

Resident Spotlight

Barbara Vickery was born on April 25, 1937, to Dorothy and Neil Raynard. She was born and raised in Merriam, Kansas. Barbara was one of seven siblings, and they all grew up next door to her grandparents. Barbara attended Shawnee Mission High School and graduated in 1955. Barbara then went off to complete Junior College, which is exactly where she would meet her husband-to-be, Bill Vickery, right in the middle of Biology class. Barbara received an associate degree and went on to marry Bill in 1967.

After getting married, Barbara and Bill moved to Independence, Missouri. They had their son, Eric Vickery in November of 1968. Barbara loved being a mother and immediately felt her family was complete when Eric joined their family. When asked if she ever wanted more children, she said she never gave it a thought. She said, "I just had my little baby."

Barbara described Eric as an easy going child who got along with everybody. Throughout his childhood, they would take trips and travel around the country as a family of three every summer. Bill and Eric enjoyed exploring the outdoors, and Barbara especially enjoyed taking advantage of the time to relax. Barbara worked for the USDA and retired at age of 60 years, just as they were transitioning to computers. Still, Barbara learned how to become computer savvy, even after retirement. Barbara started researching her family genealogy and was able to put together an extensive family history for her parents, as well as her husband's parents. Barbara even created family history books to gift to her family members.

Another interesting thing about Barbara is throughout her life, she made the majority of her clothing. Barbara had an entire sewing room in her home with everything she could possibly need. Barbara reminisced of times her sisters would come into town and they would go shopping. Barbara especially loved shopping for fabric. If she saw fabric she liked, she bought it, that was the only criterion. She just had to like it. To this day, nearly everything in her wardrobe has been made by her. Many of her pieces are truly impressive and a work of art.

Barbara was later blessed with three wonderful grandchildren when Eric married his lovely wife, Shari. Barbara is incredibly proud of her family. Especially her grandchildren, Faith, Hope, and Luke. She truly lights up when talks about them. Barbara is a creative, intelligent and intuitive lady, who brings so much joy and wisdom to those of us at Westbrook. She says her favorite thing about living here is not having to cook or clean, and that is pretty relatable.

Barbara shared these words of wisdom, "If you smile, the world will smile back." That one statement says so much, and those of us who are blessed enough to know and love her would agree that Barbara lives by this.

