



Barbara Whitehead

APR 18, 1947 - OCT 22, 2025



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*Taylor Funeral Home
of Chattanooga, Inc.*

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Barbara Whitehead

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Barbara-Ann Brinkley Whitehead, a cherished mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and dedicated educator, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 22, 2025. She leaves behind a legacy of love, commitment, and academic excellence that deeply touched her family, students, and community. She will be dearly missed by her Sorority sisters, Berlean Henderson and Charlene Price, as well as her lifelong friend, Bonnie Traugher.

Born and raised in Jackson, Tennessee, Barbara received her early education in the Jackson City School System. She continued her studies at Lane College, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Biology and Chemistry. She later obtained a Master's degree in Administration and Supervision from Trevecca Nazarene University. During her time at Lane College, she became a proud member of the Beta Xi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Following her graduation, Barbara relocated to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where she began a remarkable 'career with Hamilton County Schools, most notably at Howard School of Academics and Technology. Barbara dedicated her life to shaping young minds, and her excellence in the classroom was consistently recognized. She received numerous Teacher of the Year and Golden Apple Teacher awards. In recognition of her lasting impact, Barbara was honored as one of the Outstanding Women in America.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Otis and Vernell Brinkley; her sister, Doris Pippins; three nephews, Harold Pippins, Rickey Brinkley, and Montonio Robinson; her former husband, Taft Whitehead Jr.; and her sister-in-law, Veverly Fitch.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Barbara's greatest joy was her family. She is survived by her three daughters: Erica Lolita Whitehead and Traci Dawn Whitehead of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and LaToya JaNiece Walters (Robert L. Walters) of Harrison, Tennessee. Her memory will be cherished by her five grandchildren, Jaylan L. Tate, Angel N. Whitehead, Dylan L. Walters, Cheyenne J. Walters, and Aiden J. Whitehead, as well as her great-granddaughter, Kaylynn Gaines.



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Barbara will also be deeply missed by her sisters, Nellie Sullivan of Memphis, Tennessee, and Jennette Bingham of Jackson, Tennessee; her brother, Carthell Brinkley of Jackson, Tennessee; her loving niece, Paula “Van” Henning (Wes Henning) of Memphis, Tennessee; and her nephews, Booker Sullivan Jr., Antonio “Tony” Pippins (Stephanie Pippins), Reginald Benton (ShaRon Benton), and Charles Edward Bingham II (Deidre Bingham). She also leaves behind a host of great-nieces and great-nephews who adored her.

Barbara’s profound dedication to others, her passion for education, and her unwavering love for family and friends will be remembered by all who knew and loved her. Her wisdom will continue to inspire those whose lives she touched.

Barbara will lie-in-state on Sunday, November 2, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at Taylor Funeral Home. Funeral Service will follow at 3 p.m. in the Chapel with Minister H. Anthony Cothorn, Jr. as the Eulogist.

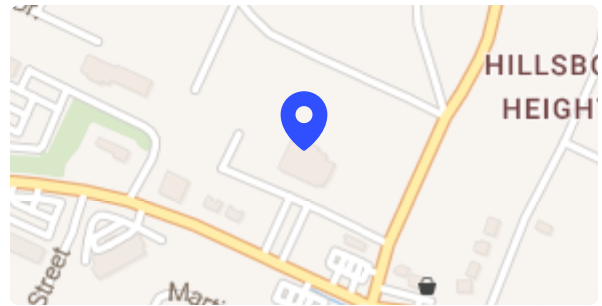


Events

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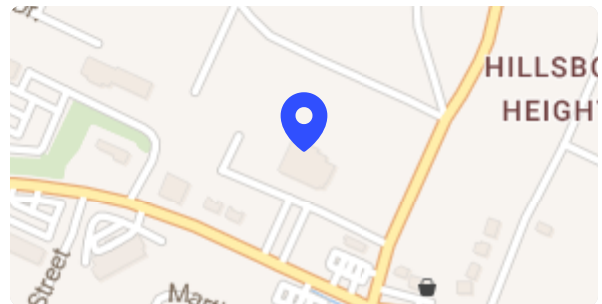
Lie-In-State

- Sunday**, November 2, 2025
- 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM ET
- Taylor Funeral Home**
3417 Wilcox Boulevard, Chattanooga TN 37411-1076



Funeral Service

- Sunday**, November 2, 2025
- 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM ET
- Taylor Funeral Home**
3417 Wilcox Boulevard, Chattanooga TN 37411-1076





Tribute Wall

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Zadora Holloway posted:

My condolences goes out to her family she was my principal at howard high she was the nicest sweetest person u could ever meet rip Ms Whitehead

December 26 at 9:55 PM



Grace Ragland posted:

To the Whitehead family: My sincere condolences on the passing of a former co-worker and principal of Howard High School. I truly mourn her passing. She was a great mathematician and friend. Grace Ragland, Librarian

November 3 at 10:11 AM



Liz Gaffrey shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



November 2 at 7:16 PM



Liz Gaffrey lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

My condolences to the family of Ms Whitehead. Praying for your comfort and strength. She meant a lot to me and I wouldn't be where I am if I didn't have her in my life. I am eternally grateful.



November 2 at 2:32 PM



Dionna Hasan lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

My heart breaks for you, Erica, Latoya, and Tracy. I can only imagine the pain you're feeling right now. Please know that I'm holding you all close in my heart and praying for your strength and peace through this unimaginable loss. You're not alone — I'm here for you always.~Dionna Hasan



November 2 at 2:25 PM



Tribute Wall

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Sophie King posted:

My deepest condolences to family she was sweet person she was my jr high teacher at orchard knob jr high-school school

November 2 at 12:58 PM



Stephanie Leverett lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

Taught me well!! You will be truly missed Mrs. Whitehead. Now it's time for you to get your rest. Sending prayers to your family 🙏🙏

November 2 at 12:29 PM



Victoria Moore lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

November 2 at 10:55 AM



Candice Bone lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

My deepest condolences to you and your family Erica! You all will be lifted in my prayers! I love you!

November 2 at 10:52 AM



Marilyn Brown lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

November 1 at 7:56 PM





Tribute Wall

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Elisabeth Zachary sent a virtual gift in honor of Barbara.



I knew Ms. Whitehead as a colleague and later as my principal. When we taught together, Ms. Lyon arranged a trip for me, Ms. Whitehead, and Mrs. Madison to go to some nature center in the Smoky Mountains for a weekend adventure in the woods. Romping around in the woods and sleeping on the top bunk of a bunk bed were not my idea of a good time - then or now. We drove up after school on Friday and woke up Saturday morning ready to brave the wilderness - it was pouring rain and chilly. Of course, Ms. Lyon was ecstatic with appropriate gear; Whitehead, Madison, and I pulled on the borrowed rain ponchos, gloves, and athletic shoes that weren't waterproof. We did whatever we were told to do, giving Lyon the side eye all day. I remember Whitehead, with her styled hair and makeup, in that rain poncho, wiping the water that dripped from the plastic poncho down her face, wishing she were anywhere other than looking at trees and walking around in the rain and mud. That was long ago - probably 25 years ago. Thinking about it now, I guess we did have "fun" (but we continued giving Lyon the side eye the entire trip - and for many years after). Many may not know that Barbara Whitehead was principal at Howard when the school was renovated. She chose colors and made many design decisions during the remodel. A hard-working woman and dedicated educator, she was greatly respected and appreciated during her career. I was proud to work with her as my principal. Just wish I had told her that then instead of writing it now. Thinking of her family and her grandchildren during this time: RIP. Elisabeth Zachary

October 23 at 12:32 PM



Chip Thomas sent a Blue Caribbean Bouquet to the Whitehead family.



November 1 at 2:53 PM



Chip Thomas planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Barbara.



November 1 at 2:53 PM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Whitehead family.



November 1 at 5:43 AM



Tribute Wall

Barbara Whitehead
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Love, Renee Walters And Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Barbara.



November 1 at 5:43 AM



Claraniece Hogan-Ferguson Hogan-Ferguson lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

I will always cherish the memories of my former Principal, Soror, and Friend....to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.Family, may you find comfort in knowing that she is at peace with her Heavenly Father.With Sincere Sympathy,Claraniece Hogan-Ferguson



October 31 at 10:44 PM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Whitehead family.



October 31 at 5:40 PM



Reginia Hamilton lit a candle in honor of Barbara.



October 31 at 4:28 PM



Jameelah & Family sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Whitehead family.



October 31 at 12:51 PM



Jameelah & Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Barbara.



October 31 at 12:51 PM



Tribute Wall

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Cory Corbin lit a candle in honor of Barbara.



October 30 at 3:16 PM



Cassandra Brown posted:

Mrs. Whitehead was my teacher and cheerleading coach at Orchard Knob Jr. High. My condolences to her family and friends. May God keep and bless you all. . . I thank her for being one of the young African American educators who poured into us during our development as young black girls. She taught us to respect and love ourselves and each other. She will be greatly missed, but her legacy will live on.San Drake Brown

October 30 at 2:38 PM



Dr. L. A. Davidson lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

Barbara was a high performing math teacher as well as a high school principal that shared the leadership role with her staff. Her students admired her tenacity for teaching and learning.Condolences to.the Whitehead family! Take flight my Delta soror!Dr. Lonita Davidson



October 30 at 11:09 AM



Cedric Dozier lit a candle in honor of Barbara.



October 29 at 8:24 PM



Diane Sutton lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

Forever in our Heart RIP



October 29 at 7:13 PM



Lacora Benn lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

Very much missed I met u through your granddaughter Angel u where a sweet queen rest peacefully BEAUTIFUL ☐☐☐☐



October 29 at 2:11 PM



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Jasmine Newson lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

Prayers of peace 🙏❤️

October 29 at 12:57 PM



Aquarius Queen lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

CONDOLENCES & PRAYERS TO THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

October 29 at 11:08 AM



Marvel Bills-Sherrod posted:

Rest in Paradise, my friend from childhood and beyond, neighbor, Soror, and my high school and college classmate as well. Thanks for the memories. Marvel

October 29 at 12:47 AM



Chandra Fears lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

Barbara was one of my favorite teacher at Orchard Knob Jr High. Little did I know that we would meet many years later as sorority sisters. I am sending my condolences and prayers to her family:pray::pray::pray:

October 28 at 10:58 PM



Winifred Careathers lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

My Condolences to the family, Sorry for your loss :pray::skin-tone-6::pray::skin-tone-6::pray::skin-tone-6:

October 28 at 5:28 PM



Frankie Anderson lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

My prayers and sympathy are with the family of Barbara. Trust God for strength and peace during this difficult time.:heart::two_hearts::pray::skin-tone-5::pray::skin-tone-5::pray::skin-tone-5:

October 28 at 4:09 PM





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Kimberly Young posted:

I remember Mrs. Whithead! My High School teacher at Howard High School. Such a sweet stern Spirit. I'm sorry to hear of her passing. Sending My prayers and Deepest Sympathy to the Family. Continue to RIP!

October 28 at 1:34 PM



Joyce Blake posted:

Condolences to the Whitehead family. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

October 28 at 10:01 AM



Gwendolyn Chandler lit a candle in honor of Barbara.



October 28 at 7:41 AM



Robin T. Carr posted:

Mrs Whitehead was a profound inspiration in my life during my Jr. High school days at OKJH. She not only taught me, but demonstrated how to walk in confidence and resilience in spite of the oppositions you encounter. I've always loved her and the last time I saw her, she still remembered me. Rest in peace

October 28 at 7:13 AM



Lisa R Thompson lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

My sincerest condolences to the Whitehead Family. You're in my thoughts and prayers. If you need me I'm just a phone call away.



October 28 at 6:09 AM



Anonymous sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Whitehead family.



October 27 at 9:38 PM



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Tim Bowman Sr. posted:

Mrs Whitehead what can I say but I remember that it was you and your Pursuit of excellence that No child left behind was put in motion. Algebra 2 was not for the weak. Much love and respect and may God bless the family during this time. TimBo c/o 95

October 27 at 4:12 PM



Dee Swanson lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

Ms Whitehead was one of my teachers I will never forget. She was kind and spent time making sure we learned. She pushed my limits and Thanks to good teachers like her, I was able to become the person I am . Heaven gained Angel for sure, Sending prayers to her family. Rest Easy your work on earth is done



October 27 at 1:35 PM



Tiffany Commons lit a candle in honor of Barbara.



October 27 at 8:00 AM



Berlean Henderson October 27 at 12:00 PM

My heart is heavy as I share so many memories of our friendship. You were like a sister from another mother. The times we spent shopping, traveling, deep conversations, and the laughter, will always be cherished. You were always a true friend until your last breathe. God smiled, opened his arms, and welcomed you home. Take your Heavenly place my friend. Berlean Henderson



Stephanie posted:

I'm lost of words. She was a phenomal math teacher at Howard and she did not play about assignments. Her smile will be missed and I'm blessed that I ran into herat Red Bank last year. HSAT c/o 91Stephanie J

October 27 at 5:32 AM



Carla Sewell lit a candle in honor of Barbara.



October 27 at 4:52 AM



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Julia V Cotton lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

We have So many Fond memories of this Amazing lady. I saw her at the store on one of her visits home; we had a Wonderful time reminiscing about family, friends, and the Good old days. She was a True Merryite! Julia, Merry High 1966:pray::skin-tone-4::sparkling_heart:

October 26 at 7:48 PM



Lisa Bass lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

I'm lost for words my high school teacher she was one of the best teachers at HHS Class of 85 would like to send our condolences to the family. RIP Mrs. Whitehead :pray::skin-tone-4::broken_heart:

October 26 at 6:14 PM



Patricia Fennell lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

Ms Barbara Whitehead was one my favorite teacher when I was in high school

October 26 at 6:14 PM



Teri Smith lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

Ms Whitehead was my home room teacher in the early 90's. I'm so in shocked. A beautiful woman with a beautiful soul. :dove_of_peace:☐:dove_of_peace:

October 26 at 2:33 PM



Denise Wright Jones lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

Our Deepest Condolences to the Entire Family on behalf of the HHS CO/84 We shared great times and memories with Ms. Whitehead! I was honored to have her as my Cheerleading Coach with so many others! :pray::skin-tone-4::dove_of_peace::rose:Denise Wright Jones

October 26 at 2:20 PM



IA October 27 at 6:46 PM

I am in disbelief. I had Mrs. Whitehead for Algebra 1&2. She was an awesome teacher and a woman character.



Tribute Wall

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Danielle Madding posted:
 I was a Cheerleader at Howard High. Mrs. Whitehead was the Cheerleading Coach. RIP Mrs. Whitehead.
 October 26 at 2:15 PM



Adrienne Usher lit a candle in honor of Barbara.
 Sending prayers to the family.
 October 26 at 2:07 PM



Cynthia Lattimore lit a candle in honor of Barbara.
 Howard High Class of 87. One of my hardest teachers that groomed me now to be an educator. RIP
 October 26 at 1:56 PM



Stephanie Leverett posted:
 Sending prayers to her family :pray::skin-tone-4: She didn't play around she told you like it was never held anything back. Wonderful teacher she was.
 October 25 at 5:18 PM



Anita Sims lit a candle in honor of Barbara.
 October 25 at 3:06 PM



Cassandra Robinson lit a candle in honor of Barbara.
 May God continue to keep his loving arms around this family as there love one Mrs. Whitehead has transition on to Glory.
 October 24 at 1:55 PM





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Carolyn Bailey lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

October 24 at 10:59 AM



Anonymous sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Whitehead family.

October 24 at 7:47 AM



Tara A Montgomery lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

October 24 at 7:33 AM



Tara A Montgomery posted:

This woman was a 2nd mom to me. She was the most caring, loving, honest woman I have known. Was the best teacher any kid could ask for, but she didn't play no mess when it came to your education. I really going to miss you Ma. :cry::cry::sleepy:

October 24 at 7:32 AM



Allene Ward lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

Sincere condolences to the family. Praying for you during this time of sorrow.

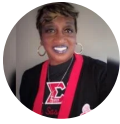
October 24 at 6:51 AM



Bettie S Greatheart lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

October 24 at 3:46 AM





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Karen Jones lit a candle in honor of Barbara.



October 23 at 10:53 PM



Karen Jones posted:

I'm at a loss for words!!! My heartfelt condolences to the family!

October 23 at 10:52 PM



Tillecia McClure lit a candle in honor of Barbara.



October 23 at 6:47 PM



Frankie Anderson lit a candle in honor of Barbara.



October 23 at 5:20 PM



Frankie Anderson October 23 at 5:23 PM

My prayers for the family of Barbara. Trust God for the strength and peace during this difficult time.



Claraniece Hogan- Ferguson lit a candle in honor of Barbara.



Wow! I'm lost for words

:cry::dove_of_peace::cry::dove_of_peace::small_red_triangle::dove_of_peace::small_red_triangle::pray::skintone-5:My deepest condolences goes to her family. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. :dove_of_peace::dove_of_peace::dove_of_peace:

October 23 at 3:57 PM



Tribute Wall

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Cheryl Scruggs lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

October 23 at 1:16 PM



Marilyn Brown lit a candle in honor of Barbara.

October 23 at 12:32 PM



Darlene Houston October 27 at 11:02 AM

Ms. Barbara was a very nice teacher.



Angela Hampton October 23 at 6:38 PM

The family :two_hearts: of Barbara Whitehead has my prayers :pray: she was a great friend of our family and great friend of Mrs Elizabeth Perry Parker RIP our friend will be missed. .



Media

Barbara Whitehead
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Liz Gaffrey shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

November 2 at 7:16 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Barbara by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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