



Anita Claire Goucher Barrett

March 1, 1934 - February 1, 2026

Anita G Barrett, Ph.D., was born to Myrtle and Marion Goucher on March 1, 1934, in Davis, Oklahoma. When she was two years old, the family moved to a farm west of Hennessey near her grandparents' farm. She attended Lacy School where she graduated at age 17 as Valedictorian of her class. A month later, she entered Central State College (now University of Central Oklahoma) where she completed her Bachelor's Degree at age 19.

She moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where she would spend the following 60 years. Because Fort Worth had no openings for a 20-year-old business teacher, Anita worked as an Executive Secretary for 10 years while pursuing her Master's Degree at the University of North Texas. During this time, she taught typing and shorthand at Brantley-Draughon business college in downtown Fort Worth and served as adjunct faculty in the TCU Evening College.

On St. Patrick's Day in 1962, she married Thomas E. Barrett, her soulmate, confidante, and best friend, and they were together for the next 62 years.

In 1964, she became a full-time teacher at North Side High School. She considered her three years at North Side as the happiest and most rewarding of her career. She loved the students; they loved her and still invited her to

their class reunions some 50 years later.

In 1967, she became a charter member of the faculty at Tarrant County Junior College, South Campus, where she would remain for the next 44 years. She taught business subjects and English for three years, while working toward her doctoral degree. When she received her Ph.D. from the University of North Texas, she went into administration, serving a variety of roles, including Executive Director of The Career Development Center, Assistant Dean of Instruction, Associate Dean, and Division Dean of Health and Technology. She was known affectionately as the “Cat Dean” on the South Campus—for almost 37 years, Anita and her long-time secretary, Kathleen Skinner, trapped feral cats on the TCJC campus, paid for their neutering, and returned them to the campus where they were fed and sheltered through the years. Whatever the weather or holidays, she and her husband traveled from their home in western Ft. Worth to the campus to feed the stray cats. When she retired, she was named Professor Emeritus of English.

In addition to her academic endeavors, she was always busy. For 37 years, she served as Executive Secretary to the Metropolitan Dinner Club, a group of some 2500 civic and social leaders who met monthly for dinner and a lecture. From 1973 to 2014, she was a member of the adjunct faculty at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida where she served as cluster coordinator, regional coordinator, and dissertation advisor to scores of students as they pursued their doctoral degrees. She retired from the college and from Nova Southeastern in 2011.

In 1988, she was inducted as the first female member of the Rotary Club of Western Fort Worth. She served as President of the Club in 1996-97. Following her retirement, she was named a lifetime Honorary Member of The Rotary Club.

Following her retirement from TCC, she and her husband moved to Enid, Oklahoma where they built a home in Golden Oaks Village where she lived until her death. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Marian, her brother Edward Louis who was killed in Viet Nam, her niece Connie Marlene and her husband Thomas. She is survived by nephews David S. Ladwig of Arizona and James T. Ladwig of Hennessey, Oklahoma; several great nieces and nephews, and cousins. She will be fondly remembered by her first secretary and long-time friend Betty Parker of Arlington, her long-time pen pal and former secretary Allene Sloan, and her secretary of 37 years, Kathleen Skinner of Indiana.

At her request, no services are planned. Her cremated remains will be buried alongside her parents in the Hennessey Cemetery. Cremation arrangements are with Anderson-Burriss Funeral Home & Crematory.

Cemetery Details

Hennessey Cemetery

Hennessey, OK

Tribute Wall

EE

“ I was blessed to care for Thomas Barrett, and through him, I met Anita. She was kind and knowledgeable and willing to teach even through that time. I shall miss them both. To the family, I pray for comfort, peace and strength through this time. God speed and God bless.

Elaine Ehardt - February 09 at 04:45 PM

CT

“ I was fortunate to have gotten to know Anita in her final years. A very impressive lady indeed.

Catherine Goucher Todd - February 05 at 02:47 PM

MB

“ We always enjoyed visiting with Anita. Her mother was Mickey's math teacher in high school, and he knew Eddie her brother. Once in a while, I would bring her a strawberry shake from Braums. That's what she liked. She and Tom planted flowers at the entrance to the Golden Oaks building for many years. She always liked to have flowers all around her house. She shared several of her plants with me. She always had a bird feeder up for the birds. We will miss her. Prayers for the family.
Mickey and Kay Blakley.

Mickey and Kay Blakley - February 04 at 05:42 PM

AA

Anita and Tom live two units from us at Enid Baptist Villages. They lived in the beautiful independent living home. Tom and Anita were a unique couple. Successful, professional people.

Anita was special with her independence. Her special outlook on life. One quote from her I like, "I don't buy more than three bananas at a time. 'Not sure I'll be here to eat all three!" She enjoyed community dinners. Visiting.

Her grace, charm and wit will be missed.

Shirley, AK Armstrong

AK, Shirley Armstrong. - February 07 at 03:38 PM

VR

“*Anita, was a dear neighbor and friend. After moving from the Village we would take her out to eat to one of her favorite places, usually Jade's Garden. She loved her family and her friends. She always worried about her flowers, even planting in the fall knowing that she probably wouldn't be alive in the Spring but wanted others to enjoy the beauty. She will be greatly missed.*

Vivian Reed - February 04 at 08:31 AM

MA

“*To Anita's family. I so enjoyed taking care of her . She loved to talk about her job in Texas and her traveling adventures. She and I would cook a meal or a dessert. She'll have a place in my heart for. Thank you again . Maggie Ream.*

margaretream - February 03 at 07:42 PM