



Barbara Jean Fulton

February 4, 1951 - June 6, 2025

Barbara Jean Fulton was born February 4, 1951 to Robert and Evelo Fulton in Charlotte, Michigan and passed peacefully from this world on June 6, 2025. This is how most obituaries begin, but as Barbara has requested, this one will not be a listing of things she did or places she lived or attended school. This, at her request and wholly in true celebration of her life, is a collaborative effort and focuses on the values, principles, beliefs and ideals that formed her character, reflected her passion and created her legacy.

From the very beginning, she was loving and loyal, devoted to her extended family and friends. She was curious and interested in learning from every interaction with people, nature, academia, and all aspects of problem-solving. She was courageous and adventurous, and a collector; of people, animals, rocks, and ideas. Most of all, she was a creative thinker and educator, innovator and collaborator. Barbara used her experience, compassion, and endless energy to bring ideas to fruition. She imagined and believed in possibilities and the people who could and would implement them.

Barbara embodied living a life with purpose and abundance. Her efforts in bringing Alive into being at a time when most were focused on economic downturn, was a triumph of belief in the healing power of generosity. As Director of Eaton Community Health, she reinvigorated the collaboration among social service agencies and focused on the "upstream" solutions to

healthcare problems. The phrase "healthy communities" in measuring the impact of programming owes much to Barbara's involvement.

Anyone, family, friend or stranger who met Barbara found that she was not one for "small talk", but instead asked questions designed to find commonality and, even better, a shared passion for a hobby, a cause, course of study or other pursuit. She had an extraordinary gift for reminding us that moments matter, that shared laughter, simple gestures, and meaningful experiences are where life's deepest joys are found. A nurturer in the truest sense, she taught by example that generosity and connection come from sharing time, attention, belief, and love.

Barbara was an ultimate event planner. Her parties, whether for family, friends, community, business or a club always had a theme (and usually wine!) Whatever the purpose, people had a wonderful experience, in large part because Barbara focused on the enjoyment of those attending. In addition to events she planned, Barbara showed up for her family and friends. She attended games, concerts, graduations and other events for her siblings, nieces, nephews and on down to the next generations. No one was a greater cheerleader than Aunt Barbara.

She leaves behind a legacy of creativity, imagination, collaboration, dedication and generosity of spirit. Barbara was a shining example of a life beautifully lived. Barbara is survived by her beloved husband, Richard Butman, with whom she shared so many adventures, interests and experiences, her siblings, Christi (Tom) Dutcher, Kathie (Chuck) Cook and Mike (Janice) Fulton, her cousins, Wes Fredenburg and Sarah Collick, her nieces and nephews, Jennifer (Doug) Reed, Becky (Bob) Elkins, Matt (Jessica Hix) Cook, Rob (Shannan) Cook, Ben (Chelsea) Fulton, Emily (Aki) Zecic and Andrew (Alyssa) Fulton, as well as many great-nieces and great-nephews and great-great-nieces and nephews, many more extended family members and a host

of friends and collaborators.

Friends are encouraged to support Barbara's family by attending services or sharing memories on her Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com <<http://www.prayfuneral.com>>. Visitation is from 2:00 - 4:00 and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 22, 2025 at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. A Memorial Service will be at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, June 23, 2025 at First Congregational Church of Charlotte. Interment will take place in Maple Hill Cemetery in Charlotte. The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to www.prayfuneral.com <<http://www.prayfuneral.com>>, click on Barbara's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). Memorial contributions may be made to Eaton Community Health (ECH), the Charlotte Generosity Fund or the Forest Garden Project. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 22. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

JUN 22. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

JUN 23. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Congregational Church of Charlotte
106 S. Bostwick
Charlotte, MI 48813

Memorial

JUN 23. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church of Charlotte
106 S. Bostwick
Charlotte, MI 48813

Graveside

JUN **23**. 12:30 PM - 12:45 PM (ET)

Maple Hill Cemetery
801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Barbara Jean Fulton*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - June 22, 2025 at 02:33 PM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Barbara Jean Fulton*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - June 21, 2025 at 11:21 AM



“ *I believe this is Al and Will Fulton in downtown Charlotte. I believe that is her Grandfather on the right. Sorry if I am wrong*



David Remi - June 29, 2025 at 03:40 PM



1932

David Remi - June 29, 2025 at 03:41 PM

LK

“ Leanne K. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Fulton.

Leanne K. - June 23, 2025 at 11:09 AM

SD

“ The beginning of a special friendships



Sheery Disler - June 22, 2025 at 07:29 PM

JB

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Jennifer Buciencki - June 22, 2025 at 04:52 PM

GH

“ Genae H. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Fulton.

Genae H. - June 22, 2025 at 12:05 PM

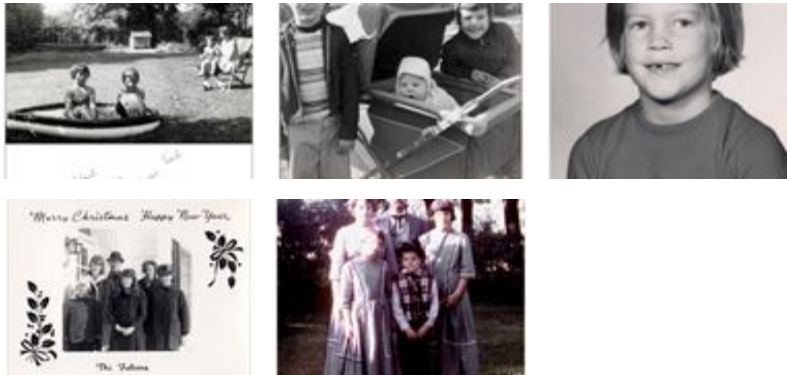


“ I was so sorry to see that Barb had passed. My deepest condolences to her entire family. I was Barb's housemate on Oakland Drive while in WMU graduate school from 1978-1979. During that time, I admired her positive outlook, focus on others, and ability to achieve a good work-life balance. She was committed to a healthy lifestyle and prepared delicious Pritikin meals. I'll never forget the line dancing, 3-house party, and our symposium on women's issues. She suggested that I bring a Pritikin dessert (some kind of apple crisp) to my Masters orals and it was very well received! My husband Bob and I had a chance to visit her in Charlotte several years ago, meet her husband and her father, see some of the town, and visit the Fulton Hardware Store. She made salmon salads for us at the house. She will be greatly missed!

Genae Hall - June 22, 2025 at 11:57 AM



“ 81 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - June 21, 2025 at 11:19 AM

GH

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Genae Hall - June 20, 2025 at 01:14 PM

JH

“ Joan H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Fulton.

Joan H. - June 20, 2025 at 12:12 PM

DR

“ Dillon R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Fulton.

Dillon R. - June 20, 2025 at 11:13 AM

TF

“ The Pattons, Wallace's & Hughes families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Fulton.

The Pattons, Wallace's & Hughes families - June 19, 2025 at 06:41 PM

TF

“ *The Pattons, Wallace's & Hughes families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Barbara Jean Fulton.*



The Pattons, Wallace's & Hughes families - June 19, 2025 at 06:41 PM

ML

“ *Mike and Deb Loucks will miss our friend, neighbor and community collaborator. A grove of three trees will be planted in her honor. Rest assured in Peace Barbara*

MJ Loucks - June 19, 2025 at 06:29 PM



“ *A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Barbara Jean Fulton.*

June 19, 2025 at 06:21 PM

DS

“ *Don and Michele Sare purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Barbara Jean Fulton.*



Don and Michele Sare - June 18, 2025 at 08:23 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Fulton.*



June 18, 2025 at 11:38 AM



“ *Andy, Jo Ann, Sarah, Amy & family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Barbara Jean Fulton.*



Andy, Jo Ann, Sarah, Amy & family - June 13, 2025 at 04:16 PM



“ *Andy, Jo Ann, Sarah, Amy & family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Fulton.*

Andy, Jo Ann, Sarah, Amy & family - June 13, 2025 at 04:16 PM

TW

“ Barbara held such a special place in my heart and I miss her so. I worked with her for many years in California, and we quickly became friends – sharing not only the challenges and triumphs of the job but also the adventures and antics of our friendship. Although we didn’t see each other often after she returned to Charlotte, we remained friends and kept in touch.

I have always admired Barbara for her joyful spirit, her kindness and her ability to stay positive and motivate those around her, no matter the situation. She was and is an inspiration. She was one of a kind, a very beautiful soul.

I wish her family peace and serenity.

Tamara Williams - June 12, 2025 at 09:52 AM

RW

I was lucky enough to become Barbara's assistant in California when I was only 18 years old! She was my first "real boss" in the "corporate world". She was so patient and encouraging. Every day was a joy to work with her. She treated me as an equal and encouraged me to grow and learn. I also was not a dog lover bc I'd been attacked as a child, and she brought this sweet golden retriever puppy (Sundance) into work with her. I was smitten!! Since then, I have been a retriever mom and adore the breed! Oh, how I miss her. So thankful that I got to be her assistant, but mostly, that I got to call her friend. She will be missed.

Rebecca Wer - June 13, 2025 at 07:24 PM

JS

“ I met Barb at WMU, when we were both undergraduates in a morally compelling Psych program. She perfectly fit the imperative of being a positive force in helping others and making the world a better place. . I’ve known her over 50 years. Sometimes scarcely, but always the same...she was just a good soul, doing good work. The world is less in her absence. My deepest condolences to her loves, friends and family. She will be missed. My heart is heavy.

Joe Savage - June 10, 2025 at 06:57 PM

LA

“ Sending our Deepest Condolences to the family of Barbara J. Fulton

Sincerely, Eaton Community Palliative Care



LaTonya - June 10, 2025 at 02:31 PM



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

June 10, 2025 at 12:11 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Fulton.



June 10, 2025 at 12:11 PM

KJ

“ Barbara is a force of nature (of course I'm not talking the destructive kind). Barbara entered every conversation with intention. She smiled because she truly wanted to. She inquired because she truly cared. She left you feeling lighter and seen and important. Barbara is extraordinary. She will continue to inspire me everyday.

Kori Johns - June 09, 2025 at 08:46 PM

EF

“ I met Barbara when Alive was in its early stages; again when I served on the HGB board; and participated with her for ECH. She was inspiring, gracious, always positive and passionate about improving our community. A light will be missing in the world, yet her legacy will fill the void. Thank you Barbara for your friendship. God Bless.

Eileen Phaner - June 09, 2025 at 08:15 PM

AF

“ We are so sorry to hear of Barbara's passing. My husband, Don Foster worked with Barbara at Alive and I was a volunteer at Hayes Green Beach under Barbara's supervision. It was a pleasure to work with her.

May you RIP Barbara Fulton 🙏🙏❤️❤️

Angie & Don Foster - June 09, 2025 at 07:47 PM

MB

“ I only knew her for an hour or two of short business conversations and emails. She was delightful, smart and friendly. Someone you would like as a friend or neighbor.

In the business of food insecurity, I occasionally meet a real angel. She was one, I always felt better after our short calls.

Mike Buchser Bell and Howell

“Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life”

Mary Oliver

Mike Buchser - June 09, 2025 at 03:35 PM



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

June 09, 2025 at 09:38 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Fulton.



June 09, 2025 at 09:38 AM

TR

“ Barbara was a such beautiful person in so many ways. May we all strive to be more like her.

Tracy Russman - June 09, 2025 at 09:08 AM

MC

“ My prayers and love to the Fulton Family... Barbara always presented herself with a smile, was approachable and proud of the Charlotte community. She emulated many of the traits acquired through her parents. She once helped with a Charlotte history website my students were working on. She was a wealth of information and embraced preserving the history of Charlotte. A true educator. I'm sorry to hear of her passing.

Monique T Colizzi - June 08, 2025 at 09:15 PM

DL

“ Sending our deepest condolences to the whole Fulton family. Barb reminded me so much of her mother Evelo which always made me smile. Barb was a genuinely kind and loving person whose influence can be seen throughout Charlotte. She brought so much enthusiasm and positive energy to each of her projects to make everything better. She will be greatly missed but her spirit and touch will be a lasting legacy. May your happy memories help to ease your pain of loss. With deepest sympathy from Donna Leahy and family

Donna Leahy - June 08, 2025 at 10:03 AM

JV

“ Barbara, as said previously, was a champion of the causes she took up; the sheer embodiment of whatever effort she was pursuing, which of course is deeply attractive. The result is a community perpetually activated, advancing towards a better version of itself. I'm thankful that Barbara chose to involve me and my business, just one among her many companions. I will sorely miss her enthusiasm and encouragement.

Jacob Vanator - June 08, 2025 at 09:59 AM

CG

“ *Barbra will never be forgotten. Her kind energy and love for others changed my life in such an impactful way. I will forever be grateful to her.*

Calley Green - June 07, 2025 at 08:47 PM

DS

“ *The Charlotte community has lost one of the finest community leaders with Barb's passing. Like her dad before her and setting the example, Barb served with passion and integrity. I have no doubt she inspired many to reach their potential and use their God-given talents to make the world around them a better place. Steve and I send our deepest condolences to the Fulton family. Barb will be missed but her impact on our community will live on forever!*

Deb Shaughnessy - June 07, 2025 at 08:32 PM

JT

“ *Kathy and I send our deepest condolences. Barbara was a force of nature who we greatly admired and felt lucky to have known. Rest in peace dear friend.*

Jon and Kathy Tomlanovich - June 07, 2025 at 04:23 PM

AM

“ *My deepest condolences to the Fulton family, This lady excelled in her convictions as all Fultons have done through the years. She leaves a legacy that will be unmatched through time, and appreciated by many. May the family find solace in her passing, RIP Barbara.*

Aaron Maurer - June 07, 2025 at 11:21 AM

SJ

“ My deepest condolences to the entire Fulton family, her husband and countless friends. I did not have the privilege of knowing Barbara well as she moved back to Charlotte after we moved to Nevada. But I know her parents were so proud of her and thrilled when she moved back to Charlotte. Her efforts to bring ALIVE to fruition will benefit the entire community for many years to come. I know you are now with Bob and Evelo and the remainder of your loving family who were such an integral part of the fabric of Charlotte.

Susan Joostberns - June 07, 2025 at 11:13 AM

DB

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Barb's passing. I didn't know her well as I was in Christi's class. She sounds like an amazing person and will be well remembered for her many achievements. Christi, you and your whole family will be in my thoughts.

Diane Betts - June 06, 2025 at 04:20 PM

TR

“ Condolences to the Fulton family, may the Lord give you comfort and peace.

Thomas Raymond - June 06, 2025 at 03:37 PM

AP

“ Angel Pedelty lit a candle in memory of Barbara Jean Fulton



Angel Pedelty - June 06, 2025 at 01:53 PM

LC

“ Truly a woman of character. My sincere condolences to her family. A family who always made you feel like one of theirs. Rest in heaven Barb.

Laura Cooper - June 06, 2025 at 01:31 PM

CB

“ Chuck Brandon lit a candle in memory of Barbara Jean Fulton



Chuck Brandon - June 06, 2025 at 01:24 PM

TE

“ Tom Eveland planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Fulton.

Tom Eveland - June 06, 2025 at 01:21 PM

TE

“ Tom Eveland purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Barbara Jean Fulton.



Tom Eveland - June 06, 2025 at 01:21 PM

AW

“ *Barbara, your legacy is ALIVE!*

Not many people can say they led the creation of a beautiful, and well used wellness center for their beloved home community. When I visit Charlotte, I always make a trip to at least to the salad bar of ALIVE! Thank you, Barbara for your generosity of spirit and your great vision.

As a neighbor and close friend to Christie through our school years, I saw Barbara as I saw my own sister, her same age, cute and slightly pesky, two years younger than us, but also as bright lights in their own world doing their own thing!

Sorry I didn't get to know Barbara as an adult, except for a few phone calls once I found out she was living in Eastern California. Too far for casual visits, but I did plan a trip across the mountains one time, but didn't go.

I feel this is one of those things that you say after someone is gone, you wish you had tried harder. I'll be glad to hear everyone else's stories and get to know Barbara better through this beautiful eulogy and the testament to her personality and abilities!

Blessings, dear Barb, may you travel in peace as you enter a new world.

Annie (Bogner) Waters

Ann Bogner Waters - June 06, 2025 at 01:09 PM

TH

I met Barb while volunteering at the the, Hayes-Green-Beach hospital. What an amazing & energetic personality & I was so impressed by her positive spin on absolutely any topic!! She was a beautiful person and I'm very honored to have known her and called her "friend". I honestly think that everyone she ever met was considered her friend, she was truly a remarkable person. ❤️ RIP my friend.

Toni Hartig - June 08, 2025 at 11:11 AM