



Barbara J. Tollzien

April 24, 1938 - June 10, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Barbara J. Tollzien on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at the age of 87. Barbara passed away peacefully at the Corewell Health Hospital in Troy, surrounded by her loved ones. Born on April 24, 1938, to Olney and Vivian (Worthington) Parker in Detroit, Michigan, she lived a life filled with love, family, and community.

Barbara was the cherished wife of the late Albert S. Ernst Jr. A loving mother, she leaves behind her children: Debra Gainor of New Baltimore, MI, Kirk Tollzien and his wife, Sherri, and Al Ernst along with his wife, Fredda. Her legacy continues through her grandchildren: Daniel Tollzien and his wife, Tali, Andrew Tollzien and his wife, Kayla, and Samantha Gainor. She was the proud great-grandmother of Zander and Collins Tollzien, who brought immense joy to her final years.

Predeceased by her parents, Olney and Vivian Parker, her brother, Robert Parker, and her sister, Bonnie (the late Bob) Hockenbury, Barbara's loving spirit will be dearly missed by her family and friends, including numerous nieces and nephews who cherished their dear aunt.

Visitation for Barbara will be on Thursday, June 19, 2025 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. with a funeral service at 6:30 p.m. ending at 7:00 p.m. at the Wasik Funeral Home, 35259 23 Mile Rd. New Baltimore.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in Barbara's memory to ReJoyceful Animal Rescue, Macomb County Humane Society and Wounded Warriors.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **19**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - New Baltimore
35259-23 Mile Road
New Baltimore, MI 48047
(586) 725-0177
<https://www.gendernalikfh.com/>

Funeral Service

JUN **19**. 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - New Baltimore
35259-23 Mile Road
New Baltimore, MI 48047
(586) 725-0177
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Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Barbara J. Tollzien.

June 19, 2025 at 10:02 AM



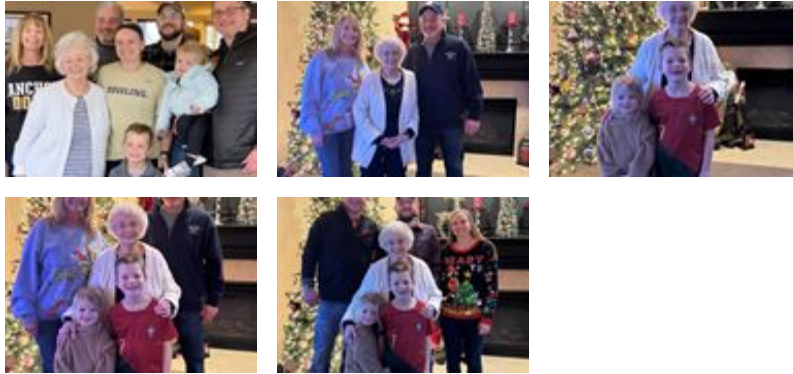
“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Barbara J. Tollzien.



June 19, 2025 at 10:02 AM



“ 41 files added to the album Life Tributes



Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. - June 18, 2025 at 02:12 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara J. Tollzien.



June 18, 2025 at 01:49 PM



“ Sad to hear of Barbs passing. She and I attended Lincoln elementary together in Birmingham, Michigan. She and her family lived on Benneville St and I lived not far from her on Edgewood... we didn't spend time together as my family moved to a new house during elementary but we did go to same high school and I knew her husband Ward. We learned of each other about a year or so ago on Zoom group chat and enjoyed monthly check-ins with mutual friends. She was so appreciative of her families help with her computer and mail as her eyesight deteriorated. She will be missed on our Zoom group... my love to her family.
Alana Dodge Kay, White Bear Lake, Mn.

Alana Dodge Kay - June 16, 2025 at 08:04 PM



“ Barbara was my first cousin. Her father, Olney Lee Parker, was my father's older brother. Because Barbara was 13 years older than me & lived in a different community, we were not close growing up. However, we reconnected as senior citizens & enjoyed sharing family stories & discussing genealogy. She was a wonderful person with many good qualities. I will truly miss her. Submitted by: Leslie Parker of Novi, MI.

Miss Leslie Parker - June 15, 2025 at 02:51 PM

“If you grew up in a neighborhood like mine—right in the heart of downtown Rochester—you know what it was like to have houses packed closely together and kids everywhere. When I was five years old, our street was full of children between the ages of 4 and 10, which meant endless playmates and more importantly, a whole community of parents who looked out for you like their own.

One of those families was the Tollziens. If you were standing in front of my childhood home, the Tollziens lived right next door to the left. In 1968, Mrs. Tollzien sent her young daughter next door to see if there were any little girls to play with—and that’s how Debbie found me. We were only six months apart in age and became instant best friends. It’s now 2025, and after 57 years, we still are.

Because Debbie and I spent so much time together, her mom naturally became one of my “second moms.” Mrs. Tollzien was a beautiful person—inside and out. I always felt comfortable with her, and I truly cherished every moment we shared over the years. I loved her deeply, like a mom, and she meant the world to me.

Hearing of her declining health was heartbreaking, and when I received the news of her passing, I was heartbroken. But I am so grateful that just a few months ago, I had the chance to sit and talk with her—just like we had done for decades.

Mrs. Tollzien, you will always hold a special, irreplaceable place in my heart. You taught me so much throughout my life. You patiently answered the questions Debbie and I asked as curious little girls, watched us play dress-up in those beautiful dresses, and saw us grow into young women. You were there every step of the way.

Though you had one daughter by birth, you made me feel like I was a daughter too. Thank you for that gift. Rest in peace, my beautiful second mom. I will miss your gorgeous smile and your infectious laugh—and I will always, always love you.

*With love,
Claire*

Claire Ahearn - June 14, 2025 at 10:12 PM