



Charlene Florence Johnson Barker

March 12, 1948 - June 26, 2024

Charlene Florence Johnson Barker passed away quietly and peacefully in her home on June 26, 2024.

She was born on March 12, 1948, in Salt Lake City, Utah to Winslow “Pete” Johnson and Phyllis Reid Penman. She received a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from Utah State University and was a member of the Delta Delta Delta Sorority. She married Kenneth Jeffrey Barker in the Salt Lake Temple on November 8, 1972. She taught at Roosevelt Elementary for two years until she had her first child when she then devoted her life to being an exemplary mother.

Charlene tirelessly served her husband and raised her children with love, devotion, joy, humor and laughter. She was the light of our family. We will always remember the countless vacations, times out to eat, and intimate times at home where we saw her quiet, yet bold example of how to live our lives. She showed us how to be honest and hardworking disciples of Christ, and to treat others as He did. We also witnessed this in her interactions with family, friends, neighbors and strangers. Faith in her Savior Jesus Christ gave her the ability to remain a beacon of light and an example to others despite her struggles. This was a testament to her incredible strength and selflessness.

She cherished her relationship with her sister and brothers. She had gratitude

for the example and support they had always been to her. There is a very special love and concern that exists between the four of them that is deeply seeded and filled with an almost untouchable love that came from having to rely on each other throughout their lives. This love and loyalty was very evident to all those who knew them. She was blessed and privileged to have the parents she had and truly desired that their example, influence, and love would live on through future generations.

Her seven grandchildren were her pride and joy. They were of utmost importance to her and she loved them immensely. Each grandchild received personal comfort from her and knew that they meant the world to her. Not one grandchild ever had to question her love for them and she never had to question their love for her. She enjoyed spending time with them doing things like patiently teaching a granddaughter over FaceTime, who lives hundreds of miles away, how to bake a pie, having nerf gun wars with a grandson, and winning, and making cinnamon sugar toast at 2 a.m. and Mickey Mouse pancakes for breakfast while having the prized sleepover at her house. Whatever was important to her grandchildren was even more important to her, whether big or small.

Charlene had a rare talent for making you feel uniquely special, forever changing your life. With empathy, a warm smile, and her attentive presence, she made everyone feel safe, seen, and valued. She had a remarkable talent for finding humor in the everyday and sharing it with those around her, effortlessly lifting spirits and spreading joy. Her quick wit and playful nature made her the life of the party. Her pranks, humor and infectious laugh brought endless laughter to friends and family, creating cherished memories filled with warmth and love. Everyone has their own profound and impactful memory or story about Charlene. Words never have, and never will be able to describe her.

Friendship was just as important to her as family was. She was a true and loyal friend, ensuring that our home was open to all. Friends were always calling and stopping by. She loved entertaining in her home, always going the extra mile and adding her special touch to make it memorable. She was a joy to be around and the void that now comes from her colossal life will never be filled. There is only one Charlene. She was simply the best.

She loved her garden and spent countless hours perfecting it. She also loved art, quilting, sewing, scrapbooking, camping and riding horses in West Weber with aunts and cousins. A cousin fittingly described her as “a real cowgirl at heart”. The outdoors, mountains and nature are where she came alive.

Charlene exemplified the parable of the servant who received five talents and doubled them. She took the talents given to her by Jesus Christ and multiplied them through active faith, receiving many more in return. She spent her life mirroring her Savior by feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming strangers, clothing the naked, and visiting the sick. She made sure others were comforted in their pain, even if she was in excruciating pain herself. She was the epitome of putting others before herself.

Charlene served in numerous callings as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Though more than qualified, she always remained humble and felt the least qualified for each calling. From June 2019 to June 2020, Charlene served a mission with her husband, Jeff, in the Utah Salt Lake City Mission as member and leader support missionaries. However, her service extended far beyond their primary assignment, profoundly impacting the young missionaries and providing them with strength and support. She was a literal angel to many of them. She treated each Elder and Sister as one of her children. Missionaries described her home as a “safe haven” and a “piece of heaven”.

Charlene is survived by her husband, Jeff; her children Brooke Porter (Garrett), Doug Barker, Erinn Christiansen, and Craig Barker (Danielle); her grandchildren Morgan, James, Ashlyn, Luke, Ryleigh, Scottlyn, and Cash; her sister Sue Ann Alder (Steve), her brother Doug Johnson (Camille), and her sister-in-law Kristine Johnson Hatch. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Gregg Johnson.

A viewing will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Hillside Ward, 7075 South 2245 East. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, July 10, at 12:00 p.m. at the same location, with a viewing from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. prior to the services. Interment will follow at Elysian Burial Gardens, 1075 East 4580 South.

Please share memories and condolences at www.sereniityfhs.com.

A Zoom link will be located at the top of the obituary prior to the funeral service.

Cemetery Details

Elysian Burial Gardens

1075 East 4580 South
Millcreek, UT 84117

Previous Events

Viewing

JUL **9**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Hillside Ward
7075 South 2245 East
Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121

Viewing #2

JUL **10**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (MT)

Hillside Ward
7075 South 2245 East
Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121

Funeral Service

JUL **10**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (MT)

Hillside Ward
7075 South 2245 East
Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121

Tribute Wall

GF

“ *Charlene could not only bring a smile to your face but she could touch your heart with spiritual insight as well. She and her family have been dear friends for many years. Our deepest condolences to the Barker family. Gordon and Candy Flitton*

Gordon Flitton - July 09, 2024 at 02:24 AM

DB

Thanks so much for your kind words!!

Doug Barker - July 17, 2024 at 10:12 PM

SM

“ *Charlene and her family have been great neighbors and friends for over 30 years. I am so thankful to have known her. I have so many great memories that involve her fun personality--countless rides to school in the family station wagon, the sugarless Texas sheet cake she sent over many years ago, and so many other fun, light-hearted interactions. It makes me smile just thinking of her laugh. She was so kind to me as a youth and that kindness continued with my own children many years later. Charlene was generous, kind, and faithful. I am a better person for having known her. She leaves a great legacy through her husband, children, and grandchildren. I hope to be neighbors to Charlene again some day!*

Spencer McConkie - July 05, 2024 at 04:24 PM

DB

Thanks for sharing the great stories Spencer!

Doug Barker - July 17, 2024 at 10:12 PM

RS

“ We loved Charlene. She was a wonderful neighbor - so thoughtful, so loving, and so very fun. Heaven is a happier, joyful place now that Charlene has joined the ranks. We know that our Heavenly Father is well-pleased with her life of faith, testimony and service. She was a true disciple of Christ in every way. All our love to the Barker family.

Your neighbors and friends - Larry and Ruth Schmidt

Ruth Schmidt - July 05, 2024 at 12:36 PM

DB

Thank you Larry and Ruth

Doug Barker - July 17, 2024 at 10:11 PM

RS

“ I love you, Charlene! Thanks for letting me be your son's friend and for treating me like gold. Your constant teasing taught me to think on my feet and yet you always made me feel welcome and loved. Rest in peace my kind and loving friend! ❤️



Ryan Scott - July 03, 2024 at 04:43 PM

DG

“ So many memories growing up that include Charlene and the Barker family. In many ways, it was a another home for me. Our families were connected on so many levels and a mutual love ran deep. I know that she has many loved ones, family and friends who anxiously embraced her in reunion. Our prayers, thoughts and love go out to Jeff, Brooke, Doug, Erinn, and Criag. Grateful for the knowledge of eternal families.

Dave Gooch - July 03, 2024 at 02:45 PM

DB

Thanks Dave. I love you man!

Doug Barker - July 04, 2024 at 11:02 AM

SA

“ I would like to express the Johnson family's deep appreciation to Charlene's immediate family for the amazing care they have given Charlene over the past months. It is with heartfelt love, gratitude and respect that Charlene's brother, sister, nieces and nephews extend their love and gratitude to Charlene's loving children and husband for their many hours of kind and gentle care of Charlene over the course of her illness. They met her every need with compassion, love and enduring commitment. There are not enough words to express our greatest thanks to them. Jeff, Brooke, Doug, Erinn and Craig - THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts.

Now to Charlene! There is no way I could ever fully convey my deep love and respect for, and blessing of having Charlene as a sister. Everything in the obituary is true. There was no one funnier, kinder, more gentle, thoughtful, and hard working. She was a gifted "people person." Charlene always made everyone feel like they were her favorite person. My children all had a special relationship with her and felt like they were her special niece or nephew. They adored their Aunt "Chuck." She did everything to perfection. I remember one Thanksgiving when I told her we were going to have a "bake-off" of rolls - hers and mine. I knew going into the challenge that I was going to lose. Charlene made THE BEST rolls, the best chocolate cake, THE BEST EVERYTHING. I was right. Hands down, Charlene's rolls were "out of this world." But just as was written, Charlene never gave herself enough credit. She acted like anyone could do it and probably do it better. I never saw that proven. She was extremely gifted as a cook and maybe even more so as someone who could crochet, make quilts, and pillows with exactness and skill. Her "hand work" items were a treasure and she was very generous in her gifts of her special work. Charlene's thoughtful and well-written loong notes were treasured. Charlene's knowledge of and example of reading the Book of Mormon was extremely motivating to me. She managed to study the scriptures and everything she could about Jesus Christ. Her testimony strengthened me many times. I called Charlene for EVERYTHING. She knew every thought I ever had. She was my most trusted

confidante. She was my most energetic cheerleader. She NEVER let me down or disappointed me. I'm grateful I was able to spend some good quality time with her the week before she died. It is hard to not be there now but I know she will be with us as we continue to think about her and reminisce about the times she made us laugh, the tricks she pulled (she decorated my front lawn with signs and put a sign on the back of my car that said "honk if you think 50 is old," that I didn't notice as I drove around all day.) and the generosity, love, and kindness she constantly gave. I love you Charlene, and I'm going to miss you more than I dare imagine. You're the BEST sister I could ever have. I love you with all my heart.

Sue Ann Alder - July 03, 2024 at 06:05 AM

CD

Wait a minute! Thus was not supposed to happen! I am older than Charlene and was supposed to die first!! And of course, I always thought that I was her best friend, and now I find out that everyone was! 🤔🙄

I actually have been dreading this event, but Charlene knew that and took her time, letting me down easy. My life has not been the same without her-I have missed so much, the late-night conversations about how to navigate the challenges of life, laughing hysterically one minute and crying the next, asking her just how much flour she uses in her French Bread recipe which she always insisted was mine, how do you raise children when they really are raising you, talking about how we love working in the yard when it was the dead of winter, would carry you over the hard part, having a most memorable Thanksgiving with her family that our family STILL talks about with much laughter (her Grands ate all the tops off the Orange rolls before we sat down), trips to St George with our friends when life was easy, swimming in Lake Powell in that clear, cool water, meeting Charlene and Jeff for the first time when she was nine months pregnant with Brooke on a fairy-tail street in Sugarhouse named Parkway, I can see her now as she had the most beautiful black hair, long and flipped up, Calling the Barker's first thing after delivering a new baby, calling when you needed advice on anything, didn't we all?

As you can see, my life has been so full with Charlene in it! Our family will be forever grateful for our friendship and love that we have for the wonderful Barker Family. Charlene, I was supposed to go first! 💕💕💕
Crystal

Crystal L Dunn - July 03, 2024 at 11:00 AM

DB

Thank you Sue Ann! I love you!

Doug Barker - July 04, 2024 at 11:18 AM

JC

Oh Charlene! No one was funnier and fun to be with than you were! How I wish we meet just one more time at Great Harvest for lunch! You fought the good fight and we love you so much! We have lots and lots of wonderful memories over the past 50 some odd years. How blessed we were to know you and love you!

Prayers and love heading to the whole Barker family from the Connollys! Love, Dean and Joan

Joan Connolly - July 08, 2024 at 08:44 PM

TS

“ *My beautiful new favorite aunt that I didn't get to meet. I feel so blessed we met over the phone, emails and texts. Until we meet in heaven. Your new favorite niece, Teri*

Teri Seaton - July 02, 2024 at 05:18 PM

WP

Charlene had an eternal smile and was always so positive and no one was more fun to be around. She and Jeff were the perfect pair and everyone loved spending time with them. Heaven is a better place with Charlene. She and her infectious laugh will be greatly missed.

Wally Peterson

Wally Peterson - July 10, 2024 at 06:45 AM