



## Barbara Seiler

September 6, 1943 - September 13, 2024

Surrounded by her loving family, Barbara Seiler, affectionately known as Barb, peacefully passed away Sept. 13, 2024. Her final moments reflected the deep love she gave throughout her life, leaving a lasting mark on all who had the joy of knowing her.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, October 5, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at United Methodist Church in Storm Lake. Burial will be at a later date in Algona, Iowa. Visitation will take place Friday, October 4, 2024 from 5-7:00 p.m. at the CHURCH. In lieu of flowers, the Seiler family asks that you please donate to the Storm Lake Early Elementary STEM Program, Iowa Donor Network, or the Storm Lake Early Elementary and Elementary School Library to ensure her love of reading is passed on for many generations to come. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Barbara (Bartlett) Seiler was born on Sept. 6, 1943, the oldest of three siblings. She grew up in Algona, Iowa, and graduated from Mankato State University with a degree in elementary education. From an early age, Barb's kindness and compassion touched everyone around her.

At age 16, Barb met the love of her life, Jerry Seiler. Their love blossomed into a marriage that would span 58 years, beginning on June 17, 1966 at the Little

Brown Church. After Jerry completed his Army service in Oklahoma, they returned to Storm Lake, where they became beloved members of the community, building a life defined by love, partnership, and service.

Barb's love for children extended far beyond her own three children. She considered every student she taught as one of her own. Whether it was clothes, food, or a comforting hug, she was always there. She spent most of her teaching career at South Elementary School, where the students, teachers, and staff became an extension of the Seiler family. Barb didn't just teach children—she nurtured and inspired them. For Barb, teaching wasn't a job; it was a calling that touched the lives of hundreds of students over her decades-long career. When she retired in the spring of 2007, the staff honored her legacy by gifting her a rock engraved with "Seiler," a perfect symbol of the strong and steady presence she was in the lives of so many. The Seiler Rock remains proudly displayed at Seiler's Hill.

Her favorite subject to teach was reading, and she believed every child should have access to books. Barb's passion for reading inspired countless children to discover the joy of books. Never did a birthday or holiday pass that Grandma didn't gift a book. You could always find her on the couch with a book in hand or a stack at the ready for the next great read.

Even after her retirement, Barb's heart remained closely connected to the Storm Lake Community Schools. In the fall of 2007, her dedication to education was recognized when she was unexpectedly written in by fellow teachers as a candidate for the Storm Lake Board of Education, ultimately winning the election. Barb brought the same kindness, humility, and commitment that defined her teaching career to her new role, continuing her lifelong dedication to the field of education.

At home, Barb was the heart of the Seiler family, carrying the family through

many trying times over the years—and always with a smile. She and Jerry were true partners, especially in the garden. Jerry grew the crops, and Barb transformed them into cherry pies, raspberry jam and salsa that all became family favorites. Her kitchen was always filled with the warmth of home-cooked meals and the love of a welcoming spirit. Seiler's House was a second home to many of her children's friends, and there was always an extra plate at the table for anyone who needed it.

Family was the cornerstone of Barb's life. Her favorite titles were "Mom" and "Grandma." She attended every sporting event, school activity, and family gathering she could, always cheering on her loved ones. She was known for driving any distance to see a football game, wrestling meet, or her favorite sport—shoe shopping with her favorite daughter. In her later years, this transitioned to following her grandkids in all their endeavors. No matter the distance, she would be there, and they were always on the lookout for Grandma's quick smile cheering in the crowd. She was, and always will be, their favorite fan.

Faith was central to Barb's life. A proud member of the Storm Lake United Methodist Church, she lived her faith through quiet acts of kindness and an unwavering belief in the goodness of others. Among her stack of books, her well-worn Bible was a constant companion, offering strength and guidance throughout her life.

In September 2017, Barb received the incredible gift of a kidney transplant, granting her seven precious years with her loved ones. She never took a single moment of those years for granted, filling each day with love, laughter, and gratitude for the life she had been given.

Barb is survived by her loving family: her husband of 58 years, Jerry; her

children, Steve (Beth), Andy, and Julie (Josh); her grandchildren, Luke, Ty, Cael, Will, Lydia, and Sam. She also leaves behind her brother, Don Bartlett (Deb), and her beloved extended Seiler and Bartlett families.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mary and Wes Bartlett, her brother, Dr. William Bartlett.

Barb will be remembered for her boundless kindness, a generosity that knew no limits, and her ever-ready meals that brought comfort to those around her. But most of all, she will be remembered for her ability to see the good in everyone and the ways in which she showed kindness to all. Her legacy of love, strength, and compassion will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Barb was loved by all and will forever be missed.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **4.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church -- Storm Lake  
211 East 3rd Street  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

## Memorial Service

OCT **5.** 11:00 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church -- Storm Lake  
211 East 3rd Street  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Barbara Seiler*



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**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - October 04, 2024 at 05:44 PM

JH

“ *I have been thinking about memories to put on here and there are too many to write. The happiest times of my life was spent at the Seiler farm. All the July 4ths and many other events. Barb was the kindest most loving person ever. Orv, the kids and I loved her dearly. I love you all.*

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**Janet Hallengren** - October 05, 2024 at 10:15 AM

RB

“ *Mrs. Seiler was my 2nd grade teacher and I still remember the kindness and support she showed to me 30-some years later. She was a brilliant and patient educator. My condolences to her family. She was a special person to many.*

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**Ryan Brock** - October 04, 2024 at 04:56 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - October 04, 2024 at 01:56 PM



“ Barb was a dear friend of mine and so many people in Storm Lake. She was a great school teacher and loved by all the the students she had, The teachers at South School also loved her,

Ron Pat Wilson - October 04, 2024 at 12:24 PM

SB

“ Barb could be described as "an Angel" here on earth. She married my first cousin Jerry and from the time I met her and saw the love they had for each other it was going to be a beautiful life. Even though I didn't see her often, she was always the most engaging person I knew. RIP Barb in heaven with all your family and friends.

SYLVIA BAKER - October 03, 2024 at 02:11 PM

TH

“ So sorry to learn I this sad news. Barb was always one of those people who knew and acknowledged you no matter where she saw you. A rare gift. She will be missed. She was a gift to this world and I feel very lucky to have known her.

Tele Hawkins - September 29, 2024 at 07:24 PM

PD

“ *Barb touched so many lives and always with a smile. My prayers are with you, Jerry, and your family.*



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**Pat Davidson** - September 24, 2024 at 06:38 PM

JO

“ *My sympathy to Jerry and family.*

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**joann oatman** - September 23, 2024 at 01:07 PM

KW

“ *My cousin, Barb, and I had wonderful memories of the times we shared at our Grandpa's home every summer growing up. Although we lived miles apart, we always kept in touch by phone, letters and cards. She was a special person, and I will truly miss her. Our deepest sympathy to Jerry, Steve, Andy and Julie and all of the family. May God be of comfort to you at this time.*

*Kathy and Ed Wilson*

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**Kathy Wilson** - September 20, 2024 at 02:24 PM

JW

“ *Janet and Jon Wiegand planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Seiler.*

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**Janet and Jon Wiegand** - September 20, 2024 at 12:39 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Barbara Seiler.*



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September 20, 2024 at 12:39 PM



“ *Randy & Mona Mason lit a candle in memory of Barbara Seiler*



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**Randy & Mona Mason** - September 19, 2024 at 10:30 PM



“ *Jerry & Family, Barb was truly a very special, wonderful person. She will be remembered fondly by me and many others. May all your memories and her love for you bring you comfort and peace.*

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**Tracey Bailey** - September 19, 2024 at 01:27 PM



“ *JERRY... May all the precious memories in your heart, wrap around you now and give you comfort and peace....  
GOD'S BLESSINGS...  
BEV & JERRY GADE*

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**Gerald D. Gade** - September 19, 2024 at 08:28 AM

LZ

“ *Barb was so special. She and I both grew up in Algona and attended Sunday School and Brownie scouts together. She was the cutest little girl whose smile radiated her inner beauty. God bless her wonderful family.*



Larry and Sue Zwemke - September 18, 2024 at 02:57 PM

CS

“ *Colleen Swanson lit a candle in memory of Barbara Seiler*



Colleen Swanson - September 17, 2024 at 11:17 PM

CS

“ *So very sorry, Jerry and family. Barb was a special classmate!* 🙏💔

Carolyn Rochleau Schuller - September 17, 2024 at 11:09 PM

JP

“ *Jennifer Peters lit a candle in memory of Barbara Seiler*



Jennifer Peters - September 17, 2024 at 08:14 PM

MK

“ *Jerry so sorry to hear about Barb! Prayers!*

Mike & Connie Kahnke - September 17, 2024 at 03:07 PM

MK

“ Mike & Connie Kahnke lit a candle in memory of Barbara Seiler



Mike & Connie Kahnke - September 17, 2024 at 03:06 PM

PC

“ One of my favs..... ✨ ✨

Peg Cavanaugh - September 17, 2024 at 01:35 PM

JC

“ Jeff/Jean Chindlund lit a candle in memory of Barbara Seiler



Jeff/Jean Chindlund - September 17, 2024 at 12:56 PM

MS

“ We have such fond memories of “Mrs. Seiler”. She was one of our son’s favorite teachers. She always made him feel special. Maureen and Brad Strader



Maureen and Brad Strader - September 17, 2024 at 11:01 AM

MH

“ *Marcina Hallengren lit a candle in memory of Barbara Seiler*



Marcina Hallengren - September 16, 2024 at 10:56 PM

JH

“ *Janet Hallengren lit a candle in memory of Barbara Seiler*



Janet Hallengren - September 16, 2024 at 10:53 PM

KG

“ *Karla & Gary lit a candle in memory of Barbara Seiler*



Karla & Gary - September 16, 2024 at 09:01 PM

CR

“ *connie roche lit a candle in memory of Barbara Seiler*



connie roche - September 16, 2024 at 04:08 PM

JA

“ *Barb was one of the sweetest teachers I knew and respected by many. Fly high young lady You will be missed.*

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**Jan** - September 16, 2024 at 02:44 PM