

**IN MEMORIAM**  
EXPANDED EULOGIES

*"In Memoriam" listings are expanded paid obituaries, phrased as the family requests, and may include enhanced information or photographs that might not fit within free death notices.*



Barb Bessel

**Barb Bessel**

A celebration of life at 11 a.m. Monday, March 3, 2025, at The Ark Church Salina, 2020 S. Ohio St., honored Barbara Lee (Helmer) Bessel, 77, of Assaria, who passed away Feb. 25, 2025, with her loved ones by her side to join her family in heaven.

A lunch followed. Burial was at 2 p.m. at Highland Cemetery, Marion. Visitation was 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 2, 2025, at Ryan Mortuary, 137

N. 8th St., Salina, The family was present 5 to 7 p.m.

Barb was born March 24, 1947, in Marion to George and Leona (Higgins) Helmer. She graduated from high school in Marion and in 1964 married her high school sweetheart, Jerry Bessel, in Marion.

Barb and Jerry celebrated 60 years of marriage Dec. 6. They had a marriage like none other and often were seen holding hands. Where one was the other was, too.

She started her career as a bank teller for Assaria Bank and then transitioned to First Bank Kansas in Salina for the remainder of her 35 years. Through this, Barb had many customers who became friends and remained so over the years.

Family was very important to her. Barb spent her life doing for others. If she wasn't going to an event for her daughters, she was planning an event.

When grandchildren came, she started going to all their activities. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were her pride and joy.

Her house always was decorated for every holiday, and so was she. Wearing holiday shirts and holiday shoes, she loved to celebrate.

You couldn't tell if Barb was having a bad day or feeling

pain. She always had a smile. It was a contagious smile. She had a way of lifting others up when they needed it. Because of this, she did not know a stranger. Everywhere she went, she knew someone.

She was very involved in community activities such as Assaria Pride, Assaria Lions Club, and Beta Sigma Phi, Kansas Delta Master Chapter MA172, since 1969.

Barb also was a member of Mentor United Methodist Church.

Barb's unwavering dedication to her family, faith, and community will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry Bessel; daughters Wendy Holtz (and husband Jo) and Marci Finck (and husband Aaron); grandchildren Alexis Holtz, Haylee Holtz, Logan Holtz, and Kherrington Finck; great-granddaughters Nya Mendenhall and Octavia Holtz; and sisters Linda Stucky and Brenda Buller (and husband Mark).

Barb is also survived by many nephews, nieces, and cousins, along with countless friends.

She was preceded in death by mother Leona Helmer, father George Helmer, stepmother Carol Helmer, sister Georgie Vogel, niece Darla Gore,

and many beloved aunts and uncles.

In lieu of flowers, the family would love any gifts in Barb's memory to be directed to the Tammy Walker Cancer Center or The Ark Church Salina in care of Ryan Mortuary, 137 N 8th St, Salina KS.

**\$50.00**  
first 150 words  
**\$0.35**  
each additional word  
**\$30.00**  
photo

**DEATHS**  
AND OBITUARIES

**Barb Bessel**

Services for Marion native Barbara Lee (Helmer) Bessel, 77, of Assaria, who died Feb. 25, were Sunday in Salina. Burial was at 2 p.m. at Highland Cemetery, Marion.

Born March 24, 1947, in Marion to George and Leona (Higgins) Helmer, she graduated from Marion High School and in 1964 married Jerry Bessel in Marion.

She worked as a bank teller for Assaria Bank and First Bank

Kansas in Salina for 35 years. She was a member of Assaria Pride, Assaria Lions Club, Beta Sigma Phi, and Mentor United Methodist Church.

Survivors include her husband; daughters Wendy Holtz and Marci Finck; sisters Linda Stucky and Brenda Buller; four grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters.

Her parents, stepmother Carol Helmer, and sister Georgie Vogel preceded her in death.

Memorials have been established with Tammy Walker Cancer Center and The Ark Church Salina.