



## Barbara Wimbish Newby

March 6, 1935 - June 6, 2024

Barbara Delores Wimbish Newby, 89, passed away peacefully on June 6, 2024, at Obici Hospital in Suffolk, Virginia with her devoted daughter, Tomia Newby-Brown, by her side.

Born on March 6, 1935, in Raleigh, North Carolina, Barbara was the only daughter of the late George Scott Wimbish and Della Elizabeth Perry Wimbish. Barbara was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Thomas Amos Newby, a native of Norfolk, Virginia, whom she married in Chesapeake, Virginia on June 29, 1957.

Growing up in Norfolk, Virginia and North Carolina, Barbara valued education. She attended the 1st through 4th grades in Norfolk Public Schools before the family moved to Raleigh, where she completed her grade school education at St. Monica's Catholic School. When her family moved to Norfolk County (Chesapeake), Barbara completed the 9th grade at St. Joseph's Catholic School. She later attended Norfolk County High School, graduating valedictorian of her class in 1953. Barbara completed the 2-year program at Norfolk Division of Virginia State College (later Norfolk State University) before graduating in 1957 from Virginia State College (later Virginia State University) as an honor graduate with a B.S. in Music Education. Barbara later completed an M.S. in Early Childhood Education at Old Dominion University. She also studied at the Peabody Conservatory of Music at Hampton University.

After graduating from Virginia State, Barbara married the love of her life, Dr. Thomas A. Newby, a Norfolk educator and principal of Booker T. Washington High School. The couple welcomed their daughter, Tomia A. Newby, in 1968, who pursued a career in nursing, graduating from Hampton University. Tomia is currently an RN with Bon Secours Infusion Center. Barbara and Tom were married for 39 ½ years until his death in 1997.

Barbara taught at Georgie Tyler High School in Windsor, Virginia from 1957 until 1959 before securing a position in the Princess Anne County school system (now the Virginia Beach public schools). In 1964, she was hired as a music teacher in Norfolk Public Schools. In 1977, she was recognized for her outstanding service when selected as the Teacher of the Year at Camp Allen Elementary School. She continued teaching her students to appreciate and love music until she retired after 30 years, in 1993.

Even after Barbara retired, she continued sharing her love of music. As an active and dedicated member of Community Presbyterian Church, she served as the organist and director of the Charles E. Diggs Memorial Men's Choir and the Senior Choir, a position she served for 63 years. Barbara also served as the secretary of the Community Presbyterian Church's Worship Committee, the Pastor's Nomination Committee, and as a member of the Dorcas Circle, the CP Women's Organization.

And while her family and church were most important, Barbara was active in her community. Portsmouth residents knew how much she valued her responsibilities as a citizen and voter because she served as an Election Officer for the City of Portsmouth for 24 years. She was also a member of the NAACP, a life member of the Virginia Education Association (VEA), and the Norfolk Education Association (NEA). Barbara was also a dedicated member of her sorority. As a Golden Life Member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,

Inc., Portsmouth Alumnae Chapter, she worked on numerous community projects that were part of their 5-Point Plan that included educational development, political awareness and involvement, economic development, international awareness and involvement, and physical and mental health.

Barbara loved family and church and was seldom absent from family gatherings, birthday celebrations, church services and meetings, weddings, funerals, or casual get-togethers. She leaves behind her beloved daughter, Tomia and son-in-law, Joseph Brown, Aunt Frieda Rapelyea, sisters-in-law, Mrs. Claytea B. Newby and Mrs. Margaret Bradley, brother-in-law, Vaughan Bradley Sr., godson, Cornell Hiawatha Demby, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends who were touched by her love of life, generous heart, inquisitive spirit, and enduring hopefulness.

Barbara was especially thankful to Dr. Ayham Deeb and his staff at Virginia Oncology, the nurses and staff at Obici Hospital's Outpatient Infusion Center, and her caregivers Cynthia Carman and Diane Turner.

A wake will be held at J.T. Fisher Funeral Services on Thursday, June 13, 2024, from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM. Funeral services will be held on Friday, June 14, 2024, at 10:30 AM at Community Presbyterian Church in Portsmouth, VA. Interment will follow at Roosevelt Memorial Park Cemetery, Chesapeake, Virginia.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to J.T. Fisher Funeral Services, Portsmouth, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Community Presbyterian Church in Portsmouth.

# Cemetery Details

## Roosevelt Memorial Park

1101 Campostella Road  
Chesapeake, Va

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 13. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services  
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.  
Chesapeake, VA 23323  
(757) 487-3700  
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com  
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

## Omega Service

JUN 13. 5:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services  
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.  
Chesapeake, VA 23323  
(757) 487-3700  
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com  
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

## Service

---

JUN 14. 10:30 AM (ET)

Community Presbyterian Church  
801 Tazewell Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23701

# Tribute Wall

JP

“ We will always remember Barbara as a woman who loved, supported, and encouraged her husband and daughter. We are thankful to have had the opportunity to know and interact with her.

Sincerely,  
Julie Perkins and Annie Perkins

---

**Julie Perkins** - June 24, 2024 at 03:10 PM

BL

“ As a child, I was always delighted when my parents (John and Ellen Perry) and Barbara's parents were going to get together. For me it meant spending time with sweet people ... "Aunt" Della, "Uncle" George and "cousin" Barbara who was kind to this little kid even with the difference in our ages.

Our parents met at St. Augustine's College and when they all landed up here in Tidewater their friendships continued. Aunt Della was a Perry and people in her family looked like some people in my father's family so ...

Anyway the bonds lasted through decades and I always looked up to Barbara as someone to use as a model in life. Much love to Tomia and family.



---

**Becky Perry Livas** - June 15, 2024 at 05:16 PM

US

“ My mother, Ella Moses, just learned of her passing today. They were close friends for over 70 years. Mother is in a nursing home now, but she is mourning her lost.

---

**Usher** - June 15, 2024 at 02:46 PM

PB

“ *Phyllis Baker lit a candle in memory of Barbara Wimbish Newby*



---

**Phyllis Baker** - June 14, 2024 at 03:03 PM

JA

“ *Barbara Newby was a beautiful woman, inside and out. I loved her very much like the love between a brother and sister. I have known her since high school. I and your Church's family (Community Presbyterian Church) will always love you.*

*James E. Demby*

---

**James** - June 13, 2024 at 10:48 PM

CT

“ *Crystal, Stacie, and Teague purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Barbara Wimbish Newby.*



---

**Crystal, Stacie, and Teague** - June 13, 2024 at 01:14 PM

CT

“ *Crystal, Stacie, and Teague planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Wimbish Newby.*

---

**Crystal, Stacie, and Teague** - June 13, 2024 at 01:14 PM

DM

“ *Deepest Condolences to the family. We were neighbors with Mrs. Wimbish in Crestwood and we stayed close to Mrs. Newby and the family.*

*The Mainers*

---

**Daren Mainer** - June 13, 2024 at 10:36 AM

GM

“ *Giovanni Montague-Sneed lit a candle in memory of Barbara Wimbish Newby*



---

**Giovanni Montague-Sneed** - June 13, 2024 at 08:46 AM

M&

“ *Margaret, Vaughn Sr & Jr, Lorelle & Imani purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Barbara Wimbish Newby.*



---

**Margaret, Vaughn Sr & Jr, Lorelle & Imani** - June 13, 2024 at 08:44 AM

SC

“ *Sheila Custis lit a candle in memory of Barbara Wimbish Newby*



---

**Sheila Custis** - June 12, 2024 at 11:55 PM



“ 36 files added to the album Life Tributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - June 12, 2024 at 09:21 PM

CH

*My sincere condolences to the family. Barbara was a long-time friend of the McCaleb and Hoggard families. She was my roommate for two years in college and we pledge Delta together. Her husband, Tommy, and my husband, David Hoggard, were life time friends in Norfolk. Barbara was an outstanding student, very talented, gracious, and caring. God has a beautiful angel. May she rest in peace.*

Clara Hoggard - June 17, 2024 at 05:07 PM

AW

“ *My Grandma Newby 🥹 Mom and I are definitely going to miss you! I'm going to miss my Sunday after church hugs, our phone conversations. Whether it was a call to wish me Happy Birthday, a congratulations call on one of my achievements, or just a call to check on me, meant the world to me. I know if I didn't give you a hug on Sunday, I would be getting a call from you, and you would say "Granddaughter, I didn't get my hug today". I knew I was in big trouble. I will always cherish those memories in my heart. Tomia, Joe and the Newby family, we are sending love and prayers of strength to each and everyone of you. We love you all*

*-Ashley and Crystal Wilder*

Ashley Wilder - June 12, 2024 at 07:29 PM

PL

*I will miss talking with Barbara. I worked with Dr. Newby and I considered Mrs. Wimbish as my Virginia Mother. I have lots of LOVE for the family.. Perdethia Lowery*

**Perdethia Lowery** - June 13, 2024 at 04:27 PM

PH

“ *Pam Hunter lit a candle in memory of Barbara Wimbish Newby*



**Pam Hunter** - June 12, 2024 at 07:22 PM

DF

“ *I was deeply saddened to hear of Barbara's passing. Growing up in Crestwood, we were back door neighbors. Our mothers were such close friends that most people thought they were sisters. So, I always felt like a member of the family. Cousin Barbara would often tell the story of how I was present, many times to chaperone, when her then boyfriend, Tom, would come over to visit her (I was only 3 or 4 at the time.). Our families shared many fond memories. I will miss her, greatly.*  
- Denise Dunbar Futrell



**Denise Dunbar Futrell** - June 12, 2024 at 03:46 PM

SB

“ *Stella D. Brown lit a candle in memory of Barbara Wimbish Newby*



**Stella D. Brown** - June 11, 2024 at 10:25 PM

SL

“ Mrs. Newby was truly like a member of my family. I have so many wonderful memories of her from childhood when she was our next door neighbor! We will miss her.

Sonya Lanier - June 11, 2024 at 02:39 PM

DB

“ Delmarene Barnes(Kippy) lit a candle in memory of Barbara Wimbish Newby



Delmarene Barnes(Kippy) - June 11, 2024 at 10:04 AM

CS

“ Barbara was very supportive of her Senior Choir members. She encouraged me to express my feelings when I sang solos and would say, "Do your thing, girl."

Claudia Stephenson - June 11, 2024 at 01:13 AM

RS

“ Regina Staton lit a candle in memory of Barbara Wimbish Newby



Regina Staton - June 10, 2024 at 02:21 PM

AF

*Mrs. Barbara Newby was such a wonderful person, she taught my brother (Dwight) and I piano lesson while our sister Charlotte waited for her stick of gum. Mrs. Newby knew how to encourage and inspire her students. She was so good that I tried to implement music when I taught Elementary School. Our Father God has her assisting him now. May Timya and other family member understand she's in heaven playing fabulous songs.  
Always, Abdulia and Dwight Ford and families*

---

**Abdulia Ford** - June 12, 2024 at 07:52 PM