



Sharon Bent LaBarbera

November 6, 1957 - July 29, 2021

A Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, August 7, 2021 at 11:00 AM in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Lafayette, for Sharon Bent LaBarbera, 63, who passed away on Thursday, July 29, 2021 at Ochsner Lafayette General Medical Center. The family requests that visitation be observed in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church on Saturday from 9:30 AM until time of services. Sharon's last request was that everyone wear bright colors and celebrate her life.

The Very Reverend Chester C. Arceneaux, VF, Rector of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, will officiate the funeral Mass and will conduct the memorial services.

For all friends and family planning to attend the Memorial Mass of Mrs. LaBarbera, please wear a mask and observe social distancing. The family thanks you kindly in advance.

She leaves to cherish her memory her daughter, Jessica LaBarbera; her son, Scott LaBarbera; her granddaughter, Stella LaBarbera; her four brothers, John Bent (Linda), Dennis Bent (Maria), Brian Bent (Sudha Desai Bent), and Daniel Bent; brother-in-law, Barry LaBarbera; a sister-in-law, Kim LaBarbera-Young (Mike), and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 32 years, David Allan LaBarbera; her parents, Norman and Eleanor Bent; and her brother, Michael Bent.

Sharon was born in Conroe, Texas, where she was raised until her family moved to Lafayette, Louisiana in 1969. She graduated from Acadiana High School, Class of 1975, was granted a full scholarship to attend college anywhere in the U.S., and went on to achieve a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now ULL). After graduating she worked for Louisiana Companies in Lafayette, Louise S. McGehee School in New Orleans, and St. Mary's Church in Lafayette along with further self-employment.

Sharon's beautiful voice brought joy and earned compliments throughout her life. She sang in the concert choir at USL, with which she participated in a tour of France. She also participated in vocal competitions at the state and regional level for the annual conferences of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. One of her most notable performances was her role as the mezzo-Soprano "Julie" in the USL Opera Theatre production of "Showboat" at the Heymann Performing Arts Center. Sharon was a lifelong member of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity, and she sang as a member of the St. John's Cathedral Choir, Our Lady of Fatima Choir, and Chorale Acadienne, where she met her loving husband David.

While Sharon carried a love for singing, she always knew she wanted to be a mom more than anything. She maintained a close bond with her parents, spending time with them often as their loving daughter and later as their devoted caretaker. After marrying David in 1988 they moved to New Orleans and began raising two children, Jessica and Scott. When they moved to Lafayette in 1997 Sharon truly became Supermom-volunteering as everything from Class Mom to Cub Scout Leader, PTA member, Girl Scout Leader, Girl Scout Camp Director, Woodvale BBQ Chairman, dance mom (the supportive kind!), and so much more.

Sharon was particularly crafty and energetic, leading animated activities and action-packed family trips. She loved to garden with an abundance of bright flowers, and she enjoyed sewing creative Halloween costumes for her "chickadees." Sharon always put others ahead of herself; she gained immense joy from spreading heartfelt and funny gifts to her loved ones, and she treasured hosting her family for the holidays. She exuded infectious energy during every occasion, and gained a one-of-a-kind group of supportive friends with her positivity and strong spirit. Undoubtedly, her favorite times were spent with family and friends-her spirit never tired of playing with her granddaughter, "Stella-bella." Sharon will be deeply missed and remembered for her ceaseless love, hope, and ability to smile and dance through any of life's occasions.

A heartfelt appreciation is extended by the LaBarbera Family to Barbara Dronet, Margaret Daniel, Jan Brinsko, Debbie Briant, the St. John's Cathedral Choir, Sharon's army of prayer warriors, and all of the compassionate doctors and medical staff who helped her fight the purple dragon with all her might.

Memorial contributions can be made in Sharon LaBarbera's name to the choir at The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

View the obituary and guestbook online at www.mourning.com

Martin & Castille-DOWNTOWN-330 St. Landry St., Lafayette, LA 70506, 337-234-2311

Events

AUG **Visitation** 09:30AM - 11:00AM

7

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
515 Cathedral St., Lafayette, LA, US, 70501

AUG **Memorial Mass** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

7

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
515 Cathedral St., Lafayette, LA, US, 70501

Comments



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sharon Bent LaBarbera.



August 07, 2021 at 10:53 AM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Sharon Bent LaBarbera.



August 05, 2021 at 07:11 PM



“ Delores Living lit a candle in memory of Sharon Bent LaBarbera



Delores Living - August 05, 2021 at 02:54 PM



“ Sharon gave her time and energy to many volunteer organizations and made this a better community because of it.

Brent Roy - August 05, 2021 at 02:09 PM



“ Sharon was a dear college friend at the USL School of Music. I have many fond memories which involve her from those days, including being my roommate on the France tour. May she Rest In Peace with her beloved husband.
Joni Roy Hamilton

joni Hamilton - August 05, 2021 at 01:39 PM



“ Sharon and I met as 1973 Allstate Chorus members. Attracted by her radiant smile and witty sense of humor, we began dating my senior year at Vermilion Catholic. We broke up during her senior year after a year of going together. By the grace of God, our paths continued to cross through her family. Her mother, Elenor, served as my father's nurse after his open heart surgery. I often played tennis at USL with her brother, John. Sharon came to my mother's 70th birthday party @ Fontana Center accompanied by her mother and father. I recalled her father picking Sharon up from Our Lady of Wisdom on the USL campus to take her to lunch. As a father to two daughters, I have often thought of her father, Norman, as a great example of being a father to his daughter with cherished memories of Sharon's relationship with him. Sharon, following you on facebook in your battle with cancer, you fought with great courage, faith, and always a sense of humor. Thank you for touching my life through the years and sharing your family with me. You were truly a gift from God. Welcome home and say hello to your parents and brother. May you now Rest In Peace.

Francis Fontana - August 05, 2021 at 08:20 AM



“ The last time I truly laughed uncontrollably until tears were running down my face was with Sharon (and Mona and Catherine and Susan) in the choir loft during Wednesday night rehearsal several years ago. I don't remember what started the episode, but I believe it included the pantomiming of shooting spitballs through a straw from the choir loft (long story). The tears and laughter continued for several minutes, much to Tom Niel's dismay. In fact, I had to apologize to Tom following rehearsal, as I felt I was probably the instigator of said disruption.

Many tears followed that happy episode for both Sharon and me. First, my ovarian cancer in 2013. Then, her cancer. Then, I lost my husband in August 2020. Then, just two months later, David passed away. We were two rudderless ships, trying to console each other in a sea of grief and confusion.

Now my sister ship is gone. Please guide me from above, Sweet Sharon. Please give Hartley a hug for me. I'll miss you and love you always!

Sara McDowell - August 04, 2021 at 10:35 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sharon Bent LaBarbera.



August 03, 2021 at 03:49 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Sharon Bent LaBarbera



Sara McDowell - August 02, 2021 at 05:38 PM



“ Your cousins-Julie, Valerie, and Meme purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Sharon Bent LaBarbera.



Your cousins-Julie, Valerie, and Meme - August 02, 2021 at 03:38 PM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Sharon Bent LaBarbera.



August 01, 2021 at 10:00 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Sharon Bent LaBarbera



Sara McDowell - July 31, 2021 at 10:04 PM



“ I sang with Sharon for so many years I can't even count at the Catbedral. Such a powerful Alto voice and a powerful person !! She had the best sense of humor and kept that humor throughout her sickness ! She fought such a hard , tough fight with always such a positive attitude . Love you Shark. And will miss you!

Mona Trahan - July 31, 2021 at 04:07 PM



“ 36 files added to the album Sharon Bent LaBarbera



Sara McDowell - July 31, 2021 at 02:50 PM



“ Sharon was the most brave fighter I've ever known! And, she always kept her great sense of humor through all she endured - much more than any one person should endure. God rest and keep you and David in His loving arms forever!

Diana Lennon - July 31, 2021 at 01:15 PM