



Claire Naomi Baker

SEP 9, 1948 - SEP 9, 2024



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Claire Naomi Baker (née Zinkhan), left this planet on September 9, 2024, to celebrate her 76th birthday in the heavens, after suffering a “cardiac incident.”

Claire was born in Baltimore, Maryland on September 9, 1948, the only daughter of Sheffield Eugene Zinkhan and Irma Nathalie (née Sawyer) Zinkhan. She attended Perry Hall High School, and at age 17 started her career as a Secretary at the National Security Agency where she worked until she retired. She married James “Jimmy” Albert Baker on August 19, 1970, and were married for 30 years, before his passing in 2000. Claire and Jimmy had one son, James “Jim” Baker Jr, who was their pride and joy. There were many pets throughout the years, but she especially loved Princess, her beloved companion after her husband passed.

Claire was a caregiver throughout the years supporting a large family that spanned generations which included great-grandparents, grandparents, parents, in-laws (and some out-laws), as well as many friends and acquaintances. Her love was boundless, and her compassion knew no end. As her family responsibilities dwindled as members passed away, she turned her pursuits to living HER best life. She sold the empty house and built a beautiful condo on the water, planning it side-by-side with her son, who said, “Those were some of the best times spent with mom.”

She took on the mantra of “living in Claire’s World” and was affectionately known to many as the “Queen”. She took every opportunity to hold court on her patio as she fed the neighborhood dogs treats from a crystal biscuit dish. She loved to travel and made trips with her son to places such as Italy, Greece, Turkey, California. More recently she had planned a grand Christmas holiday trip for her 75th and her son’s 50th birthday to Poland and Prague with a holiday market cruise on the Elba River ending with dinner on Christmas day in Berlin. Her travels included wintering in Florida and jetting here and there to visit friends she made throughout the years. Claire’s pursuits included reading, the theatre, a good martini, a glass of wine, or both, watching the GA Bulldogs, and binge watching just about anything.



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Claire's love kept the family together and she grew her universe exponentially with friends. Her chosen family included a whole host of friends in Chesapeake Harbour Community, who were simply drawn towards the center of Claire's gravitational pull.

She is survived by her only son, James "Jim" Albert Baker, Jr., who was with her at her bedside in her final moments; Thomas and Janice Linder, her brother/sister-in-law; her godson: Tommy Linder and his children Caitlyn, Alyson, and Emily; and the Sawyers: Sylvia, JR, Chealse, Kaleb as well as their spouses and children. Claire's love and zest for life brought so many people together, naming them all would take too long.

Claire's wish was that no formal viewing or services occur. Her last proclamation was throwing a party and celebrate all life has to offer. As directed by the Queen, there will be a Celebration of Life is planned for October 26, 2024, for family, close friends, and colleagues by invitation. There will be several other event plans posted to Facebook as time permits.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Anne Arundle Country ASPCA <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/AACSPCA> a cause near and dear to her heart or to the Fisher House supporting veterans and their family www.fisherhouse.org



Tribute Wall

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TN

Thomas Norris posted:

What an elegant woman and beautiful spirit! Fond memories of Claire for birthdays, Mother's Day and New Year's Eve events. She was always a spectacular hostess. Claire cherished her family and her only son, Jim. She was a queen!

September 11 at 1:46 PM

BK **Barbara Kight** October 24 at 1:12 PM

It has been 45 days and we are still devastated and shocked over the loss of Cousin Claire and a dearest friend. Thanks to Jimmy J., Claire and I (Barb) were able to go to the SUPER BOWL in New Orleans. Claire and I had a blast. We collected Ravens fans and partied and laughed all night until the wee hours of the morning. Claire was always there when you needed her. She was a huge help in decorating our Condo in Florida and again we stayed up long hours and laughed till we cried. Laughter didn't bode well with Claire, everyone close knew what came next. On the Auto train she slept and read and joked with my Son, Steven, while all night I worried it was going to jump the track. Our Son Todd and Jimmy J. were born within months of each other and we spent many weekends together caring for them both. She is gone and gone is my confidant. God, Bless Claire and take care of Jimmy J. for us. Aunt Barb and Uncle Dick

LT **Lois Kowalski Thorpe** October 10 at 6:27 AM

Claire and I met at NSAegrb we were both teenagers. She was my May the fire at my wedding my first wedding she was there that she met her husband To Baker who was my neighbor and good friend of a family married over 30 years and have a beautiful gorgeous wonderful fun name Jane Jim J I call him Jimmy J everybody else can call Jim to me. He will always be Jimmy J. I was in Claire's wedding, we have kept friendships going for 50 some years off and on talk to each other in the phone fact I talk to her on Friday and she died on her birthday. I am devastated. I am hurt and death in the hospital with kidney down and I'm trying to get through, but I'm not gonna guarantee Jimmy but you know I'm there for her because I'm there for you. She was my very very special lady.

LA **Linda Abramson** October 5 at 9:17 AM

Claire and I have been best friends since High School, I was in her wedding. We had so many good times all these years and lots of laughter and of course secrets. I always enjoyed her visiting me in Florida for a fun girls week. Claire loved her son Jimmy, Jr. and was so proud of his accomplishments...we each had one son. I will miss my dear friend deeply and her laughter will always be in my head. I love you Claire. Linda Towle Abramson

AN **Allan Norris** September 13 at 11:05 AM

Remembering, it must have been around 2002 that you Jim invited Thom's mom Carol and I to DC to meet your mom for Mother's Day with a beautiful delicious dinner. the mom's connected in conversation, Carol said today that if they had lived closer together they would have been good friends. Claire will always be in your thought's. Allan Norris- September 13



Memories only last if you share them

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



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