



Barbara Isabel Henson

June 8, 1931 - April 15, 2021

Barbara Isabel Henson entered into her final rest on April 15, 2021. She was born in Hollywood, California on June 8, 1931 to James and Nellie Tait, the youngest of five children. She grew up in North Hollywood and married the love of her life, Paul Henson, in 1952. The couple built a house in Canoga Park and had two sons, Steve and Tracy. In 1959 the family moved to Paradise, California. Evidently Barbara loved school. When her sons entered sixth grade at Paradise Intermediate School, Barbara followed along, going to work there in the school cafeteria. She claimed that it was just to give her something to do and bring in a little extra spending money, but the boys “knew” that her real motive was to keep an eye on them to make sure they behaved. That suspicion got some reinforcement when she followed them to Paradise High School, where she operated the snack bar. In fact, Barbara loved her job, her co-workers, and most of all the students—who always got a warm smile and some friendly banter when they visited her walk-up window. Barbara was the best mom anyone could wish for. She loved to camp, waterski, and watch baseball games with her family. Her sons’ friends always loved to visit and were always treated like part of the family. Steve and Tracy never tired of hearing their friends say, “You’ve got the best mom in the whole world!” After Barbara and Paul retired, they moved to Forest Ranch and then to Chico. Barbara lost her life partner Paul in 2012 and moved to Country House Assisted Living in 2016. At Country House, Barbara found a new life and a new extended family among the residents and staff. Barbara rejoins her loving husband Paul, who predeceased her in 2012, and son Tracy, who left us far too soon in 2019. She is survived by her son Steve and his partner Cynthia, grandchildren Holly, Heidi, David, and Craig, and great-grandsons Hunter and Trace. A visitation will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 22 at Brusie Funeral Home.