



Barbara Shailor Borosage

DEC 20, 1946 - AUG 2, 2019



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



Barbara Shailor Borosage

DEC 20, 1946 - AUG 2, 2019

Barbara Shailor Borosage, a former labor union officer who from 2010 until retiring in 2014 was the State Department's special representative for international labor affairs, died Aug. 2 at her home in Annapolis. She was 72.

The cause was pulmonary fibrosis, said her husband, Robert Borosage.

Mrs. Borosage spent her early career as international director of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and then as the AFL-CIO's international affairs director. At the AFL-CIO, she was an adviser to Presidents John Sweeney and Richard Trumka on international policy, and she oversaw the work of field offices supporting unions in 55 countries.

She helped move the U.S. labor movement's international focus away from the anti-communist emphasis of the Cold War years to the emerging global economy in which international cooperation among unions was seen as a path toward protecting workers' interests.

She fought for the inclusion of workers' rights provisions in international trade agreements, and she traveled the globe as a union and later U.S. federal officer, spotlighting and working to improve such situations as substandard conditions at a Boeing aircraft factory in China and fire safety hazards in Bangladesh after more than 1,000 garment workers were killed in a fire.

"She could travel seamlessly between different worlds — whether it was meeting with a high level diplomat or world leader, or an agricultural worker from a developing nation," Liz Shuler, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, said in a statement after Mrs. Borosage's death.

Barbara Jean Shailor was born in New York City on Dec. 20, 1946. Her father was a management executive for steel companies, and her mother a homemaker.

After graduating from Ohio State University in 1972, she became a flight attendant for United Airlines and was assigned that year to the aircraft chartered by the unsuccessful presidential



Obituary

Barbara Shailor Borosage

DEC 20, 1946 - AUG 2, 2019

campaign of Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.). She also worked as a field director on the short-lived presidential campaigns of former senator Fred Harris (D-Okla.) in 1972 and 1976.

At the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, she was a special assistant to President William Winpisinger, and her work included forging alliances with religious, academic and civil rights organizations. She moved to the AFL-CIO in 1995.

Survivors include her husband of 30 years, Robert Borosage of Annapolis; three children, Alexander Borosage of Chicago, Gregory Borosage of Darien, Conn., and Frances Borosage of Rockville, Md.; and two grandchildren.

A Celebration of Barbara's Life will be held in Washington DC in October. Time and Place TBD.



Tribute Wall

Barbara Shailor Borosage

DEC 20, 1946 - AUG 2, 2019



Claire Weiner posted:

Barbara Shailor introduced us in Denver in 1973- thinking we might make good couple and she was right. We married two years later. We have such good memories of Barbara in those Denver years - when she was a flight attendant for United Airlines- as well as a very savvy and graceful political person. All those great dinners and discussions at her house. And then we followed her incredible career and commitment to social justice from Santa Fe. They just don't make them like our "Barbar" anymore and we are so saddened by her too- early death. Claire and Steve Weiner

August 14 at 12:14 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Barbara by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit