

Barbara Ruth Kirby

October 13, 1937 – July 26, 2022

Barbara Ruth Kirby, 84, was born in Enid, OK, on October 13, 1937, to Ora William and Ruby Edith (Hayes) Sharkey and passed away on July 26, 2022. After graduating from Hillsdale Schools, she continued her education at Oklahoma State University where she majored in home economics education, earning her bachelor's degree in 1959. During this time, she met James Steven Kirby, and they were married on August 17, 1958. Four daughters were born to this union. During their married life, Jim and Barbara lived in several states, including Texas, Iowa, and Indiana. They returned to Oklahoma and established the KirbyKreek Farm in 1971. Barbara worked at Oklahoma State University for 24 years, retiring in 1998. In her last position, she served as a counselor in the International Student Services Office, working with students from around the world, a position she found to be particularly fulfilling. Barbara was a member of the Perkins First United Methodist Church for over 50 years where she held many leadership roles. Barbara was a member of several civic and school groups in which her effort was devoted to leaving things better than how she found them. Barbara was preceded in death by three siblings: brother Jean Sharky, sister Joan Kroll, and sister Billie Rickard. She is survived by her husband, Jim; daughters Dena (Don) Jaeger, Kendra Kirby, Karen Rogers (Rick), and Connie Lane (Bryan). She is also survived by four grandsons.