



## Barbara Baird

December 18, 1937 - August 7, 2007

Barbara Fabian Baird, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and former researcher at the National Institutes of Health, dies at 69.

People in the North Fulton area knew Barbara as fixture at her grandchildren's events and involved in their lives. She was affectionately referred by everyone as "Grandma Barbara" and her legacy is a life that was devoted to serving her family and others. She spent her life raising three boys, loving her grandchildren and caring for patients in need.

In the early '80s she became one of the first nurses studying a perplexing new immunodeficiency disorder at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Barbara supported and conducted ground breaking research that eventually led to the identification and treatment of AIDS. At a time when nurse researchers were uncommon, Barbara co-authored many important scientific papers, cared for terminally ill patients and continually approached her work with a servant's heart, putting the needs of others before her own.

Barbara was originally from Charleroi, PA. but later settled in the Washington DC area to raise her family. She graduated from George Mason University with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing Degree in 1979 and moved to Alpharetta to be closer to her family in 1999.

Barbara is survived by her brother, Stephen Fabian of Oklahoma City, OK, and her sons, Bruce Baird of Milton, GA, Bob Baird of San Clemente, CA. and Bryan Baird of Roswell, GA and their families which include twelve

grandchildren. Barbara died after hospitalization for a brief illness on August 7th, 2007.

The family will receive visitors from 6:00PM to 8:00PM on Friday, August 10th, 2007 at Northside Chapel Funeral Directors and Crematory. A celebration of life will be held at 11:00AM at Birmingham United Methodist Church on Saturday, August 11th, 2007. For more information see [www.northsidechapel.com](http://www.northsidechapel.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Sikorski Funeral Home

3630 West George Street  
Chicago, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 10. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors and Crematory  
12050 Crabapple Road  
Roswell, GA

## Service

AUG 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Birmingham United Methodist Church  
15770 Birmingham Hwy  
Alpharetta, GA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Barbara Baird*

October 08, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ *Dear Bruce, Bob and Brian, Peace!*

*I was very saddened to learn yesterday of the death of your dear mother. I just arrived at my new assignment at St. Raphael's church in Raleigh last week, and I was hoping to find her address in Georgia so that we could visit. I knew your mom back in the mid 80s and 90s when I served as a hospital chaplain, first at the NIH and later at Georgetown University Hospital. I worked under Barbara's kind and wise supervision as she introduced me to my first AIDS patients. She inspired me to continue to work with AIDS patients through all my years at Georgetown. I will never forget her dedication and care for the sick and dying and her great love for her children. Her joy and laughter were equally contagious. I am sure she is enjoying the fruits and rewards of heaven for all her labors here on earth. I hope and pray that each of you will be strengthened and comforted with the memory of her wonderful spirit and will carry on her example of loving concern and service for others. Love and Blessings Always +  
Padre Sal Jordan, S.J.##imported-begin##Fr. Sal Jordan,  
SJ##imported-end##*

August 22, 2007 at 12:47 PM



“ I was saddened to learn of Barbara's death. I worked with Barbara at the NIH as a study coordinator for the AIDS clinical trials program. She had such knowledge, compassion, and energy, which she shared freely with colleagues, patients, and family members. Barbara was well organized and developed procedures for other study coordinators. She cherished her sons and grandchildren. I will always remember her bright smile and eagerness to help others.

Kim Roche

Sibley Memorial Hospital##imported-begin##Kim Roche##imported-end##

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August 22, 2007 at 12:13 PM



“ I was a nursing colleague of Barbara at NIH in the 80's, and she taught me how to do my job there. As others have said, she showed compassion for the AIDS patients, who had a new and puzzling illness and were not always accepted by health care workers due to fear of the disease and of homosexuality. Barbara was totally accepting and set an example of respect for all.##imported-begin##Margaret Easter##imported-end##

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August 13, 2007 at 06:55 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Barbara's death. We have enjoyed corresponding to each other over the years. She was always so upbeat...a joy in my life. I will miss her terribly. My heart goes out to all of her family.##imported-begin##Judy Fabian##imported-end##

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August 10, 2007 at 03:09 PM



“ *The National Institutes of Health and the: HIV Program are profoundly sad to hear that Barbara Baiird has died.*

*Barbara was a pioneer in the history of HIV research. In 1982 when the first patients came to NIH, many health care professionals were wary and concerned about possible transmission in an era when little was known abot the cause of this and when many were judgemental about those afflicted.*

*Barbara recognized a vulnerable population that deserved respect and compassion. She became the health care provider who attended to the healthcare and emotional needs of patients. Barbara developed a devoted core of patients. Barbara also developed the role of study coordinator at NIH and had a devoted following among research leaders who depended on her data collection skills, her judgement, and her productivity. Barbara leaves behind a devoted family. However she also leaves a legacy in the annals of HIV research that the AIDS effort and her patients and colleagues will always remember.*

*Henry Masur, MD FOR THE AIDS PROGRAM AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH##imported-begin##Henry Masur, M.D.##imported-end##*

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August 10, 2007 at 12:28 PM



“ I wish everyone well, Aunt Barbara was a beautiful woman who always had joy in her voice, face, and body. There was never a time that I talked or saw her that I walked away not feeling happiness and joy. My thoughts are with all especially my father, Aunt Barbara's brother, my three cousins, Bruce, Bob, and Brian. All of our prayers are with each and every one of you.

Steve Fabian III and family##imported-begin##Steve Fabian III##imported-end##

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August 09, 2007 at 11:54 PM



“ To all of you, and especially to Bob, our son-in-law whom we love dearly, please accept our deepest condolences. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time.

Barbara will be loved always and never forgotten.  
from Elaine and Eric Wright.##imported-begin##Elaine and Eric Wright##imported-end##

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August 09, 2007 at 09:35 PM