



# Barbara Hoey Merchant

JUL 8, 1944 - MAY 3, 2023



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## **B** ARBARA HOEY MERCHANT July 8, 1944 ---- May 3, 2023

Barbara Hoey Merchant died peacefully at her home in Edgewater, Maryland at age 78. She is survived by Stephen, her husband of 56 years; her son, Scott and his son Charles; her daughter, Jennifer, and her son Anthony, and Jennifer's husband, Tre' and his sons, Trevor and Jacob. Barbara Jean Hoey was the only child of Henry and Jean Hoey, who raised her in Delanco, NJ. Along with Stephen, she attended Delanco Elementary School and Riverside High School (Class of 1962). Barbara was an excellent student and musician (oboe and glockenspiel). She played in the RHS band, the New Jersey All-State Orchestra and she was head drum majorette in the RHS marching band. Barbara earned a full scholarship to Bowling Green State University (Ohio), from which she graduated in 1966 with a major in elementary education and a minor in music.

Upon their marriage in August 1966, Barbara and Stephen moved to College Park, MD, and Barbara began her teaching career in the Prince Georges County Public Schools. In 1970, Barbara took a leave of absence from teaching to raise Scott and Jennifer. During this time, she taught in a local church nursery school while earning a Master's Degree in elementary education administration. Barbara returned to PGCPs in 1978 and was appointed a special education wing coordinator and then vice principal in several elementary schools. In 1988, Barbara was appointed Principal of James Ryder Randall Elementary School, one of the largest in the county, having 100 staff and 600 students including a large special education wing. She had a deep love for teaching special needs students, and she pursued that passion with vigor. In 1996, Barbara was honored at an awards ceremony as one of PGCPs's "Outstanding Educators". Barbara retired in 2004 after 30 years' service in the county school system.

While the children were young, Barbara and Steve enjoyed camping (tent and pop-up camper) – Skyline Drive, Blue Ridge Parkway, Quebec, Yellowstone National Park are some examples.



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They also enjoyed international travel (China, Egypt, Europe, United Kingdom and Ireland) and boating. You could often find them cruising the Chesapeake Bay on “Kemosabe” and anchoring out overnight in one of the bay’s many quiet coves. They also enjoyed hosting family and friends on

their boat in Ego Alley (Annapolis) while Barb’s favorite Jimmy Buffett songs played into the night.

She and Steve also enjoyed cruising and hanging out with their boating friends at Selby Bay Marina.

In the winter, Barbara could often be found walking the beaches of Anna Maria Island, FL.

Services were private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Maryland Special Olympics ([www.somd.org](http://www.somd.org)).



## Tribute Wall

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JO

**Joanne** posted:

Out of the blue, I woke up this morning with Barbara on my mind... Sad now, to discover she has passed. As a beginning teacher, Barbara willingly took me under her wing, always willing to lend a hand or make a suggestion. I admired her way with young children and the ease at which she ran a class. She was always one of my role models. Condolences to her family. She was a special lady.

August 7 at 2:05 PM

BK

**Brenda Karnes** posted:

Barbara was one of the finest women I ever met and she was an awesome Principal at James Ryder Randall Elementary. Her skills in motivating staff in curriculum development and other student centered initiatives exceeded those of other PGCPs principals. Her willingness to support inter-school programs was also noteworthy. Barbara accomplished everything with enthusiasm, grace and humor. I was very grateful for her support and wisdom. Her memory will always be a blessing and I send my deepest sympathy to her family ❤️

May 15 at 4:27 PM

GH

**Gloriann Hamlette** posted:

It is with much sadness that I learned of Barbara's passing. I was her secretary for eleven years at James Ryder Randall Elementary until I retired in 1999. I have so many good memories of those years. She was wonderful to work for & I considered her my friend. She will be so missed. Gloriann Hamlette

May 7 at 1:54 PM

DC

**Dean Cary /Anna Cary** posted:

Barb was always up for an adventure. A true friend, a great dinner companion, and a die hard parrot head!!!

May 5 at 11:42 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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