



Barbara Brustlin Smith

October 1, 1951 - March 31, 2026

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of long-time Sarasota resident and valued community volunteer, Barbara Smith. Barbara was born October 1, 1951, in Paterson, New Jersey, to Walt and Betty Brustlin, and passed away on March 31, 2026, after a courageous battle with cancer. The Brustlin family moved to Sarasota in 1953.

Barbara was predeceased by her beloved husband, Ernest F. Smith, whom she cared for for many years during his battle with Parkinson's disease; her parents, Charles (Walt) and Elizabeth (Betty) Brustlin, her brother Charles W. Brustlin, and her stepmother Loretta W. Brustlin. She is survived by her stepdaughter, Rochelle Smith, and many cousins.

Barbara graduated from Sarasota High School in 1969 and went on to build a successful career in the insurance industry, retiring in 1992. Her dedication to community service was evident through her leadership as President of the Manatee River Youth Ranch, where she played a key role in its merger with the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch organization.

Barbara was also a charter member in 1993 of Taking Stock, an investment club, still in force today.

An avid golfer, Barbara was a member of Wildcat Cliffs Country Club in Highlands, North Carolina, where she served as President of the Ladies' Golf

Association and was Club Champion for three years. She was also involved with Laurel Oak Country Club, serving on numerous committees, including President of the Ladies' Golf Association.

Barbara's commitment to her community extended to her service as President of the Board of the Laurel Oak Community Association for six and a half years.

Barbara was a devoted member of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer and contributed her talents to the church's Needlepoint Guild, helping to create altar rugs, pulpit and lectern hangings as well as kneelers for the congregation.

Barbara will be remembered for her devotion and care of her beloved husband, Ernest, as well as her leadership, generosity, and dedication to community and church. Her legacy lives on in the many lives she touched through her service, friendship, and achievement of leaving the world a little better.

Tribute Wall

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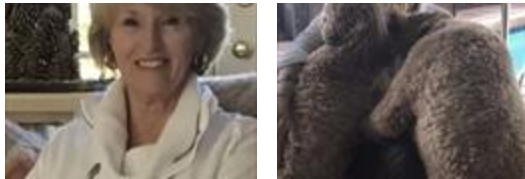
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Diane Mahan - April 05 at 09:16 AM