



Barbara J. Novak

June 7, 1930 - August 7, 2020

Barbara Jean Novak, 90, of Presque Isle, passed away on August 7th in Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

A graveside service for family and close friends will be held at 10 AM on Wednesday, August 12th at Presque Isle cemetery. Arrangements are by Bolger Funeral Home. A celebration of life will be held in the future when travel and gatherings are safe.

Barb was born in Pontiac, Michigan to Alice and Harold Rioux on June 7th, 1930. She spent her childhood near Clarkston, Michigan.

Barb pursued education all of her life, graduating with a Bachelor of the Arts degree from Taylor University in Indiana and a Master's degree from the University of Colorado. She taught middle and elementary school in Illinois, Florida, and Wisconsin. She met her husband, Jules - a fishing guide, when she vacationed in Presque Isle. They were married on April 19th, 1962 in Florida. They were both avid hunters, fishermen, and loved the North Woods.

Barb developed many lifelong friendships in and around the water which was one of her first loves. She was a Mariner Girl Scout as a youth, was an avid water-skier, slaloming Van Vliet lake into her 70's, and sharing her boating enthusiasm as a Boating Safety instructor for over 25 years. For nearly 50

years she lived surrounded by water, on the Van Vliet lake Island, where she first fell in love with Jules. In her later years, she wrote about some of her island adventures in a local newspaper column, "The View from the Middle of the Lake."

Barb loved dogs and was often seen with her English Pointer companions around the lake and in town. She traveled to Alaska and became a fan of the Iditarod sled dog race.

Barb had a passion for U.S. history and was an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and was honored in 2016 by the Stevens Point chapter for over 35 years of service.

Barbara is preceded in death by her husband Jules, her brother Robert, and granddaughter Shannon. She is survived by her sons Jay and Jon Novak, sister Lorraine Dahl of Danville California, grandchildren Josh, Suvi, Eli, Alexis, and Brent Novak, Valerie Orłowski, Jodi Demolas, and great-grandson Michael Orłowski.

Memorials may be given to the Discovery Center (discoverycenter.net).

Barb's family wishes to extend sincere thanks to her Northwoods neighbors and the Frandy family for frequent visits, the Church of Manitowish Waters for ongoing spiritual support, and the Ministry Hospice.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

Presque Isle, WI 54557

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 12. 10:00 AM (CT)

Evergreen Cemetery
Presque Isle, WI 54557

Tribute Wall

RT

“ Harvey Tengler, my dad went to HighSchool with Jack Novak. Barbara was a wonderful person to have as a close friend. I will cherish memories.Renee.

Renee Tengler - October 17, 2020 at 05:52 PM

EF

“ I met Mrs. Novak when I worked at Alpine Resort across the lake from 2004-2006. She helped me get caught up on my grades one summer so I could graduate and eventually go to college. She even got me something really nice for Christmas one year. As I sit here in my jon boat next to her island, I have fond memories of the time I spent on Van Vleit and how Mrs. Novak was always nice to me.

E. James F. - September 07, 2020 at 01:32 PM

SC

“ Barb was a wonderfully active member of our Daughters of the American Revolution- Nokomis Chapter, based in Rhinelander, WI, for many years. She was dedicated to the organization, engaging in various activities, including fundraising and new member recruitment. Barb ultimately served as our Chapter Regent from 1995-1999, moving on to become the Wisconsin State Chaplain. We wish to send our sincere condolences to Barb's family and friends.

Daughters of the American Revolution
Nokomis Chapter

Susan Clark - August 19, 2020 at 01:52 PM

LB

“ *Condolences to family and friends.
I will always remember Barb for her wonderful stories. She loved her lake and the Northwoods. We had many conversations about lake life, US history, fishing, the list can go on. She was a great story teller. She will be missed dearly*

Laura B - August 16, 2020 at 02:36 PM



“ *Rose Impression Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Barbara J. Novak.*



August 10, 2020 at 06:29 PM

CB

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Carol Barry - August 10, 2020 at 11:21 AM

CB

Dear Ed and Jay, I am so saddened to hear about your mom's passing. It was ten years ago this week that I got up to northern WI to visit her and we had a marvelous time. In the photo above she drove us around Presque Isle Lake in the pontoon boat.

Your mom was best friends with my aunt, Roberta Finland. My aunt brought me along every summer to visit Barb and Jules on the island after I turned 12. Those trips are my best childhood memories. Your mom enthusiastically taught me boating safety (dump from the canoe in my clothes), water safety, and how to water ski. We had many enchanting canoe trips. Your mom and my aunt were both extroverts and uniquely independent women of their time. Their independent approach to life rubbed off on me for which I'm forever thankful. Barb has always meant a lot to me and I will miss her. I extend you my deepest sympathies.

Carol Barry (Vandalia, OH)

Carol Barry - August 11, 2020 at 10:50 AM

DH

“*Jon and Jay, We are so sorry to hear about your mother. My parents, Dave and Jean Evans, owned Alpine Lodge for several years. We all had a close friendship with your parents. I spent time on the Island, and time in the water with your mother. You were born on my husband's birthday! Jim and I were able to visit your mother in Minocqua a few years ago, and took her a couple pictures. Don't know if she was able to see them very well, but we had a nice visit. She mentioned how it was my mother who got her involved with the Community Church in Manitowish Waters. Your mother was one of a kind, and I enjoyed being with her when I lived on Van Vliet. I'll never forget the time she spent teaching me Life Saving in the water, especially with tipping over a canoe with our clothes on! So many good memories.*

Donna(Evans) and Jim Hansen

Donna Hansen - August 09, 2020 at 01:58 PM

DP

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you and your families,*

Debby Patterson - August 09, 2020 at 11:09 AM