



Abram F. "Toto" Barker

December 3, 1934 - May 5, 2018

Abram F. Barker III, 83, known to friends as "Toto," passed away at his home in Bristol, Va. on Saturday, May 5th, 2018, surrounded by his family.

Toto was born to the late Abram F. Barker Jr. and Mary Lou Barker. He had one brother, the late Jack McFaddin Barker of Mendota, VA. and Naples, FL. Born in Mendota, Va., on December 3, 1934, his family moved to Bristol in 1948 when Toto was fourteen years old. After graduating from Virginia High School he attended Memphis State followed by The University of Virginia, where, in 1958, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology. During his 4th year at UVA, Toto had the honor of living on the east lawn in room 8 near the Rotunda. He was also a member of the Theta Delta Chi Fraternity.

After graduating from UVA, Toto moved back to Bristol where he opened a construction and paving company. Soon thereafter he partnered with his brother, Jack Barker and began the Barker Brothers Construction Company. The Barker brothers did many construction projects around the Tri Cities area, most notably the reconfiguration of the track at the Bristol Motor Speedway in 1971 from a flat track to the high banked turns of today. Toto and Jack also did the original construction of the Bristol Dragway. In 1979, Toto purchased the Norfolk and Western Railway Station in downtown Bristol. After renovations and additions he renamed the property The Trainstation Marketplace which operated throughout the 1980's and contained many restaurants and specialty shops.

Toto is survived by his wife of 61 years, Nancy Pendergrass Barker, and their three children, Debbie Farrell and husband Wayne of Woodstock, GA; Kim Sorensen of Bristol, VA and Abram F. Barker IV (Brother) and wife Lynne of Bristol, VA. He is also survived by grandchildren, Audrey Sorensen Carter, Lauren Elizabeth Farrell, Abram Forrest Barker V and great –granddaughter, Sydney Ann Carter as well as niece, Julia Barker of Mendota, VA., and her daughter, Alexandria Gibson of Nashville, TN.

The Barker family would like to thank Dr. Andrew Brockmyre and his staff for providing great medical care to Toto for many years as well as Dr. James Schrenker and the entire

staff at Caris Healthcare for providing tender and compassionate hospice care during the final months of Toto's life. A special thanks to Shanda Bryant, Jennifer Price, Tracy Stoots, Jessica Sullivan and other caregivers who helped take care of Toto for the past three years. Anyone who knew Toto, knew his greatest joy in life was family and friends, good eating, and all his beagles.

A celebration of life will be conducted at 6:00 P.M., Monday, May 14, 2018 in Akard Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Scott Price officiating. The family will receive friend from 4:00 – 6:00 P.M., Monday, prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you consider a donation to the Holston United Methodist Home for Children, 404 Holston Dr., Greenville, TN 37743 or your local animal shelter.

Condolences and memories may be left for the family at akardfuneralhome.com

Akard Funeral Home, 1912 West State St., Bristol, TN)423) 989-4800 is serving the Barker family.

Comments



“ I am so sorry for your loss. When I think of Toto so many wonderful memories surface, baskets of tomatoes, BLT sandwiches come to mind. The train station and his laugh that rang from one end to the other. Sunken garden. But most of all, Toto always made me feel welcomed and loved. You will be truly missed.

Anita Bowie Morton - May 17, 2018 at 09:25 AM



“ Debbie & Kim,

So sorry for your loss. I will be praying for your family.

Judy Holbrook

Judy Holbrook - May 15, 2018 at 01:57 AM



“ To Nancy and the family
From Keyla King
I was so sorry to hear of Toto's passing. He was such a delight and was always so interesting to talk to when he came to the dental office! I will continue to keep you all in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. My love to you Nancy!

Keyla King - May 14, 2018 at 02:59 PM



“ My sympathy to the family of Mr Barker and it was a pleasure to know him over the years. May great memories help with his loss

Ralph Booher Jr. - May 14, 2018 at 11:54 AM



“ To the Barker Family:
From: Mark, Linda, Jenna, and Michael Mullins

First, I am so sorry for your loss and our loss too. Unfortunately, I cannot attend the Services today, but our hearts are with you. If you are Ok, I have a few words to share and hope you can view today, as a "Celebration of Life." Mr. Barker is an incredible human being. There is no one that loved life as much as he. He is our modern day Leonardo Da Vinci and Santa Claus. A caring, kind, compassionate, and optimistic individual that was never selfish. Mr. Barker had a "nick name" for everyone with an incredible imagination turning dreams and visions into reality - what a gift to mankind. He knew that life is about the journey and not the destination, and what a journey he lived. His touch and love for people "was and is" contagious, and he touched us all. Today, he would want us to celebrate and simply be happy - and say, "honey, honey" or would seek to purchase some "furniture," - his way of Spanish for furniture (you would have to be there to understand). There is so much to say and recall, but I hope you get the point. There is one thing I know for sure, "heaven is gaining a very special Angel." Although we will all miss him physically, his spirit and energy will be with us forever. For me, I will speak with him everyday.

All our love and heart felt thoughts,
Mark, Linda, Jenna, and Michael - The Mullins Family
May 14, 2018

Mark Mullins & Family - May 14, 2018 at 11:50 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. May you feel His peace during this difficult time. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Love,
Laura and Joe Oktavec and family

Romans 15:13 (NIV)
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Laura Oktavec - May 14, 2018 at 08:08 AM



“ Kim,
I'm so sorry about the loss of your sweet dad. He was the nicest, kindest man. He and your mom always made me feel welcome and comfortable in your house. I'm sure you have heard that from everyone. His obituary is so impressive! I didn't know he lived on the lawn at UVA and about the work he did at the racetrack. I know you are grateful for having had such a wonderful dad and that you will miss him terribly. I'm keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers during this sad, difficult time.
Love,
Lynn Hurt Davis

Lynn Hurt Davis - May 13, 2018 at 08:08 AM



“ Ryan Parsons lit a candle in memory of Abram F. "Toto" Barker



Ryan Parsons - May 10, 2018 at 08:53 AM



“ On behalf of my family and also the Cheddar's family, it is with great sorrow to hear of your families loss. Many great memories of you and your family at the restaurant. Our prayers and thoughts are with you during this difficult time.

Ryan Parsons
and family.

Ryan Parsons - May 10, 2018 at 08:52 AM



“ I was saddened to hear of Toto's passing. My father spoke of him on numerous occasions with the kindest regard. Please know you and the family remain in my thoughts and prayers.



Barbara Rurherford Akers - May 09, 2018 at 12:14 PM



“ Steven A Rhea lit a candle in memory of Abram F. "Toto" Barker



Steven A Rhea - May 09, 2018 at 07:05 AM



“ I am thinking of the family during this time of sorrow. The world has loss someone very special.

Debbie Garritson - May 09, 2018 at 08:59 AM



“ The Carters and Barkers go back to Mendota days. Mary Lou was my first teacher; Jack, my first "sweetheart". Then years later we end up in the same block on Euclid Avenue in Bristol. On our wedding day, August 27, 1954, my new husband and I walked across the lawns to see Mary Lou who was bedfast if I recall correctly. She gave us one of her antique vases which I still have and cherish. Great memories. My condolences to the entire family.
Betty Sue Carter Schaughency
Beaver, Pennsylvania

Betty Sue Schaughency - May 08, 2018 at 11:28 AM



“ Kim,
I just have heard of your Father's passing,I am so sorry but now he is rejoicing with our heavenly father and Toto was a special man.I will never forget him coming into Fatz back in the day before all the family arrived an saying Hurry Bring me a baked Potato with Tomatoes boy did he ever Love that treat..Many precious more but Cherish those memories with your Family.God Bless you all.

Vanessa Trent - May 08, 2018 at 10:50 AM



“ We settled in Bristol because of Toto and Nancy 42 years ago. Such good memories we cherish of their welcome to the community and their friendship. Bill and Diane Thompson

Diane Thompson - May 08, 2018 at 08:43 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers for your peace in the loss of Toto. I have many good memories of being in meetings with him, CR Wilson and other of their business partners. He was a very loving and giving person, always ready with a laugh and to make the ones he was laugh happy.
Myra Cook

Myra D Cook - May 08, 2018 at 07:43 AM



“ Our sincere condolences to the Barker family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time. Bob and Sharon Leonard

Robert Leonard - May 08, 2018 at 08:02 AM



“ Our sincerest condolences. Lisa & Stephen Lowder

Lisa s Lowder - May 07, 2018 at 06:06 PM



“ Nancy and family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. We love all of you. If you need anything please let me know.

patricia mcclure - May 07, 2018 at 05:51 PM