Barbara Jean Helgesen



March 22,1932 - October 21, 2026

Barbara Helgesen, former long-time Chino resident, passed away on October 21, 2026 at the age of 94. She came into this world on March 22, 1932 in Pomona. She was the first of three children born to John and Lena Vanderziel, who moved their family from Pomona to Chino around 1940. Barbara was an honor student as well as active in student government and sports during her time at Chino Junior-Senior High School, graduating in 1949. Barbara also attended Chaffey College and then worked as a teller and head cashier at the Chino branch of the Bank of America for several years. She enjoyed singing and was blessed with a beautiful voice which was often used in choral groups and other singing opportunities.

Barbara married Frank Helgesen in September 1955 and they resided together in Chino until 2000, at which time they moved to Menifee. Frank, who passed away in January of 2020, was a mail carrier in Chino for over 30 years and they both had many friends, relatives and acquaintances in the Inland Valley area. She was active for many years in her High School Reunion group and the couple also attended many Chino Pioneer Picnics.

Survivors include her devoted daughter, Nancy; six grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and brother, Chuck Vanderziel. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Frank, son Rick, and brother Ed Vanderziel.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Todd Memorial Chapel located at 570 N. Garey Avenue in Pomona and include a viewing starting at 10 a.m. to be followed by a memorial service at 11a.m. on Monday, November 16, 2026.

Following these events, a 3 p.m. graveside service will be held at Forest Lawn Covina Hills. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Barbara's memory to Tunnels to Tower Foundation or any other veterans organization of your choice.