sorority queen for Beta Sigma Phi in 1966.

Barbara worked for Visalia Unified School District in many capacities over the decades, retiring as a school secretary in 2001. She was awarded the Visalia Educational Foundation Certificate of Recognition at Golden Oak Elementary School in 1997 and the Classified Employee of the Year prior to her retirement.

She was involved in many of her kids' school and sports activities throughout her life. If it involved her kids and their activities, she was always there to help. Barbara assisted her husband John and a few others in bringing AYSO soccer Region 129 to Visalia back in 1976.

After John and Barbara married in 1962, they spent their first years together in National City, CA (1962 -1966) and San Jose, CA (1966-1976). John's work brought them to Visalia, CA in 1976.

For the past 37 years, John and Barbara have divided their time between Visalia, California and the Bitterroot Valley of Montana, where they have many cherished friends in both communities.

Barbara was a member of Good Shepherd Catholic Parish in Visalia, CA and St Francis of Assisi Parish in Hamilton, MT.

A rosary will be prayed for Barbara Friday, March 20, 2026 at 7 pm at Salser and Dillard 127 E Caldwell Visalia CA, with a Memorial Mass at 1pm Saturday, March 21, 2026 St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church 5049 W Caldwell Visalia CA.

A Celebration of Life reception will be held immediately following at the Visalia Country Club 625 N Ranch Rd Visalia CA.

A memorial service will be held for Barbara in Montana later this summer.

Cemetery Details

St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church

5049 W Caldwell
Visalia, CA 93277

Previous Events

Rosary

MAR 20. 7:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave.
Visalia, CA 93277

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 21. 1:00 PM (PT)

St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
5049 W Caldwell
Visalia, CA 93277

Burial

MAR 21. 2:00 PM (PT)

St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
5049 W Caldwell
Visalia, CA 93277

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Barbara Joan Wasem*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - March 20 at 10:03 AM

SC

“ *Mobile Webcast of the following services...*

--Funeral Mass on Saturday March 21st at 1:00pm from St. Charles Catholic Church

--Committal on Saturday March 21st at 2:00pm from St. Charles Columbarium

<https://www.viewlogies.net/salser-and-dillard/cLd6851Mo?pin=921155>

Salser and Dillard Funeral Chapel - March 12 at 11:16 AM

VW

“ *Vicky Welch, Anna Sanchez & Jess Willis purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Barbara Joan Wasem.*



Vicky Welch, Anna Sanchez & Jess Willis - March 12 at 11:09 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Barbara Joan Wasem.



March 11 at 12:55 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Barbara Joan Wasem.

March 11 at 12:55 PM



“ Love, Myra and Lenette purchased the Beautiful i n Blue for the family of Barbara Joan Wasem.



Love, Myra and Lenette - March 10 at 10:32 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Barbara Joan Wasem.



March 08 at 01:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Barbara Joan Wasem.

March 08 at 01:14 PM

BR

“ 1 file added to the album Family Photos



Brian - March 06 at 01:30 AM

LA

Love this photo! I will always remember Barbara's warm smile, soft voice and kind heart! Laura

Laura - March 07 at 12:15 AM

CL

“ *My heart breaks for you! John, Janet, Brian, Scott and Julie, I have nothing but wonderful memories of Barbara and the whole family. Barbara touched many lives with her vibrancy and caring ways and was a treasure to all who were lucky enough to have been blessed with her presence. Her light will continue to shine brightly in the sky above. In loving memory, Cyndi Lee*

Cynthia J Waters Lee - March 05 at 01:40 PM

MP

“ *My condolences to the whole family on the loss of Barbara. She has been an example and light to all who had the pleasure of knowing her. Now she can rest in peace and reap the rewards of a life well lived. Mary Lou Paquette*

Mary Lou Paquette - March 04 at 11:46 AM

JM

Thank you Mary Lou - she loved life and everyone she met!

janet martinusen - March 05 at 07:55 PM

MM

Our deepest sympathy John to you and your family. I have such great memories of Barbara. We had so many special times working together at Elbow School. She will be greatly missed. Love and prayers. Mary & Chuck Maness

Mary Maness - March 06 at 02:13 PM