



Barbara LaVonne Gaskins Hamrick

July 6, 1933 - July 9, 2025

Barbara LaVonne Gaskins Hamrick, 92, died on July 9, 2025, at Brooken Hill Health and Rehab in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She was born on July 6, 1933, to Grover and Novie Gaskins, on the Pitts family farm near Cherry Valley, AR. She had a happy childhood in a loving Christian home. She often told stories of Grover's gospel singing and his serving as the County Tax Assessor, and Novie's Sunday lunches.

She attended Wynne public schools, graduating in 1950 from Wynne High School, as Salutatorian.

Barbara's first job was delivering papers before/after school. She was a long-time member of Wynne Baptist Church, participating in Girls Auxiliary and summer camp. Church was an important part of Barbara's life.

After high school Barbara attended Ouachita Baptist College for two years and dated Kenneth Wilson Hamrick, also of Wynne. On June 7, 1954, Barbara and Kenneth were married at the Wynne Baptist Church.

Barbara's first job after two years at Ouachita was as a teacher in a one-room school house heated by a pot-bellied stove in Vanndale. After marriage, she taught briefly in Beaufort, South Carolina.

Barbara was devoted to her family and to her Lord Jesus Christ. She and Kenneth had two children. She loved being a stay-at-home mom, sometimes working as a substitute teacher during the children's school years.

Ken's work took the family to Texarkana, Magnolia, Greensburg, PA, Linden, NJ, Tulsa, OK, Amarillo, TX, and Little Rock. The family lived the longest in

Tulsa, Oklahoma, where they attended Gracemont Baptist Church. Barbara was very involved in the life of the church, teaching Sunday School, serving as Director of the Women's Missionary Union (WMU), and working in Bible School.

In her home and social life, she enjoyed cooking, sewing, gardening, and church activities.

After Kenneth's death in 1977, Barbara completed a B.S. degree at the University of Arkansas Little Rock in 1980 and a master's degree from Ouachita Baptist University in 1986 in Elementary Education. She taught elementary school in the Little Rock and Pulaski County Special School Districts before retiring after 23 years of teaching.

After retirement, Barbara moved to Maumelle, AR, where she was very active at Maumelle Baptist Church helping with Vacation Bible School and serving the homebound. She also enjoyed the activities at the Maumelle Senior Center. She moved to Northwest Arkansas in her later years to be close to family.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents and her sisters, Wilma (Forest) Bynum, Patsy (Tommy) Dobson, and "brother" Hansel Pitts (LenaMay). She is survived by daughter Holly Yeatman (Ross) of Fayetteville, and son Richard Hamrick (Brenda) of Fort Smith; granddaughters Cara Boyd (William Boyd III, dec.) and Rachael Hamrick, both of Fort Smith, and Kate Yeatman of New York City; great grandchildren Isabella, Liam and Emma Kate Boyd; and her sisters Marcella Jackson (Charles, dec.) of Southaven, MS, and Jo Gaskins (Bobby) of Ripley, TN;

Barbara's family is grateful for her love, inspiration, and guidance. They wish to thank the many friends and relatives who have shown their love and support during her last years. The family thanks her many friends at Brookfield Assisted Living and Barbara's devoted caregivers at Brooken Hill Health and Rehab.

Visitation is planned at the Kernodle Funeral Home, Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 10:00 A.M., followed by a memorial service at 10:30 A.M., then internment

at Crosslawn Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Kernodle Funeral Home (<https://www.kernodlefh.com/>).

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Wynne Baptist Church or Gideons International.

Cemetery Details

Crosslawn Cemetery

2950 Hwy 1
Wynne, AR

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 12. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Kernodle Funeral Home
315-325 E. Union Avenue
Wynne, AR 72396
(870) 238-2323
kernodlefuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.kernodlefh.com/>

Funeral service

JUL 12. 10:30 AM (CT)

Kernodle Funeral Home
315-325 E. Union Avenue
Wynne, AR 72396
(870) 238-2323
kernodlefuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.kernodlefh.com/>

Interment

JUL 12 (CT)

Crosslawn Cemetery
2950 Hwy 1
Wynne, AR

Tribute Wall

CS

“ To Barbara's family: My deepest sympathies to you on the loss of this great lady. I first met Barbara delivering meals on wheels to her during her time in Fayetteville, and she struck me from the beginning with her sweet, gentle spirit. She reminded me so much of my own dear mother, whom I had recently lost before meeting Barbara. We became friends, and she would sometimes invite me to come over and watch "Downton Abbey", a favorite. :) She spoke so often of her deep faith, and also of her beloved family. Such good memories! Thank you for sharing your Mom with me.

Christine Smith

Christine Smith - July 11, 2025 at 02:37 PM

WS

“ We love you. CrossLife Fort Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara LaVonne Gaskins Hamrick.

We love you. CrossLife Fort Smith - July 11, 2025 at 01:57 PM

WS

“ We love you. CrossLife Fort Smith purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Barbara LaVonne Gaskins Hamrick.



We love you. CrossLife Fort Smith - July 11, 2025 at 01:57 PM

MB

“ Mike and Jan Bynum purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Barbara LaVonne Gaskins Hamrick.



Mike and Jan Bynum - July 11, 2025 at 01:46 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Barbara LaVonne Gaskins Hamrick.



July 11, 2025 at 08:19 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Barbara LaVonne Gaskins Hamrick.

July 11, 2025 at 08:19 AM

KB

“ What a special lady! She was the picture of Christian kindness and gentleness and epitomized everything in Galatians 5:22-23. We were fortunate to share life with her during her time in Maumelle and had stayed in touch even after her moves to Fayetteville and Ft. Smith. What a blessing God gave to you with such a wonderful mother! She will be greatly missed, but her faith is now being rewarded as heaven has certainly received a new resident. God bless! Kim and Tony Batey

Kim and Tony Batey - July 10, 2025 at 08:57 PM

DB

“ *Holly, Barbara’s daughter was one of my best friends. I spent many times at her house. She loved her family more than anything and always welcomed me into their home. She always fixed cinnamon toast and hot tea for breakfast. What a treat. We all attended Gracemont Baptist church in Tulsa. I loved Barbara. I know Holly and Rick will miss her greatly. Love to you both, Debbie Bowles*

Debbie Bowles - July 10, 2025 at 05:58 PM

DH

“ *Don & Irma Harbour purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Barbara LaVonne Gaskins Hamrick.*



Don & Irma Harbour - July 10, 2025 at 01:27 PM

LW

“ Holly, Rick, Jo and family~ My heart is breaking along with yours. Barbara was so special to me and a huge influence in my life. I always describe her as my second mother, because she taught me so many things during impressionable years. I have frequent reminders of her, particularly in my kitchen several of her recipes are served regularly in my family. She was definitely the "hostess with the mostest"! My broken heart is warm with precious memories of her through the years. Her sweet, gentle, loving spirit and ways were unmatched. And if my life can emulate hers in any way, I am very pleased. My love is with all of you today, this weekend and always. ~Laura Jones Watts



Laura Jones Watts - July 10, 2025 at 11:42 AM

LJ

“ Laura Jones Watts and Lavada Jones purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Barbara LaVonne Gaskins Hamrick.



Laura Jones Watts and Lavada Jones - July 10, 2025 at 11:19 AM

LJ

“ Laura Jones Watts and Lavada Jones planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara LaVonne Gaskins Hamrick.

Laura Jones Watts and Lavada Jones - July 10, 2025 at 11:19 AM