



## Barbara R Neal

November 18, 1925 - September 12, 2014

Barbara Neal, age 88, of Miller Beach, formerly of Swayzee, Indiana passed away September 12, 2014. After high school Barbara worked at Peerless of America, a war plant in Marion, Indiana where she helped produce transistors and worked in the shell factory. Ollie Neal was her supervisor whom she married in 1945 and moved with him to Gary, Indiana. In between housekeeping, child raising, chauffeuring her daughters to music lessons, assisting Brownie & Girl Scout troops she enrolled in cosmetology school. Pictures still exist of those initial haircuts and permanents her daughters endured until she honed her craft. She owned Barbara's Cover Girl Beauty Shop on Lake Street in Miller for 40 years. During that time she took on a second job as a hairdresser at Lake Park Residential in Lake Station where she enjoyed helping lady residents feel happy with something as simple as a shampoo and set. Barbara worked until she was 86 because she was so grateful to have survived ovarian cancer in 1980. Even when cancer was again diagnosed in 2013 she was determined to stay positive and enjoy the rest of her life. Having lived through the depression she valued hard work and believed hard work never hurt anyone. Her independence allowed her to live in her home throughout her life, always doing for herself when she could. She often said she had a wonderful life, a wonderful husband, and her daughters were her favorite people in the world. She provided her daughters with childhoods filled with many fond memories and she became their best friend as they grew up.

Barbara was preceded in death by her father, Wayne Martin Sr., mother, Doris, brother, Wayne Jr. and husband Ollie. She is survived by brother, Ron (Patty) Martin of Swayzee, Indiana, and daughters, Judy (Gene) Ayers of Miller Beach and Jane (Bob) Neal-Thien of Springfield, Illinois.

Barbara asked a special thanks be mentioned to Jean Bono and Caroline Cohan for the 37 years they worked for her and became extended family as well as Laura Jones, her neighbor for 69 years. And she surely would want a special thanks given to Dr. Donald Phillips, his staff and the staff at the Horton VNA Hospice in Valparaiso. A private service will be held in Swayzee, Indiana at the grave site of Ollie Neal where she will join him again and the circle of her life can be completed. Memorials may be sent in Barbara's name to the Chapel of the Dunes (301 S. Lake Street, Gary, IN 46403), The Humane Society of Northwest Indiana (6100 Melton Road, Gary, IN 46403) or VNA Hospice (2401 Valley Drive, Valpo, IN 46383). Burns Funeral Home, Hobart in charge of arrangements. To share an online condolence please visit [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com).

# Tribute Wall

SH

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Barbara Neal. She was a lovely lady, mother and wife. Her husband, Ollie, worked for us for many years and was a devoted husband. They can now be together at long last. Dave and Sue Heuring

Sue Heuring - September 15, 2014 at 11:41 AM

Sally Rempis

“ Sally Rempis lit a candle in memory of Barbara R Neal



Sally Rempis - September 14, 2014 at 08:22 PM

FO

“ I remember going there with my mom many times when I was a little kid. She was such a nice lady.

Fran Ostrowski - September 14, 2014 at 12:38 PM

MS

Jane, so sorry to read about your mom's passing. She was such a wonderful lady. I remember her picking us up at school and taking us to dinner in Kentland! Take care, Mimi Schumacher

mimi schumacher - September 15, 2014 at 07:22 PM