



Barbara Ann Kruszewski

December 18, 1941 - May 18, 2026

Barbara Ann (Smith) Kruszewski, 84, of Asheville passed away peacefully on Monday, May 18, 2026 at her residence.

A native of Burke County, NC, she was the daughter of the late William Boone Smith and Eva Elizabeth Smart Smith.

Barbara received a Bachelors of Science degree in Home Economics from Carson Newman University in TN. She then worked as a Food Editor for the Washington Post for 3 years. Following her time in Washington, she received her Masters Degree in Counseling from Vanderbilt University through their overseas program at Cambridge University in England. Additionally she received a Masters Degree in Social Work from Catholic University in Washington, DC.

Barbara was well traveled and circumnavigated the globe working in the Middle East, Europe, and Australia.

She was a counselor for US Government Employees at the NRO (National Reconnaissance Office).

Following her time with the government, she worked for a local agency to counsel hospital and police employees. She also did pro bono work for All

Souls Counseling Center in Asheville and volunteered at the Habitat for Humanity Recycle Store.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, James; a son, John Neal; a step daughter, Heidi Costa; her sister, Rhoda Boyd; and a brother, William Smith.