



Barbara Kessler Banker

August 7, 1931 - June 28, 2020

On Sunday, June 28th 2020, we said goodbye to our beloved mother, grandmother, and dear friend, Barbara Kessler Banker, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Barbara was born in 1931 in Nowata, Oklahoma to Ethel Hansen and Homer William Kessler. Barbara married her sweetheart Cal C. Banker and together they raised their dear daughter Kathy and built their business, Williams Insulation. Barbara served as president of the company, and was a pioneer in the business world as a strong and influential woman among men.

In addition to being a proud and loving mother to Kathy, a supergram to her 5 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren, and president of Williams Insulation, Barbara dedicated her life to civic and volunteer military service. She served as a founding member of Centro 21, as a chairman on the San Antonio Urban Renewal Board, a member of the Board of Examiners and Appeals, and a member of the Steering Committee for Muscular Dystrophy Telethons. Barbara was a founding member of the World Affairs Council, served as director of the Greater San Antonio Builder's Association, and was a member of the International Women's Forum. She served as vice chairman for the Bexar County Hospital District Fund Development Board, an advisory trustee for St. Mary's University & UTSA School of Business, and director of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Barbara served as chairman for the Military Affairs Council, co-chairman of the Air Force Community Council, and co-chairman of the Army Community Council. She served as a

founding member of San Antonio 100 and the Texas Women's Alliance, vice president and board member of the American Heart Association, and a member of the advisory council for the South Texas Women's Chamber of Commerce. Barbara also served as a trustee for the VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority, President of the Alamo Chapter of the Assoc. U.S. Army, member of the Dome Advisory Committee, and a member of the USO Board of Directors. Barbara was a devoted member of the Rotary Club of San Antonio/Rotary Club International. Barbara was awarded the Walter W. McAllister Senior Patriotism Award. Of all of her achievements and awards, she was most proud of the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal, awarded by the U.S. Army. Barbara loved life and loved the people who made her life so rich and happy. She loved seeing the world and adventuring with Cal, doting on her grandchildren, dancing, skiing, fishing, and shopping. She loved red lipstick, white pants, pretty shoes, and diamonds. She truly had a heart as big as Texas and making others happy was what brought her the most joy. She is survived by her dear daughter Kathleen Banker Mask, her grandchildren Laurie and Matt Romney, Amy and Jed Clark, Paige and Justice Smith, Lindsey and Ben Clark, J.C. and Tiana Liljenquist, her great-grandchildren Chloe, Nick, Mia, Nate, Tatum, Phoebe, Gunnar, Josie, Lily, Bridgette, Cal, Georgia, Millie, Evie, and Joey. Barbara is also survived by her dear cousins Ruth Payne and JoAnn Falkenburg, who were much more like her sisters. Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Ethel Hansen and Homer William Kessler, her brother Bill Kessler, and her husband Cal C. Banker. She was lucky to have found love and companionship in the last part of her life with John Davidson, with whom she loved traveling, dining, and nights in with martinis and prosecco. Barbara is loved and will be missed by a network of wonderful and devoted friends.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a video tribute is available. Please click here to view: <https://youtu.be/fao34OzyXWo>. In lieu of flowers, donations in Barbara's name will be welcomed by Cancer Center Council, 7979 Wurzbach

Road, San Antonio, TX 78229.

Tribute Wall

MG

“ *Barbara you were the most gracious lady I've met -So dignified & exceptional in everything you attempted. I miss you- love Marian Gonzalez*

Marian Gonzalez - February 12, 2021 at 01:52 PM

BC

“ *Barbara was my ski pal. Lots of fun runs . Barbara I will miss you a bunch. Know you are upstairs in the latest ski fashion with red lipstick and diamonds hitting the slopes! Bev Cox*

Beverly Cox - August 02, 2020 at 07:13 PM

HH

“ I would be remiss if I didn't talk about Barbara and the "Infamous Flamingos". Birthed on a spontaneous ski trip to Beaver Creek, Colorado after celebrating the very first "Tux & Tennies Heart of Gold Gala". Mayor Lila Cockrell arranged for about a dozen of us to fly to Denver the morning after the Gala which also celebrated the first event at the Concord Athletic Club. I can't remember everyone that was on the plane but I remember Barbara was our leader, no surprise! Besides Barbara and me, there was Dora Hauser, Rosemary Kowalski, Mary Carrington, Cyndi Krier, Cheryl Harig, Stephanie Coleman, Madeleine Justice, Carol Newman and numerous other dear friends no longer with us. As we sat sipping cordials in the hot tub, we noticed that the homeowner (Bob Marbut) had been gifted these beautiful plastic pink flamingo drink holders. We ironically found T-Shirts the next day in town that had a beautiful pink flamingo with the inscription "Beaver Creek Flamingo Club". From that day forward, we became known as "The Flamingos". We celebrated with Flamingo tributes and Girls Night Out for many years to come. It became fashionable to see who could come up with the most outrageous "Flaming Hostess Gift". (Barbara usually won!)

To dearest Barbara who was the most amazing role model, extraordinary entrepreneur business woman, community leader, patriot, philanthropist, trailblazer and friend.....
I lift my glass of pink wine to honor you. I look forward to the day when all the Flamingos will meet again in the arms of sweet Jesus!

Love you so much,
Harriet Marmon Helmle

Harriet M Helmle - July 09, 2020 at 05:44 PM

LE

“ Oh, so many wonderful memories with Barbara come to mind! One that makes me laugh every time I think about it is when Carole Newman, Dora Hauser and I went with Barb to her home near Port Aransas. She was determined that we were going to catch our quota of red fish. We had a fishing guide and I'm confident we changed his life and likely his career. We drove him absolutely crazy! Of course, Barbara was skilled at fishing, but the rest of us were very definitely not. It was cold and it was windy. We kept getting our lines tangled – even with lines from another boat. We caught our quota, but it took us a good 8 hours to do so. It was one wild and crazy weekend!



A last memory I'll share is a birthday party we organized for Barbara at Sea World. The climax was when we went to the theater featuring sea lions, walruses and otters. We had the place to ourselves. Barbara was escorted on stage donned in a yellow slicker and rubber boots. The animals sang their own version of Happy Birthday to her. It was quite a show!! Barbara and her new friends got a standing ovation from all of us in the audience!

Barbara Banker shall truly be missed in this world. How fortunate we all are to have had her in our lives. We love you Barb!!

Linda Elliott - July 06, 2020 at 03:01 PM

LC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lindsey Clark - July 06, 2020 at 01:53 PM

NS

“ So sad to hear of my dear friend’s passing. It is difficult to imagine a world without her, her sunny outlook and zest for life.

Don and I have been friends with Cal and Barbara for many years and after Cal died we continued to meet Barbara for drinks, lunch or dinner whenever we were in San Antonio.

Cal and Barbara used to join us on many of our cruises in the Bahamas and Key West. One trip they joined us in Maine. We were working our way through crab traps and lobster pots, then I couldn’t find Barb. Went down below and she was sitting on the aft deck with a life jacket on and a whistle in her mouth. Cracked up. She was always upbeat and happy.

You will be so missed my friend. Love you.

Nancy and Don Schoenfeld

Nancy Schoenfeld - July 06, 2020 at 01:20 PM

LD

“ Barbara was such a beautiful and out going lady! My family got to know Barbara through my father-in-law John Davidson. We had the honor of having spent time with them both at Christmas and what a joy it was, They had

such a sweet relationship they both had lost there spouses and to have found each other for the short time was a blessing. We send our deepest condolences to the family. God Bless you all!

Laura Davidson



Laura Davidson - July 06, 2020 at 11:44 AM

AH

“ I met Barb thru Rotary. She sat at our table sometimes when her posse wasn't at the meeting. In 2014, my wife and I decided to move into Bentley Manor. I discovered that Barb lived just around the corner. It was fun to see her going to the mailbox or driving thru the neighborhood in her Mercedes. I became president of the HOA four years ago and Barb would call me when she needed a recommendation for someone to do yard work or other jobs around the house. She was always just so glamorous and put together. My wife and her shared the same taste for Saint John Knits. The last day I visited with her, all of her grandchildren were coming into see her. She always had to tell me all about them how much she loved each of them. She so proud of her daughter, cousins and her whole family.

God bless her and may she Rest In Peace.

Adam and Carol Holzauer

Adam Holzauer - July 05, 2020 at 02:52 PM

DG

“ Dixie George lit a candle in memory of Barbara Kessler Banker



Dixie George - July 03, 2020 at 10:45 PM