



Barbara Bradley Suman

April 23, 1937 - April 10, 2026

Barbara Suman, a devoted mother, grandmother, lifelong learner, and spirited adventurer, passed away on April 10 leaving behind a legacy of love and creativity.

Barbara was born on April 23, 1937, in Columbus, Ohio, to Thomas Steele Bradley and Mary Jane (Patricia) Hope Bradley. She graduated from Fairview High School and went on to attend junior college, where she was a proud member of Delta Zeta and served on the Queen Council in 1956.

In 1959, Barbara married the love of her life, Dr. Ted Suman, in Dayton, Ohio. They began their journey together as college students, attending classes at Ohio State University and later Kent State University. Their path eventually led them to the University of Hawaii, where Ted earned his Ph.D. in Entomology—an adventure that reflected their shared love of learning and exploration—and where Barbara began raising their growing family.

When Ted was offered a professorship at Towson University, they moved to Maryland and eventually settled on Maryland's Eastern Shore, where Ted became Dean of Students at the former Kirkland Hall College. It was here that they put down roots and raised their family, creating a home filled with warmth, laughter, and curiosity. Barbara worked as a library aide at Idlewild, nurturing her lifelong love of books and learning, while her children attended school

there. She later became a proud graduate of Anne Arundel Community College while Ted served there as a professor, and went on to retire from Loyola Federal Bank, where she took great pride in her work.

Family trips in the summers were filled with camping, hiking, and outdoor adventures, where Barbara encouraged her children to explore, discover, and appreciate the natural world. She loved growing her own food in the backyard garden and was a member of one of the first food co-ops on the Shore.

In retirement, Barbara and Ted embraced new adventures, traveling widely with Road Scholars and the Industrial Archeology Society. She was an avid photographer, lovingly documenting the lives of her children and grandchildren through her lens—capturing not just moments, but stories as they grew. Many of her photographs were displayed with the Tidewater Camera Club.

Barbara was a proud Master Gardener, and her backyard was a beautiful display of native plants. She was also a founding member of the Chesapeake Bay Herb Society, where she enjoyed participating in monthly gatherings to create “herb of the month” meals.

Barbara was a talented artist who, in retirement, explored a wide range of artistic styles—always curious, always creating. She will be remembered for her warmth, her creativity, and her deep love for her family. She celebrated 60 years of marriage with Ted before he passed away in 2020. Barbara leaves behind a garden of memories that will continue to grow in the hearts of all who loved her, including her children Sharon Bell (Richard), Jenny Willey (Jimmy), and Marci Leach (Mike); her grandchildren Lindsay Manship, Brandon Bell, Garrison Willey, Addison Anderson, and Gabrielle Leach; and six great-grandchildren.

She had many special people in her life, including Diana Patchett, who

supported Barbara every day after her stroke. She was also deeply grateful for the caring and compassionate care she received at Candlelight Cove. She will be fondly remembered there for her cheerful spirit and her love of singing.

Her life was full, her love never-ending, and her legacy enduring—she will be missed by all who loved her.

Services will be private. Memorial contributions can be made to Talbot Hospice.

Cemetery Details

Hurlock Maryland VA Cemetery

6828 East New Market
Hurlock, MD

Tribute Wall

EA

“ *Eileen De Atley lit a candle in memory of Barbara Bradley Suman*



Eileen De Atley - April 21 at 02:44 PM

WC

“ *I'm going to miss Mrs.Barbara she always showed me kindness and loved to always sing a song*

Wanda Dabney@ CLC - April 20 at 09:06 PM

BW

“ *God Bless Barbara. Rest in peace. We will all miss you.*

Betsy WILLEY - April 18 at 04:02 PM

DB

“ *Dear Marci and family, I am deeply sorry for the loss of your beloved mother. Although I never had the privilege of meeting her, her legacy continues to bloom in our front and back yard, a testament to the beauty she inspired. We feel blessed to have purchased such a wonderful home. Please know you're welcome to visit us anytime.*



Deborah BROBST - April 17 at 07:49 PM

SJ

“ So sorry for your loss

Sol James - April 17 at 07:04 PM

KB

“ Dear Marci and family, Fred and I send our sympathies to you with your loss. It is never easy to lose one's mother. Sending many hugs.
Karen and Fred Bailor

Karen Bailor - April 17 at 07:00 PM

DM

“ Barbara made my Presidents book at The Woman's Club of St. Michaels needless to say with her wonderful pictures it is still the one of the most beautiful books ever made. She was a delightful, fun, hardworking, member and grand friend. I am so sorry for your loss.

Danna Murden - April 17 at 12:24 PM

LE

“ Linda Swann Elben-Adams lit a candle in memory of Barbara Bradley Suman



Linda Swann Elben-Adams - April 17 at 08:38 AM



“ I am sorry to hear of Mrs Suman's passing. She was a lovely lady who I always enjoyed seeing. May her memory be a blessing to those who knew and loved her.

Katie Jo Sullivan
Miles River Primary Care

Katie Sullivan - April 17 at 08:37 AM

JE

“ Joe Emerson lit a candle in memory of Barbara Bradley Suman



Joe Emerson - April 14 at 05:44 PM

CL

“ Carolyn Lane lit a candle in memory of Barbara Bradley Suman



Carolyn Lane - April 14 at 03:54 PM

KH

“ Karlee Holly lit a candle in memory of Barbara Bradley Suman



Karlee Holly - April 13 at 06:33 PM

MB

“ *Mary Baker lit a candle in memory of Barbara Bradley Suman*



Mary Baker - April 13 at 05:37 PM