

CURLIN

Barbara Price Curlin, 84, passed away Monday, March 23, after a period of declining health.



Always young at heart, she avidly enjoyed traveling to wonderful places, enjoying the company of amazing and lifelong friends, cooking with passion, playing bridge, participating in a "serious" book club, and thriving from a lifelong pursuit of learning and knowledge. She was a lady of impeccable manners, taste, beauty, dignity and class. She was well read, well travelled and counted among her friends people from all walks of life - from parking helper at Casa Jurado to Conrad Hilton, the founder of Hilton Hotels-gracious and interested in each one. Barbara was a third generation El Pasoan, and member of the pioneer family that started Price's Dairies. She proudly carried the family name, reputation and traditions to the time of her passing. She instilled in her children and grandchildren a keen sense of family legacy, never missing an opportunity to reminisce about El Paso's early history, its wonderful blending of cultures, and her friendship with, and appreciation for those early families who became both foundation and springboard for numerous successful businesses and industry. Born on September 6, 1924, she was the oldest of three children; the daughter of Robert Bruce and Lorez McRae Price, and granddaughter of Mary Smith Price, the founder of Price's Dairies in 1906. She attended Dudley School, and El Paso High, where she excelled academically, graduating in 1941, and then attending Stanford University, graduating magna cum laude, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Languages. She was crowned Sun Bowl Queen in 1946, and proudly representing El Paso throughout the Southwest, in her ambassadorial role. She married in 1948, in El Paso, and went on to play an important role in numerous community projects and organizations, ranging from the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, the El Paso Museum of Art, the Junior League, the Pan American Roundtable, and numerous other community agencies. For more than 10 years, she served on the Board at Providence Memorial Hospital,

and for 25 years she served as Chairperson of Price's Producers, Inc., the family enterprise, and President of the RB Price Family Foundation. All the while, she excelled in her role as a homemaker -- raising a family, keeping a beautiful and hospitable home, and displaying a "green thumb" that made her garden a verdant and colorful refuge for friends and family to enjoy. Later in life, she continued the never-ending pursuit of knowledge, cultures and education, taking each of her grandchildren on a special trip to a favorite or new place, and often knowing more about those places than many of the "locals" she met. She relished learning about the people, places and experiences she encountered. Each grandchild will fondly remember the special relationship they had with their "Mima", and the adventures they shared with her. She is survived by her brother Dudley (Gloria) Price of Albuquerque, four children, Jackson (Donna), Bruce, Lorez and Tom (Dayna), seven grandchildren - Randon (Kara), Zachary, Colleen, Dana, Emily, Jack, Travis, and two great-grand-children, Taylor and Price. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack V. Curlin, her brother, Robert B. Price, Jr. and her parents, Robert B. Price and Lorez M. Price. The family is grateful for Barbara's extraordinary care in these last several years by dedicated, loving people like Evangelina Flores, Maria de Jesus Romero (Tita), Blanca Bolly, Elias and Carmen Martinez, and at the last; Ricardo Romero, Dionisio and Rosa Hines, Connie Ronyak, Christy Bailey, Irma Vallejo, and several others. These people were loving, kind and amazingly gifted in caring for her. They became family to her. A memorial service will be held on Friday, April 17, 2009 at 3:00 PM at Church of St. Clement, 810 N Campbell, and in lieu of flowers, donations are appreciated to the Jack V and Barbara Price Curlin Endowment Fund at UTEP, El Paso High School PTSA for the Marquee Fund, or the El Paso History Museum. Services entrusted to Martin Funeral Home West, 128 N. Resler Dr., El Paso, TX 79912.