

Gone From My Sight

I am standing upon the seashore.
A ship at my side spreads her white
sails to the morning breeze and starts
for the blue ocean.
She is an object of beauty and strength.
I stand and watch her until at length
she hangs like a speck of white cloud
just where the sea and sky come
to mingle with each other.
Then, someone at my side says:
"There, she is gone!"
Gone where?
Gone from my sight. That is all.
She is just as large in mast and hull
and spar as she was when she left my side
and she is just as able to bear her
load of living freight to her destined port.
Her diminished size is in me, not in her.
And just at the moment when someone
at my side says, "There, she is gone!"
There are other eyes watching her coming,
and other voices ready to take up the glad shout:
"Here she comes!"
And that is dying...

- Henry Van Dyke

In Loving Memory of
Barbara Shaffer
March 4, 1945 - April 13, 2026



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Barbara Mildred (Henry) Shaffer was born March 4, 1945 in Pipestone, MN. She was the first daughter of James E. Henry and Mildred V. Henry. She was raised on the farm in Flandreau, SD until 1948 when she moved to Pipestone, MN and received her education. She graduated from Pipestone High School in 1963. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from North Central College in Naperville, IL in 1967. She began her teaching career in Naperville, IL teaching 5th grade. In 1968, she moved back to Pipestone and taught 5th grade at Jasper Public Schools until 1971.

She married John B. Shaffer on August 10, 1968 at Zion Evangelical United Brethren Church in Pipestone. Barbara loved music and played piano her entire life including being an accompanist for solo and ensemble festivals as well as wedding and funerals. She played the piano and organ for over 40 years for Zion and Peace United Methodist churches. She was an active member of Zion followed by Peace United Methodist Church, participating in the bible studies, women's group and quilt guild.

During the 1980s and 1990s she was a substitute elementary school teacher with the Pipestone Public School system followed by teaching adult basic education, enabling students of all ages to achieve their dream of learning to read and/or successfully achieve their high school diploma or GED, at the alternative school within the Pipestone Public School system. She and John retired from farming in 2009. Since that time they have spent their winters in Mesa, AZ and their summers in Pipestone.

She found joy in both her professional and personal life, with a deep love for teaching and music. She valued time with friends-over coffee, walks around 'the square', or lively card games-and especially enjoyed annual summer shopping trips to the Twin Cities in search of a great deal. She also loved golfing, fishing, traveling the world with John, and visiting family in Chicago. For many years, she was an active member of PEO's Chapter C. She passed away on April 13, 2026, while residing at the Summit in Mesa, Arizona.

Barbara is lovingly remembered by her husband of nearly 58 years, John of Pipestone, MN and Mesa, AZ; her daughter, Julie (Jay) Hakim of Northbrook, IL and Gold Canyon, AZ; son, Mark (Ana) Shaffer of Park Ridge, IL; grandchildren, Carter and Jordan Hakim and Hunter and Blair Shaffer; her sister, Eleanor (John) Pierce of Park Ridge, IL and nieces, nephews and other friends and relatives.

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IN LOVING
Memory
Barbara M. Shaffer
†

Memorial Service

Saturday, June 13, 2026

10:30 AM

Peace United Methodist Church

Pipestone, Minnesota

Officiating

Rev. Velda Maine

Scripture Readings

Psalm 23 John 14:1-7

Music

Organist - Bonnie Folkerts

Soloist - Lynda Ewing

"On Eagle's Wings"

Congregational Hymns

"Surely The Presence of The Lord" - Hymn 328

"In The Garden" - Hymn 314

"What A Friend We Have In Jesus" - Hymn 526

Inurnment

New Woodlawn Cemetery

Pipestone, Minnesota

Arrangements By

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