

**Barbara J. Hughes**  
**1951-2021**

Barbara Jo Hughes passed away on Saturday, March 13, 2021 after a two-and-a-half-year battle with cancer. She was born in Sioux Falls, SD on September 21, 1951 to parents Esther and Charles Sidlo. Barbara graduated from Sioux Falls Lincoln High School in 1969. Four years later she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Drake University where she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority. In 2010 she received her 50-year pin from the sorority's PV Alumni Chapter. Barbara joined TWA as a Flight Attendant from 1973 to 1979. She met the love of her life, Don Hughes, in LA and they were married in Sioux Falls on June 21, 1975. They lived in Redondo Beach, CA and then Atlanta, GA where their daughter Elizabeth and son Todd were born. For the past 36 years the Hughes family has made Palos Verdes Estates, CA their home. During these years Barbara volunteered at her children's schools, was a Girl Scout leader, and was active in Christian Family Movement (CFM) at St. Lawrence in Redondo Beach. She was also a member of National Charity League – Peninsula Chapter (Ticktockers). Barbara and daughter Elizabeth volunteered together to present New Kids on the Block, a puppet program that taught students about disabilities. Friends said Barbara was a popular volunteer because of her enthusiasm, creativity, and hard-working ethic. They added that she was a super mom, a classy lady, and the kind of tennis partner everyone should be lucky enough to have---lots of fun on the court, never a sore loser, and never one to blame her tennis partner.



Barbara began her 21-year teaching career at Edison Elementary in Torrance, CA in 1998 when her daughter entered college. She earned her Master of Education Degree in 2008 and retired in June 2019. Her high expectations for her students were exceeded only by her expectations for herself. Barbara's organizational skills were over the top making her a great choice to coordinate the yearly Science Fair and book fairs. She was talented artistically and shared art and design tips with her students. They would then apply these new skills in their projects. It was widely known that Barbara's students had the best California mission reports! She had the respect and admiration of her colleagues, parents, and students. Teacher friends described Barbara as a shining star, a smart lady with a beautiful smile, and the embodiment of optimism and tireless dedication with a natural way to make everyone feel welcomed and included. They valued her delightful humor, serving heart, and storytelling skills that drew on her own life experiences. Perhaps a student described Barbara best:

“You are very kind, caring, smart, funny, and you are amazing. Thank you, Mrs. Hughes for giving us all your loving heart.”

Barbara is survived by her husband Don, her children Elizabeth and Todd, sisters Cheryl, Rebecca, and Laurel, a large extended family, and many friends dear to her heart.

Due to Covid-19, a memorial service is planned for September 18, 2021 at 9:45, St. Lawrence Martyr Catholic Church, Redondo Beach, CA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in the near future in Barbara's honor to a memorial scholarship fund that is in the process of being created by her family. This fund will help Edison Elementary students reach their college education goals.