



## Barbara Helen Himel Mullins

February 24, 1939 - August 12, 2016

Barbara Helen Himel Mullins passed away Friday, August 12, 2016, at her home in Laurel, Mississippi. Visitation will be 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Monday, August 15, at First United Methodist Church of Laurel. Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m. at the church with burial following at Lake Park Hills Cemetery in Laurel.

Born in Glen Allen, MS on February 24, 1939 to Helen Henry and R. H. Himel, Barbara Helen grew up in Leland, MS and graduated from Leland High School in 1957. She received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Millsaps College in 1961, where she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority and Millsaps Singers.

In 1961, Barbara Helen married William S. Mullins, III and they moved to Laurel, MS in 1962. She enjoyed being a “stay-at-home” mom to her children, Katherine and Will. She also enjoyed cooking as well as working a part-time job through the years as a bridal and wedding consultant for House of Cachet and Roberts.

She was an active member of First United Methodist Church of Laurel since 1962, where she participated in the Sanctuary Choir, United Methodist Women, Altar Guild, and Massey-Peden Sunday School class. She also served on the Administrative Board, as the church's wedding coordinator, as

well as Children's Coordinator and teacher.

Barbara Helen was a Life member of both Junior Auxiliary of Laurel and Laurel Arts League and served on Laurel Little Theater's board of directors. She was a docent at the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art and a member of the Little Garden Club of Laurel.

She was predeceased by her parents; aunts and uncles Katy and Raymond Himel, Christine Nelms, and Carolou and James Gerald; and brothers-in-law Thomas R. Mullins (and wife Martha) and Richard Drew Blackwell.

Barbara Helen is survived by her husband of 55 years, William S. Mullins, III; children Katherine Mayer (Jack) of Memphis, TN and William S. Mullins, IV (Ashley) of Hockley, TX; grandchildren Helen Mayer (Barbara Helen's namesake) of Memphis, TN, Robert Mayer (Emily) of Memphis, TN, and Bryan Mayer (Nicole) of Mobile, AL; great-grandchildren Drew Mayer and James Mayer of Memphis, TN; first cousins Raymond Himel of Dallas, TX, James Gerald, Jr. of Clarksdale, MS, Thomas Gerald of Lompoc, CA, Carolyn Gerald Swartswelder of New Orleans, LA, and Joe Henry Nelms of San Francisco, CA; sisters-in-law Mabel Greene (Douglas) of Cleveland, TN, Martha Blackwell of Macon, MS, and Carol Mullins of Birmingham, AL; and four nieces and five nephews. The family is appreciative of the loving care she was given daily these last eight years by Jeanetter Graham. The family also appreciates the special care she received these last few weeks by the staff of Comfort Care Hospice.

Memory Chapel of Laurel is in charge of the arrangements. Pallbearers will be George Bassi, Horace Boyd, Louis Crumbley, Geof Galaher, Mark Herring, and Rand McLaughlin. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be given to the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art or First United Methodist Church of Laurel.

To sign the online guest book, visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Lake Park Hills Cemetery

2806 Emmy Dr.  
Laurel, MS 39440

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 15. 9:30 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
420 N 5th Avenue  
Laurel, MS 39440

## Service

AUG 15. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
420 N 5th Avenue  
Laurel, MS 39440

# Tribute Wall

WH

“ Bill, Katherine and Will - Everyone will certainly miss Barbara Helen and we share in your loss. I loved working with all of you on productions at the theatre, but especially with her. I told Barbara Helen one time she was one of the few people i knew that sounded like she was singing every single time she just simply spoke. We have a little section posted on the LLT website along with an old picture of her you might not have seen recently - it's on the left side of the home page on LaurelLittleTheatre.com. Love to all your family, Wess Hughes

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**wess hughes** - August 20, 2016 at 02:51 PM

JS

“ Bill, So sorry to hear of Barbara Helen's death. She was a grand lady. Our deep and sincere sympathy.  
James and Patricia Salter

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**James Salter** - August 17, 2016 at 01:52 PM

ER

“ Bill, Katherine, and Will...I, too, have been "out of the loop," and I just learned of Barbara Helen's passing. I will never forget when you were returning to Leland for the 20th (?) high school reunion, and Barbara Helen had all of you on a weight management program! When the time came, you were picture perfect. Of course, you were always picture perfect. I will never forget the humor, the love, the piercing blue eyes, and the FUN. Love you all...

*Ellen Hunter Ruffin*

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**Ellen Ruffin** - August 17, 2016 at 08:47 AM

ME

“ *Bill: I have been out of the loop. Did not realize Barbara Helen had passed away. I will miss seeing her sweet smile. Hugs to you and the family.*

*Marcia Easterwood*

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**Marcia Easterwood** - August 17, 2016 at 08:34 AM

CT

“ *Bill and Family, Diane and I are so sorry to read of Barbara Helen's death. Our prayers are with you and your family.*

*Charles Thomas*

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**Charles Thomas** - August 15, 2016 at 04:44 PM

 Lisa  
Owens

“ *I was so sorry to hear of Mrs. Mullins' passing...She was a wonderful lady, and you all did a wonderful job caring for her over the years. My thoughts and prayers are with you...*

*Lisa Owens  
Laurel, Mississippi*

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**Lisa Owens** - August 15, 2016 at 02:25 PM

LB

“ Dear Mr.Bill and Family,

*What a beautiful blessing your wife and Mother were to the world. She was a true southern lady in every sense of the word. She carried herself with such beauty And poise up until the end of her life here on earth. We were blessed with her gift of life here on earth and now heaven celebrates as they welcome a beautiful graceful angel. Heaven rejoices. May God heal your hearts and comfort u with precious memories throughout the rest of your lives. Through your love and memories she is still very present in your hearts every day.*

*Leonard & Lynn Busby*



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**lynn busby** - August 14, 2016 at 01:52 PM

LB

“ *Bill, we were saddened to here of the loss of your sweet Barbara Helen. We have such wonderful loving memories of you two when we lived in Laurel. Those memories continue to bless us. You, and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers.*

*God bless...*

*Lisa and Paul Barrett*

*Geneva, NY*

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**Lisa Barrett** - August 13, 2016 at 11:49 PM

LW

“ *My thoughts and continuance prayers are with you Bill and all family. I am so sadden. Barbara Helen will be greatly missed and her special smile also.*

*Linda Gail Walton*

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**Linda Gail Walton** - August 13, 2016 at 10:04 PM

SB

“ *Prayers and support to all of you during your time of grief. Barbara Helen was such a lovely lady and a blessing to all who knew her. Remembering you, Sharon Barham*

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**Sharon Barham** - August 13, 2016 at 03:29 PM

WS

“ I am so sorry to learn that Barbara Helen has gone away. She and I were classmates from the first grade through graduation from Leland High School. I remember when she attended Millsaps and I recall meeting her boyfriend and future husband, Billy Mullins, while he also attended Millsaps! He was, then, and remains now, a nice man.

Some of you will probably remember the old, weathered, "bleachers" near the tennis court, which was located between the gymnasium and the grammar school classroom building. I was a skinny, scruffy little boy and I was walking in front of the "bleachers". Barbara Helen and some of her girlfriends were sitting on the bleachers and, as I marched by, she announced to everyone within hearing distance that "she liked Walter Swain"! She then asked me "if I liked anyone else" and I told her "my mother".

*This is all I recall of the conversation.*

*I do still remember thinking that the pretty blonde, blue-eyed girl sitting on the bleachers said that "she liked me". That was a happy feeling about 70 years ago and, from time to time, I have pleasantly remembered it.*

*The pretty blonde, blue-eyed girl sitting on the bleachers will remain in the memory of this skinny, scruffy little boy.*

*The class of 1957, has been blessed by the presence of Barbara Helen and some other fine people and I am grateful.*

*Walter Swain*

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**Walter Swain** - August 13, 2016 at 12:53 PM

PD

“ *Bill and family, Matt and I were sorry to learn of Barbara Helen's death. Please know that you all are in my prayers. Pat (Livingston) Dakin, class of 1957, Leland, MS.*

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**Pat (Livingston) Dakin** - August 12, 2016 at 06:29 PM