

Barbara Miguel, beloved wife of John Miguel, died peacefully on Sunday, November 5 after a long struggle with Lewy Body Dementia.

Born on October 6, 1937 in New Bedford MA, she moved to Tiverton in 1965 to raise her family and join the public school system as a 1st and later, 3rd grade teacher. A dedicated, compassionate and inventive, yet traditional teacher for over 30 years, Barbara was committed to her students' development, both in and out of the classroom. When she was not teaching at Fort Barton or Pocasset School, she could be found on the family room couch, correcting papers and making lesson plans for hours each evening.



She retired to Sun Lakes AZ in 1992 and became a vibrant part of that community, finding herself needing to keep a calendar for the first time. She was a communicant of St. Steven's Church, volunteering at many church events, enjoyed golf and tennis, and pursued a passion for bridge and scrapbooking – especially chronicling legendary family vacations.

Barbara's defining role was her life as a grandmother. Affectionately known as "Bop", Barbara was a nurturing and involved grandparent who had a profound effect on the development of her grandchildren. Always ready with a listening ear, big hug, sound advice or plans for activities that become the memories of a lifetime, she never missed a school play; even when they were almost 3,000 miles away and enjoyed being everyone's Bop during Christmas visits to RI when she was the featured guest teacher at school. Her wonderful sense of humor and infectious laugh captivated her grandchildren and friends alike.

Daughter of the late Leo and Mary Mello, Barbara is survived by her husband John, their daughter Susan and her husband Gregory Klinker of Tiverton RI, son David and his wife Yvonne of Olathe KS, and her sisters Jane Perry of Dartmouth MA and Leona Braley of East Freetown MA, and the grandchildren of whom she was most proud, John Miguel, Jonathan Klinker and Sarah Miguel.

Her funeral will be celebrated at St. Barnabas Church in Portsmouth, RI on Saturday, December 30 at 11:00 am. A luncheon will immediately follow in the parish hall. Memorial donations may be made to GiftsToGive, giftstogive.org or the Alzheimer's Association, alz.org.