



Barbara Ann Hamaker Bartlett

February 29, 1932 – August 29, 2021

Barbara Ann Hamaker Bartlett, aka “Ornery as Ever”, 89, passed away Sunday, August 29th at her daughter’s home in Queen Creek.

Born February 29, 1932 in New Orleans, she was adopted by Rex Gerome Hamaker and Mary Rebecca Fall Hamaker of Houston, Texas and grew up in the River Oaks community in Houston. While attending Lamar High School, she was active and lettered in various sports including swimming, archery and riflery. She was proud of the fact that she outshot several members of the Coolidge Police Department.

Her parents owned Rex Ranch, a resort/dude ranch in Amado, AZ. After spending many vacations and summers there, Barbara fell in love with Arizona and chose to attend the University of Arizona where she could enjoy the desert and the ranch. She followed her mother’s footsteps and pledged the Delta Delta Delta (Tri-Delt) sorority while majoring in Physical Education and swimming with the Synchronized Swimming Team.

It was at the U of A that she met the dashing Worth K. Bartlett, whom she wed on Aug. 22, 1952 in Houston, Texas. As newlyweds, they moved to Coolidge where Worth could take over the family farm.

There the young couple were involved in the Presbyterian Church, square dancing, community theater and the HoHoKam Country Club. Barbara was a member of several women’s organizations including PEO.

Barbara always dreamed of having six children and Worth told her that if she had them, he’d feed them, so they did: Bruce Edward (Thonetta), Brenda Moeller (Dirk), Bradley Lee (Suzy), Brooks Kenower (Kimberly), Bronson Worth (Grace) and Bryan Rex. She always referred to her children as “The Beehive”. They also became grandparents to 11 grandchildren: Julien, Jerid and Krista Bartlett (mother: Anna Bartlett), Trenton Moeller and Kirstin Kasgnoc, Mike Wagner and Kyle Bartlett, Mitchell, Rex and William Bartlett and Jordan Bartlett. Also, great-grandparents to Dane Peterson, Logan and Ethan Wagner with another great-grandchild due in March.

Being a mother was Barbara’s greatest passion and she was very involved in her children’s lives, activities and schooling. She served as a cub scout, girl scout and 4H leader, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teacher, volunteered at kids’ schools, as well as taught lifesaving and water safety courses.

Not only was she involved in her children’s lives but those of her grandchildren as well. “Grammy” seldom missed a game, a performance, or celebration.

Once her youngest child entered kindergarten, Barbara entered the work force, working at Producers Gin, Pinal Photo and Pat’s Pharmacy. She began working at the Arizona State Prison, Eyman Complex as an inmate records clerk in March 1992 until her retirement in November 2020. A job that she loved and spoke about with much pride and accomplishment.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Worth, her son, Bradley and her brother, Rex.

Services will be at the First Presbyterian Church of Florence on Sept. 18th at 10 a.m. with a reception at the Coolidge Florence Elks Club following the burial.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Mayo Clinic, American Cancer Society or your favorite charity or church are appreciated.