



## Barbara Komives

December 27, 1937 - March 16, 2018

Barbara Kiner Komives, RDH, BSDH, MS, was 80 years young. She was originally from Columbus, Ohio, but has been a 40-year resident of Morgantown, WV. Barbara went to be with the Lord on Friday, March 16, 2018 with her family by her side in Virginia Beach, VA following a brief illness.

Barbara was born on December 27, 1937 in Finley, Ohio to Reverend Paul Wesley Kiner and Margaret Ellen Mabe Kiner. Barbara was an only child who grew up in Columbus, Ohio surrounded by a close knit extended family.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, The Reverend Paul Wesley Kiner, and Margaret Ellen Mabe Kiner as well as her husband Andrew John Michael Komives.

Barbara is survived by her Son, Michael Wesley Komives Sr., his wife Theresa Ann Bildstein Komives, and their two children, Stephanie Elizabeth Komives, and Michael Wesley Komives, Jr., all of Virginia Beach, Virginia, Daughter, Melissa Ellen Komives O'Brien-Yu, her husband Victor Yu of The Woodlands, Tx, and their two children, Julia Brianna O'Brien of Katy, Tx, and John William Davis O'Brien II of New York, NY.

Barbara, Professor Emeritus, was the Director of Dental Hygiene at West Virginia University School of Dentistry for almost 40 years. She was a graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene and a Master of Science in Allied Medicine.

The following post on Facebook from a former student Dawn Ann Dean, RDH, MSDH captures Barbara's career and her dedication to her family, faith, and

students:

“OUR LOSS IS HEAVEN’S GAIN...Professor Komives is now numbered among the Shining Stars and Forever Wishing All Who Knew Her—Life’s Best —From Up Above!”

“Our Profession of Dental Hygiene & ADHA Tribe has lost another industry giant, Barbara Kiner Komives, RDH, MS, Professor Emeritus & former, Department of Dental Hygiene Chair at WVU School of Dentistry! Professor Komives passed peacefully in the loving care and arms of her family in Virginia Beach, Virginia. As details become available, regarding the funeral arrangements, I will share them on Facebook.”

“Professor Komives was a beloved wife, mother, professor, woman of faith, and a Lifelong Professional Member of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association, and a former, ADHA Institute for Oral Health Liaison, for the West Virginia Dental Hygienists’ Association(WVDHA). In addition to being a WVDHA Past President and recipient of the WVDHA Distinguished RDH Award, during my WVDHA Presidency, 2007-2009, Professor Komives was a Distinguished Alumni from Ohio State University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene and Education, 1956-1960. As a retired, Professor Emeritus and WVU SOD DH Department Chair, 1979-2001, with 22 years of service at WVU and a cumulative, 39 years and 9 months of career service to the Profession of Dental Hygiene, Professor Komives was a consummate and respected, dental hygiene educator and administrator. In addition, Professor Komives taught Dental Hygiene at Temple University and Ohio State University. Professor Komives enjoyed being a Proud Mountaineer and Buckeye Loyalist!”

“I had the privilege of meeting Professor Komives, when I was a DH Student and SADHA Class President at West Liberty State College, circa ‘81-‘84, and when I transferred to WVU Eberly College to complete a BA Degree in Psychology, Professor Komives remembered my industry leadership qualities and contacted me to become the first of two graduate school students at the WVU SOD to pursue the new, Master of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene,

Administration and Research, '89-'92. Professor Komives was a wonderful mentor and most recently attended the 2017 WVU SOD Alumni Awards Luncheon as my guest, with ADHA President Elect, Michele Braerman, RDH, BSDH, to celebrate my industry recognition, as the 2017 WVU SOD Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. It was at that awards luncheon that Professor Komives told me how proud she was of me serving the ADHA as the District III Trustee, representing the states of DC, DE, MD, VA, and WV, and that she felt confident that I had the leadership attributes necessary to one day serve as an ADHA Elected Officer. Professor Komives reminded me this would be "another first" for a WVDHA Past President and she would be so proud of me to continue my life of service and leadership. Like my MSDH education years, at WVU SOD, Professor Komives was always encouraging me and the other Dental Hygiene students to serve and live with integrity, excellence, and passion!"

"When my youngest daughter, Anna, was critically ill and being cared for at the WVU Children's Hospital, from November 2015 - March 2016, Professor Komives would text, call, and visit me at the hospital. Professor Komives understood caring for a critically ill child, too, as her daughter had been ill previously, and she brought me and my daughter, Anna, a Prayer Handkerchief, that had especially been prayed over by her and her church members for Anna's healing. It meant so much to me and Anna, and we kept the gift with us always and during every long hospitalization through 3.5 years of medical care. Professor Komives was so excited to learn of Anna's complete healing in December 2016 and to later learn that she, too, would soon attend WVU Eberly Honors College, like her mother, this fall, to pursue a Psychology Degree in Pediatric Hospitalization. Now, going forward, Anna and I will treasure the Prayer Handkerchief, Barbara's gift of faith and her reminder to never lose hope."

In closing, I will leave you with a quote from a book on St. Teresa of Calcutta, that Professor Komives gave to me as a gift at the 2017 WVU SOD Alumni

Award Luncheon and it surely gives us insight as to the significance of her passion for the Art & Science of Dental Hygiene and the importance of every person's ability to share a healthy, human smile. This quote beautifully captures the lens of faith by which Professor Komives viewed life's journey and purpose: "Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love." ~ St. Teresa of Calcutta

Barbara will be laid to rest at Sunset Cemetery, 6959 W. Broad St., Galloway, Ohio 43119, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 24, 2018. A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at Suncrest United Methodist Church in Morgantown, WV.

In lieu of flowers the family is requesting that donations be made to the American Dental Hygienist Association, ADHA's Institute for Oral Health, 444 N Michigan Ave, Suite 400 Chicago, IL 60611 or online at: [https://mymembership.adha.org/Members/Fundraising/Give\\_Now.aspx?ItemId=GENERAL](https://mymembership.adha.org/Members/Fundraising/Give_Now.aspx?ItemId=GENERAL). The prompt will ask if this is a "tribute" donation, and you can select YES. You can then select "in memory" and type in Barbara Komives. Please note that this donation be in memory of Barbara Komives, so it can be identified and placed in the General Scholarship fund

The family would like to thank everyone for their kind words, posts, thoughts, and prayers.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

MAR **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sunset Cemetery  
6959 W. Broad St.  
Galloway, OH 43119  
(614) 878-4692

# Tribute Wall



“ *Barbara Komives*

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January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *I am a registered dietitian and was interviewed by national accreditation teams when the WVU Dental Hygiene Program was reviewed. Barbara was a caring professional who appreciated the contribution of nutrition classes in the Dental Hygiene Program. We would encounter each other in the community and she always knew my name.*

*Barbara Komives was a caring person and outstanding professional.*

*My condolences to her family and friends,*

*Betty Forbes*

*Retired WVU Professor*

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**Betty Forbes** - March 23, 2018 at 04:11 PM

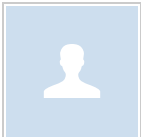


“ Oh how sad I am to learn of Barbara's passing. We were such good friends .We both were in each other's weddings and we lived one street apart from each other while attending school for Dental Hygiene. I can remember Dr.Wise, who was then the Director of Dental Hygiene saying that our uniforms always looked so nice and that was because Barbara and I took our uniforms to the same Chinese laundry.Our husbands both had interest in foreign cars and we spent a wonderful vacation with Barbara and Andy on Martha's Vineyard. The last time I talked to Barbara was when she had her knee replacement done and she told me how great it was. I am really going to miss her. My deepest sympathy to Melissa and Michael.

Love,  
Judy Ohlemacher Cribb

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**Amy Cribb** - March 22, 2018 at 07:29 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Komives.



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March 22, 2018 at 12:20 PM



“ Michael and Melissa, sorry to learn of Barbara passing. Remember the good times. Rest in Piece Barbara. Dr. Meckstroth

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**Richard Meckstroth** - March 22, 2018 at 11:54 AM

DH

“ While as a freshman dental hygiene student I was involved in a car accident. A drunk driver hit us head on and I broke both ankles. Barbara was instrumental in helping me continue with my studies and even drove me to a few classes when transportation was an issue. Our senior year she had our whole class to her home for dinner. And she was supportive when a hometown friend , who was in a dental hygiene class a few years ahead of me, passed away. Barbara was passionate that the WVU Dental School graduate skilled professional dental hygienists. Prayers to Barbara’s family and may peace be with you.  
Debbie Halbritter  
Class of 1982



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**Debbie Halbritter** - March 22, 2018 at 01:49 AM

LH

“ Lorra Lee Dorr and Jane Clarkson Hirsch purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Barbara Komives.



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**Lorra Lee Dorr and Jane Clarkson Hirsch** - March 21, 2018 at 07:44 PM

DB

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mrs. Komives’ passing. How I loved her dearly. She was the director of the WVU Dental Hygiene program when I attended from 1993-1997. The day I met her during my interview, I knew she would become significant influence in my life. We clicked from the start. She did so much for me throughout my college career I could never Thank her enough. She was an amazing teacher, a generous and kind woman, and a special friend. I will miss her occasional facebook messages that would put a smile on my face. LOVE YOU MRS KOMIVES MAY YOU REST IN ETERNAL PEACE WITH THE LORD ❤️❤️🙏. My deepest condolences to her family and loved ones.

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**Doreen Banks Babilonia** - March 21, 2018 at 03:34 PM

EB

“ On behalf of the mid-year class of 1956 at North High School here in Columbus which Barb was a member, we express our heartfelt sympathy to her family and friends. She was a great friend, classmate, and very intelligent person. She always made time to travel to our class five year reunions and last year was our 60th. She will be missed.

*Edwin M. Brown*  
*56 Classmate*

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**Edwin M. Brown** - March 21, 2018 at 01:42 PM

JR

“ Barbara was a wonderful gift to us all! Her kind, encouraging smile will always remain in my memory, especially as I think back on my days as a dental hygiene student at The Ohio State University. She was not only a role model as a dental hygienist, but a role model on how to live an exemplary life. It was so special to see her at the ADHA annual meeting in Pittsburgh in 2016. And a wonderful gift to me since she was there as I celebrated my presidency. We have lost a wonderful person, but heaven has gained an angel who will guard over us all. Rest In Peace, Barbara, and know that you will always be in our thoughts.

Jill Rethman, RDH, BA  
ADHA Past President  
Fellow Buckeye

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**Jill Rethman** - March 21, 2018 at 01:27 PM

KH

“ On behalf of the Halula family, we send our sympathies. Barbara was such a special person to our entire family. Our 40 year friendship is filled with many wonderful memories of times shared together. Personally, she was a dear friend, mentor, comforter - basically, someone you could count on for absolutely anything. She will be so missed.

Love,  
Kim, Steve, Carey and Shea

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**Kim L Halula** - March 21, 2018 at 09:42 AM

LF

“ Love, The Halula Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Barbara Komives.



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**Love, The Halula Family** - March 21, 2018 at 09:29 AM

DM

“ On behalf of myself, as a former student of Professor Komives, and the ADHA District III Membership, representing the states of DC, DE, MD, VA, & WV, I wish to express our deepest condolences in the loss of your precious, loved one! Thank you to the Komives family for including excerpts from my many posts on social media in tribute to Barbara. It was an honor to know Barbara as a professor, mentor, colleague, and friend of faith! I will never forget her Pearls of Wisdom and her ability to make ordinary days extraordinary! Even now, Barbara is inspiring us all to seek and serve what is upward and it is our honor to carry her Light and Inspiration into the world to make people smile, as she did! When Barbara arrived in heaven, there is no doubt in my mind that God greeted her with these words, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” Rest In Peace, dearest Barbara!

*With Sincerest Sympathy & Love,  
Dawn Ann Dean, RDH, MSDH  
ADHA District III Trustee*

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**Dawn Ann Dean, RDH, MSDH** - March 20, 2018 at 06:47 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Barbara Komives.



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March 20, 2018 at 03:00 PM