

Barbara Muller was born on December 2, 1934, in Oakland, California. However, her journey through life took her on a unique path, one that led her to become an integral part of the golfing community in Davis, California. Barbara's life story is not just about golf; it's about passion, dedication, and the indomitable spirit of a woman who broke barriers and made a lasting impact on the Davis Golf Club.

In 1936, Barbara's family moved to Sacramento, California, where she spent the majority of her early years. In 1989, she moved to Davis, California, before finally settling in Woodland in 1996. Barbara was an only child, but her life was richly blessed with family. She is the proud mother of one son, one stepson, two daughters, and the joyful grandmother of five step-grandchildren and one great-grandson.

It was in 1979 that Barbara's journey in golf began, and it's a story worth remembering. Encouraged by her husband Chuck, a devoted member of the Davis Golf Club, Barbara embarked on a golfing adventure. With just three golf lessons under her belt, she took a swing at the game and never looked back. In 1983, she became the captain of the Davis Women's Golf Club, having served as the Tournament Director the previous year. Despite considering herself a "mediocre" golfer, Barbara surprised herself when she clinched the Davis Women's Club Championship in 1990.

Two years after her husband passed away in 1984, Barbara made another significant move, this time joining the Davis Golf Club. Her dedication and love for the game soon became evident. In 1997, she was elected to the Davis Golf Club Board of Directors and took on the role of Secretary, subsequently serving as Assistant Tournament Director. When the previous director resigned, Barbara stepped into the role of full-time Tournament Director, a position she's held with passion and pride ever since.

For Barbara, being the Tournament Director wasn't just a job; it was a labor of love. She cherished the opportunity to work closely with the people she held dear and the game she had grown to adore. In 2023, Barbara marked her 25th year as Tournament Director, a remarkable achievement that speaks volumes about her dedication and commitment to the Davis Golf Club.

Barbara's journey in golf was not without its share of humorous moments. Jerry Lilliedol fondly recalls a day when he playfully teased Barbara during a lesson clinic with other golfers from the Women's Club. He surprised her by secretly placing a shovel in her golf bag and then in front of everyone asked if she used it to escape bunkers. Barbara, with her characteristic good-natured spirit, joined in on the laughter, suggesting that the shovel might improve her sand game.

Another memorable encounter with Barbara occurred during the Wednesday women's group's "Beat the Pro" tournament. Jerry found himself playing with Barbara's group, and he was astounded when she putted from a considerable distance off the green. Barbara's unconventional approach left Jerry curious, and she humorously explained that it was her safest shot. When she eventually faced a bunker shot on the 13th hole and found herself in the sand, she turned to Jerry with a grin and said, "See, that's why!"

Barbara's unique technique was undeniably effective, and it left an impression on all who played with her.

Beyond her golfing prowess, Barbara was a true friend and a trailblazer. Many current members of the Davis Golf Club may not be aware that she was not only a dedicated golfer but also one of the pioneering women who advocated for women to join the club. In a time when the Davis Golf Club was a men-only club, Barbara and a handful of courageous women broke through the barriers, leaving an indelible mark on the club's history.

Barbara Muller's life and golfing journey is a testament to the power of passion, dedication, and a good sense of humor. She was not just a golfer; she is an inspiration to all who knew her. As we celebrate her 25th year as Tournament Director and reflect on her golfing adventures, we honor Barbara Muller as a beloved friend, a devoted mother and grandmother, and a pioneer who helped shape the Davis Golf Club into the vibrant community it is today. She will forever hold a special place in the hearts of Davis Golf Club members, and her legacy will continue to inspire generations of golfers to come.