



## Roberta Lee Barnett

January 4, 1938 - February 21, 2022

Roberta Lee Ellison Barnett was born to the late Robert Major and Grace Likes Ellison on January 4, 1938, in Rural Bluffs, Illinois (often referred to as Naples Lane) and died February 21, 2022, in Gilbert, Arizona at the age of 84.

Roberta attended Oxville School for early elementary and then to Bluffs School to begin her 6th grade year. She graduated as valedictorian of Bluffs High School Class of 1956.

Roberta attended Colorado State University and graduated from Northeast Missouri State Teachers College (Truman State University) in 1960 with a degree in Domestic Science (Home Economics). She began her teaching career in Kansas City, Missouri at Northeast Junior High, where she taught for two years. She continued her teaching career at Windsor High School in Windsor, Missouri for the next five years. Roberta then relocated back to Bluffs, Illinois (rural area) and taught elementary school for the next 33 years. In her 40 years of teaching, it is estimated she had an impact on an estimated 1,000 students. She was truly an educator at heart.

Roberta was blessed with a loving family and friends. She married her best friend and fellow classmate since the 6th grade, Fred Barnett on August 21, 1961, in Jacksonville, Illinois. Roberta helped raise two children: Michael and Melissa, with patience, humility, and lots of love.

Roberta enjoyed reading, writing, doing crafts, and taking long family trips to see the natural beauty of every state in the USA. There was not a butterfly or US Flag she did not love. She was kind and soft spoken. She always made time to listen to every story or problem you wanted to share no matter how big or small. She will be dearly missed by her loved ones.

Roberta is survived by her husband Fred, son and daughter-in-law Michael and Kathleen Barnett, daughter Melissa Barnett-Carr, and grandchildren Steven and Samuel Barnett and Myles and Malia Carr.

A funeral service will be held 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 26, 2022, at the Daws Family Funeral Home in Bluffs with interment at Hillcrest Cemetery in Bluffs. A visitation will be held Friday, March 25, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to St. Jude Children's Hospital or Hillcrest Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Hillcrest Cemetery

Bluffs, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAR 25.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Daws Family Funeral Home - Bluffs  
109 East Oak Street  
Bluffs, IL 62694  
(217) 754-3595  
mackeydawsfuneralhome@yahoo.com

## Service

**MAR 26.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Daws Family Funeral Home - Bluffs  
109 East Oak Street  
Bluffs, IL 62694  
(217) 754-3595  
mackeydawsfuneralhome@yahoo.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Roberta Lee Barnett*

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January 28, 2023 at 11:11 AM



“ *Fred, Melissa, Mike and All of the Family,  
We are so sorry to hear of Roberta's passing, you have our sincere  
condolences.  
Until several years ago (when they moved), whenever I would see  
Roberta (and Fred)  
anywhere, they would always stop to visit, Roberta would always  
greet me with her sweet smile and spirit and her caring, unhurried  
manner.  
May God comfort you in the coming days ahead.  
Susan (Placke) and Byron Hamman*

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**Susan and Byron Hamman** - March 30, 2022 at 10:28 AM

PK

“ There are so many memories I have of my beloved cousin, Roberta! She was 15 years older than me and seemed like a fairy princess. I was so proud that we shared the same middle and last names! And she was so beautiful and full of joy! My earliest memories are of being so excited that she was coming home from college for Christmas vacation and we would be going up to our grandparent's farm to celebrate with all our aunts and uncles and cousins, and then on to Bluffs to spend time with her and Uncle Maj and Aunt Grace! I remember how much fun we had decorating the Christmas tree! To a 6 or 7-year-old it was magical!

She was also such an inspiration to me to "go away" to college since she had gone to Colorado State. I went the opposite direction (to Texas) but I would never have ventured that far if she had not done it before me. Then as happens, when you grow out of childhood, you begin to live your own life, and can lose touch with family. We saw each other occasionally whenever I came back home from college or there were family reunions. But as we grew older, I remember cherishing the times we were together. And most recently, we shared such a special time together when she and Fred came to Texas, along with Mike and Melissa, to experience Myles's amazing career at Texas A&M Kingsville. Those are such special memories!

I'm not sure what I will miss the most about her ... her genuine interest in what was going on in my life, and the questions that came from her inquisitive mind; or her soft, lilting voice; or hearing her say, "Love you back!" every time we ended a phone conversation. She was the keeper of our Ellison family history, and any answers I don't have now, are lost for future generations, so I will safeguard all she shared with me for my nieces and nephews.

To Fre, Mike, Melissa, Myles, Malia, Stephen, and Sam... She loved you all so much and I am grateful that I got to experience a little of that love for myself. I hope we can all keep that love alive and stay in touch. I know she would want that. I will be there with you in my

*spirit and my heart on the 26th!*

*Love y'all!*

*Pamela Lee Ellison Kohler*

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**Pamela Lee Ellison Kohler** - March 17, 2022 at 05:38 PM

PK

“ There are so many memories of my beloved cousin, that it's hard to know which ones to share. Being 15 years older than me, Roberta was like a fairy princess in my eyes. As a little girl, I was thrilled that we shared the same middle and last names! And I remember how excited I was to know she was coming home from college and we would be going to the farm to see her and Uncle Maj and Aunt Grace! I have such fond memories of waiting for her to come home on Christmas vacation and decorating the Christmas tree with her. To a 6 or 7-year-old, it was magical! There was a lot of laughter that accompanied every visit she came home. I wanted to be just like her ... to the point that she inspired me to be adventurous and "go away" to college, too. As often happens, when families live several states apart, you enter into seasons of "living your own life", so there were years when she lived in Missouri, and then me in Texas, where we didn't see each other very often. But I am extremely grateful for the reconnections when I would visit back in Illinois, and most recently, when she and Fred and their family came together with me and my husband, Mark, in Texas. I will hold those memories in my heart and treasure them forever! It's hard to think about what I will miss the most ... the loving way she was always interested in everything going on in my life; that soft, lilting voice; or the way she always told me, "Love you back"! She was the connection to my family history and now it's up to me to pass it on to those who are interested. To Fred, Mike, Melissa, Myles, Malia, Stephen and Sam ... I know how much she loved all of you, and how much we will all miss her! She left such a legacy and I love you all!

*Pamela Lee Ellison Kohler*

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**Pamela Lee Ellison Kohler** - March 17, 2022 at 05:11 PM

ST

“ I remember her teaching me in grade school, she is a very caring, soft spoken woman. A woman that I looked up to as a friend and mother figure, she will be greatly missed by me. Love and Hugs to the family. Love Sherri Taylor

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**Sherri Taylor** - March 11, 2022 at 07:16 PM

RO

“ Robbin lit a candle in memory of Roberta Lee Barnett



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**Robbin** - March 11, 2022 at 06:35 PM

JT

“ Fred and family so sorry to read this of Roberta's passing. You both were so good with Grace when I came into your home and helped you with Grace's care several years ago. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

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**Jamette (jamie) Teaney** - March 11, 2022 at 04:12 PM