

Barbara “Barb” Kay Simons was born on October 11, 1937, in Melroze, New Mexico, to William “Bill” and Vanita (Dawson) Newbill.

Barb discovered her love of art at an early age, spending hours sketching portraits of her favorite movie stars with charcoal and pencil. Later in life, she explored watercolor painting through a course at Black Hills State University. Her family treasures her artwork, and each grandchild holds a piece of her collection as a reminder of her creativity and love.

Barb met Walter “Walt” Simons at her family’s cabin in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico. Walt was visiting a friend and neighbor of his parents, who also had a cabin nearby. Family lore suggests it was love at first sight—though Barb would jokingly admit that Walt had a bit of arrogance about him. Her father, Bill, quickly saw Walt’s good character and gave his blessing. Barb and Walt married in 1955 and shared 68 wonderful years together before Walt’s passing in 2024. They lived in many places throughout their early years but eventually settled in Walt’s hometown of Sturgis, South Dakota, where they raised their three children—Colette, Larry, and Lisa.

Barb’s life was marked by a spirit of service and creativity. She volunteered as a candy striper with the Sturgis Hospital Auxiliary, served as a Welcome Wagon hostess for the Sturgis Chamber of Commerce, worked as an Avon representative, and supported Walt as his secretary and assistant. She was also proud to be part of the Red Hat Society. With her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, she shared her love of the arts through painting, piano playing, tea parties, themed suppers, and countless craft projects. While she rarely spoke about her own childhood, Barb loved to share her Albuquerque roots and her passion for good Mexican food with her family.

Barb passed away on August 15, 2025, at Monument Health Sturgis Care Center in Sturgis. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Walt; her parents, Bill and Vanita Newbill; her brother, Gary Newbill; her son-in-law, Duane Myers; and numerous brothers- and sisters-in-law.

She is survived by her children, Colette Myers, Larry Simons, and Lisa (Duane) Baker; grandchildren, Lyndee (Brandon) Fogelman, Dustin (Amber) Brink, Stephanie Hughes (Scott), and Brian Baker; great-grandchildren, Grace (Ashton) Zook, Avery Fogelman, Marshall Brink, Brandon, Caleb, and Samuel Hughes; siblings, Jacquiél Gutierrez and her son, and Richard Newbill and his family.

Thank you for your presence and condolences.

In Loving Memory



Barbara Kay Simons

October 11, 1937 ~ August 15, 2025

Beside a quiet stream, still
My favorite place to be.
One would think with age
This passion would die or flee.

As I gaze into the water flowing
Bubbly o'er the rocks,
I get this passionate urge
To shed my shoes and socks.

I think I'll just dip my big toe in
As the moment I do seize.
I haven't forgotten from earlier times
It probably will freeze.

I'm glad some things still stay the same
And we can dare enjoy them still.
For it's a risk to look this silly
But what a joy it does fulfill.

By: Barbara Simons



In Loving Memory Of Barbara Kay Simons

Memorial Service

Monday, August 25, 2025 at 10:00 am
Believers Fellowship
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiant

Pastor John Williamson

Honorary Pallbearers

Brandon Fogelman, Brian Baker,
Duane Baker, Dustin Brink,
Lary Simons, Ashton Zook

Final Resting Place

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota