



## Barbara (Mercer) Zuehlke

July 4, 1926 - December 8, 2018

Barbara Zuehlke passed away on December 8 after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

Barbara was born on July 4 in Seattle, WA and moved to San Francisco in the late 1940's.

She married Lloyd Zuehlke & moved to Napa in 1959.

Barbara started the Napa Peperettes Baton Twirling Corps. in 1951. Continuing to perform, Barbara twirled for the Napa Native Sons Drum & Bugle Corps. in the 1950's.

She also performed with the USO welcoming the troops home from WWII. One of her highlights of performing was marching in President Eisenhower's inauguration parade in 1953.

During the 1960's & 1970's Barbara taught & directed the Northwood Elementary School talent shows.

Barbara loved to travel. Along with Lloyd she was an active member of the RV clubs with the Napa Elks Lodge and American Coach Assoc. They spent many years traveling across the country. Barbara also loved cruising. She took 19 cruise vacations with family and friends.

Barbara is survived by her husband of 59 yrs. Lloyd Zuehlke, son Gordon Zuehlke, daughters Kellie Esser (Rick) and Barrie Zuehlke, and grandsons Adam and Alec Ortega. She is preceded in death by her grandson Andrew Ortega.

A celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, December 29 at 12:30pm at Claffey & Rota Funeral Home, 1975 Main Street in Napa.

# Previous Events

## Service

DEC 29. 12:30 PM (PT)

Claffey and Rota Funeral Home  
1975 Main Street  
Napa, CA 94559  
(707) 224-5210  
[services@claffeyandrota.com](mailto:services@claffeyandrota.com)  
<http://www.claffeyandrota.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Barbara (Mercer) Zuehlke*

September 29, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ *Barbara (Mercer) Zuehlke*

September 29, 2022 at 02:55 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara (Mercer) Zuehlke.*



December 29, 2018 at 01:20 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Barbara (Mercer) Zuehlke.*



December 28, 2018 at 05:30 PM

DS

“ *deb schuler purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Barbara (Mercer) Zuehlke.*



**deb schuler** - December 28, 2018 at 01:47 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Barbara (Mercer) Zuehlke.*



December 20, 2018 at 03:18 PM

KH

“ All my condolences to the Zuehlke family. I met Barbara when I was 10 years old and she was one of my favorite mom's. She would always pay 50 cents so I could go swimming with Gordon at the Redwood Village pool. My mom couldn't afford it in 1968. Years later I was able to get excellent tickets for her and the girls to see their fave guy Neil Diamond as I worked at Rainbow Records and we sold Ticketron tickets. I popped the tickets out right when they went on sale. It was nice to do something nice for her after all the kindness she showed me when I was a kid. God bless you Mrs. Zuehlke.

Ken Holstein - December 19, 2018 at 06:30 PM



“ My condolences go out to the family. Barbara was an amazing lady and I am so glad I was fortunate to be in her presence while growing up in Napa. I have so many great memories of talent shows at Northwood, and watching the Pepperettes perform at the fair and parades. She definitely had a positive impact on so many kids through her passion in all she did. My mom, Jean Meehan, would share stories (and pictures) of her majorette days at Napa High and learning from Barbara. She will be greatly missed in the community

Debi Meehan

Debi Meehan - December 17, 2018 at 03:06 PM



“ Pat and I send our love to the whole family. I was honored to be Barbara' doctor. She always had a smile and could cheer me up, no matter if she was not feeling well. I am sure you are hearing from many Pepperettes whose lives she made better.

Don Hitchcock

Donald Hitchcock - December 14, 2018 at 08:36 PM

VD

“ Barbara was such a wonderful mentor to me with twirling. I will never forget my time with the Pepperettes nor the guidance she gave me with my solo twirling and fire baton. Many many good memories! She was loved by our entire family. Sending my love to you all. Vicky (Kustiner) Durant

Vicky Durant - December 14, 2018 at 11:53 AM

JC

“ Condolences to the family of Ms. Zuehlke. As soon as I saw her face in the paper, I remembered her fondly. I was a Pepperette and she pushed me to come out of my shyness. I was always scared to wear the dazzling outfits for parades, shows, etc. But, I carried my baton everywhere and threw it up in the air doing a "double" and always striving for a "triple" (Pepperettes will know what I'm talking about). I performed for many family "talent shows" on our deck. Unfortunately, I broke many lamps, figurines, etc. by practicing in the house. I could not put that baton down and actually just located some old pics of me holding my baton in a family picture -- haha. RIP - you were a blessing in my life long ago. - Julie Capito

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**Julie Capito** - December 13, 2018 at 12:51 PM