



Joe Wheeler Barker

May 14, 1929 - November 23, 2020

Joe Wheeler Barker, 91, passed away at 10:45 am on Monday, November 23, 2020 in Denison, TX after a brief illness. Born in Stilwell, OK , May 14, 1929 to Bill and Maude Bigby Barker, the family moved to McAlester where his father was a Deputy U.S. Marshall. Later he moved to Durant, graduating from Durant High School where he played football and basketball.

Following graduation, he joined the Air Force (1947-1951) where he toured Europe playing on the Air Force basketball team. He attended Oklahoma A&M in Stillwater (member of the last graduating class before changing name to Oklahoma State University). Following graduation, he returned to Durant where he married Kathryn (Fritz) Stone. She died following a long illness 3 years later.

He purchased Stone's Propane in Durant where he and his partner, W.D. Manaham (Dub) of Tulsa owned and operated for 47 years. Dub and his wife Marty introduced him to his future wife, Meczy Kate Andrews of Tulsa. They were married in 1961 and had two children, Doug and Kim. They were members of the First Christian Church where he was a lifetime deacon and served as Trustee and many church boards and committees. He served on the Board of Directors of the former Durant Bank & Trust and also served on the Oklahoma State LP Gas Association Board. He was an avid golfer and also cherished his horseracing trips to Hot Springs, AR with Meczy and their

expansive group of racing friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Bill and Maude Barker; step mother Thelma Barker; sisters Roxie Robbins, Kathryn Baker Caldwell and step sister Betty Jarrett; brothers -in-law Glenn Robbins, Dr. George Baker, Ed Caldwell and Pat Jarrett. Survivors include his wife Mecy of the home; son Doug and wife Kellie Butcher Barker of Durant and daughter Kim of Dallas, TX as well as brothers-in-law Tom Andrews and wife Mary Kay of Norman, OK and many nieces and nephews. Grandchildren include Weston of NYC and Miranda of Washington, DC.

A celebration of Joe's life will be held at 2:00 PM Friday, December 4, 2020 at the First Christian Church. Pastor Joe Jorgensen will officiate assisted by Mr. Dell McClain. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the First Christian Church of Durant. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.brownsfuneralservice.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Brown's Durant Funeral and Cremation Service.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC 4. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Christian Church
301 N. 3rd Ave
Durant, OK 74701

Tribute Wall



“ *Joe Wheeler Barker*

January 08, 2023 at 11:32 PM



“ *Joe had a special pew at the First Christian Church and you knew NOT to sat on that pew. He did always have a smile for you if you did but it meant, "excuse me but that is my pew." A great guy and friend.*

Helen Lowrance - December 01, 2020 at 11:37 AM



This made me laugh!! Thank you Helen!

Kim Barker - December 04, 2020 at 09:01 PM



“ *Joe has been a very influential person in our lives. He was more like a father to Tom than *just* a brother-in-law. He later also became a brother-in-law — and friend — to me fifty-three plus years ago when Tom and I got married in the very same church where Joe's service is being held. That church holds many fond memories for Joe, Meczy, Kim, Doug and us. Tom and I were able to spend many holidays with them, trips to Hot Springs and lots of fun weekends together at Lake Texhoma. The Earth has sadly lost a truly great guy, but Heaven has gained one! Someday we shall see Joe again. God is good 🙏*

Tom and Mary Kay Andrews

Mary Kay Andrews - November 30, 2020 at 02:34 PM

AJ

“ Oh dear Family, this is such a hard thing to write. But I want you all to know how much I loved and treasured Uncle Joe. My first memory of him was him coming home from his Air Force duties in 1951 on the GIANT black train! I was 2-3 years old and Bob was a baby. I remember hiding behind Dad's leg as I watched that monster chug into the station. Uncle Joe was was so tall and handsome as he got off the train. After hugging everyone, he picked me up and carried me to the car! I was so excited and loved him ever since. He used to play with us kids (Jarrett's, Robbins, Baker) for hours. We played "spoons" probably until he was "blue in the face"!!! I'll never forget when he "threw" Bob into the deep end of the DCC swimming pool! And Bob swam out and never looked back (this was after spending many hours in the pool teaching us how to swim)! I remember being a flower girl at his and Fritzzi's wedding with Linda! And I'll never forget all of the wonderful times Linda, Cathy and I stayed with Uncle Joe and Aunt Meczy! They had to be SAINTS! Uncle Joe taught me how to water ski too. And He and Meczy used to attend Neewollah in Independence, Ks, with us Jarrett's before Doug and Kim were born. I know he is not suffering any longer, and that brings some peace. He has joined so many family and friends in Heaven that there had to be a big welcoming committee. Please know I love and cherish each of you. Alexis

Alexis Jarrett - November 27, 2020 at 04:58 PM

BG

*Joe and family are friends and much
More as they touched our lives....
In business as a respected and honest man ...,Mecy as a caring and
Beautiful person touching our family
At time of our daughter's wedding with
Catering and Ruby Alexander.....no worries as it was done
correctly...Kim
For being a friend and supporter to our daughter at sorority and
university of Oklahoma....Doug as an
Outstanding athlete at Durant high school.
A beautiful family and always a welcome home to us and countless
others.
May God bless this family as they
Have blessed us
Barbara and Joe Gary*

Barbara/Joe Gary - January 12, 2021 at 04:07 PM

TS

“ *So many memories of the First Christian Church and Joe Barker is
in so many of them! He faithfully served there for most of his life.*

Toni Stiefer - November 27, 2020 at 12:46 PM