



Robert Douglas Barker

May 24, 1946 - March 4, 2020

Robert “Bob” Douglas Barker, age 73, of Middleville, MI, passed away on March 4, 2020 in Rifle, Colorado. Bob had battled for years with Diabetes, Congestive Heart Failure, and Kidney Disease.

Bob was born May 24, 1946 and lived most of his life in Grand Ledge, Michigan. He was the son of George Archibald Barker and Maxine Gates Barker. Bob attended Grand Ledge Schools where he played basketball, football, and tennis. He then went on to Central Michigan University where he earned his Bachelor’s Degree in teaching and longed to go back to his hometown to teach and coach. He got his wish and was hired in 1969 at Sawdon Middle School to teach and coach. Bob also taught Math and Phys Ed at Beagle Middle School and Grand Ledge High School.

He met his wife, Darlene, while volunteering at a Christian Bible Camp in Shephard, MI. They were married June 9, 1973. Bob earned his Master's Degree from Michigan State University in 1978. They had three wonderful children Rebekah, Robby, and Randy. Bob was a long-time member of the Grand Ledge Baptist Church and taught Sunday School to young people for many years. Bob continued his teaching career for 34 years and loved being able to teach and coach in the community where he grew up. Bob touched so many young lives with his countless, selfless hours especially with his coaching of basketball and tennis teams. He always strived to be a positive

influence in their lives. His greatest joy was to be able to coach his three children in their different sports.

After he retired in 2003, Bob continued to coach with his lifetime friend Robert Byington for the next few years. Bob and Darlene moved to their cottage at Gun Lake after retirement and wintered in Florida for several years. The last two winters they have lived with their daughter, Rebekah, and her family in the beautiful Colorado mountains.

Bob is survived by his wife, Darlene, of nearly 47 years; daughter Rebekah (Paul) Downing of Rifle, CO; sons Robby Barker and Randy(Sara) Barker of Midland, MI; four grandsons, Luke Downing, Preston Barker, Jason Downing, and Jesse Downing; brother George G. Barker; mother-in-law Polly Becker; sister-in-law Tammy (Keith) Bobenmoyer; nieces Kristina Barker, Karyn (Josh) Newton, Casey (Neal) Hyde; nephews Jeff Barker and Ryan (Danielle) Mahaffy; and many cousins on the Barker and Gates side. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister-in-law Katherine Barker, and many precious aunts, uncles and cousins.

Visitation will be held from 2-4pm and 5-8pm on Wednesday, March 11th at Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home in Grand Ledge, MI and from 12pm until the time of the Funeral service at 1:00pm on Thursday, March 12th at Grand Ledge Baptist Church in Grand Ledge, MI. Interment will follow at Oakwood Cemetery, Grand Ledge, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund will be set up in his honor for his four grandsons that he loved so dearly for their school and sports endeavors (Please make checks payable to Darlene Barker).

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

299 Halbert Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 11. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services
406 N. Bridge Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 627-2531
jasonbarclay@holihanatkin.com
<https://www.holihanatkin.com>

Visitation

MAR 11. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services
406 N. Bridge Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 627-2531
jasonbarclay@holihanatkin.com
<https://www.holihanatkin.com>

Visitation

MAR 12. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Grand Ledge Baptist Church
1120 W. Willow Hwy.
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Service

MAR 12. 1:00 PM (ET)

Grand Ledge Baptist Church
1120 W. Willow Hwy.
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Tribute Wall

BS

“ *Brandylee Smith sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert Douglas Barker*



Brandylee Smith - November 03, 2020 at 05:43 PM

M(

“ *Bob was such a wonderful person, was kind to everyone, he will be greatly missed!*

Melodie LaCtose (Wellman) - June 27, 2020 at 11:01 AM

LB

“ *I was fortunate to be a Grand Ledge classmate of Bob's; elementary through high school. I last saw him at our 40th high school reunion. He was the same kind and fun person he'd been in those early years; his love of family was evident. It's very satisfying to hear of all the young people he mentored in his teaching and coaching roles; I can't think of a finer legacy. He gave the gift of his good example. May his family find some comfort in this loss of husband, father, grandfather.*

Linda (Barker) Breclaw

Linda Breclaw - March 29, 2020 at 09:43 PM

BS

I am gonna miss robert barker he was also nice to me

Brandylee Smith - November 03, 2020 at 05:45 PM

SR

“ I had the honor of playing for and coaching with Coach Barker at GLHS. The memories I have and the stories I can tell are priceless. He taught us respect and work ethic. Two lost arts in today’s world. As he was known for his teaching and coaching careers, he was a very good player in his own right. He will be greatly missed by all. Prayers to you Darlene, and your family. Draw up a good one Coach!

Scott Redman - March 23, 2020 at 07:45 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Douglas Barker.



March 11, 2020 at 04:00 PM

HM

“ I remember Mr. Batker when I was a student in Grand Ledge schools, he was an awesome person and so much fun. I know he left a lasting impression on everyone that knew him, I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. Love and prayers to his family. Helen (Westfall) Marr

Helen (Westfall) Marr - March 11, 2020 at 02:54 PM

TH

“ We were sorry to hear of Bob's passing. We didn't have the privilege of meeting this fine man who contributed positively to so many lives, but wish to extend to the family our love, sympathy, and prayers for God's comfort and grace at this time.

Tom & Sandi Huber
Mio, Mi

Tom & Sandi Huber - March 10, 2020 at 10:58 AM

TK

“ The Byingtons & Kuipers purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Robert Douglas Barker.



The Byingtons & Kuipers - March 09, 2020 at 10:22 AM

DO

“ I only knew him as Coach Barker and I was constantly encouraged and challenged to step it up and push forward. My sophomore year Coach Barker took a small spark of confidence and grew. Being a part of his JV squad was life giving and impactful! The way he loved our team and every player was inspirational and impactful.

While learning under him as a coach I also got to watch him as a father! I saw incredible patience and kindness and amazing grace! I love and appreciate this wonderful man and the beautiful family he leaves behind!

-dan oberski

dan oberski - March 09, 2020 at 06:44 AM

CK

“ Mr. Barker was one of those rare souls that enjoyed the success of others over himself. He was the best type of person to teach others because he was full of compassion and driven to help you appreciate your own worth. The world lost a champion for kindness and success in this chaotic world. Rest in Peace teacher, coach and friend.

Chip Kraus - March 09, 2020 at 05:35 AM

AK

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Bob's passing. I was a student and teacher aid of Bob's at GLHS. I baby sat Bob's and Darlenes kids when they were young. I remember Bob as a wonderful teacher. Prayers for all his family and friends.

Amy Kelso - March 09, 2020 at 12:06 AM

CL

“ I attended Sawdon where Mr Barker taught in the seventies. I remember well Mr Barkers beautiful smile. He encouraged so many around him. Mr Barker was great at teaching Math. He didn't just teach he mentored so many. Please read the Facebook post by John Seddon. Prayers to Mr Barkers wife and children.

Cheryl Ladd - March 08, 2020 at 10:48 PM

SP

“ I was one of the fortunate ones to have him as my 8th grade math teacher. He was a great teacher at that time and many of us young ladies had quite the "crush" on him. Fortunately, I was able to connect with him last summer when he was a patient at the clinic that I worked at. When I told him who I was, his comment was, " I had the pleasure of playing golf with your father." He was a fine man! Godspeed.

Susan Corey Piercefield - March 08, 2020 at 10:41 PM

DF

“ While growing up in Grand Ledge I was lucky to spend time with Bob, summer rec tennis and later as my coach in high school basketball.

Such a good person and great role model to so many kids in GL. His guidance and friendship was a big influence on me growing up and I will always appreciate the time he put into all of us GL kids. My condolences to his family, RIP coach.

P.S. whenever we weren't focused and getting alittle lazy at practice I always remember him getting on us and saying " I could be home with my beautiful wife", thanks for sharing your guy with us Darlene

😊 Dave Ford

Dave Ford - March 08, 2020 at 09:27 PM

TB

“ Bob was the most wonderful brother in law. I admired his kind, loving and upbeat personality even through all of his health challenges. It is so encouraging to know he is now in heaven and in no further pain. I will miss you my brother ❤️

Tammy Bobenmoyer - March 08, 2020 at 08:56 PM

TB

“ Bob was a wonderful brother in law who I first met when I was 13 years old and a camper at the Christian camp that he and my sister Darlene were counselors. I think as soon as they met, they fell in love. As he was 26 and Darlene was 21, I went home and told my parents that Darlene was dating a much older man! A fact that he teased me about most of my life 😊 Bob taught me to play tennis when I would go down and visit them in Grand Ledge as a teen. As the years went by I witnessed what a patient, caring and positive person he was even though in later years he went through so many challenges with his health problems. I will miss Bob dearly and am rejoicing that he is now in heaven in no more pain. Love you forever brother ❤️



Tammy Bobenmoyer - March 08, 2020 at 06:38 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Douglas Barker.



March 08, 2020 at 06:14 PM

JW

“ I was privileged to grow up with Bob. We went through elementary school together in the same class every year. We graduated from GLHS the same year. I will remember Bob as a kind, patient and compassionate person. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family. I am sure Bob is in a place where there is no suffering and. We will miss you my friend.

john wilcox - March 07, 2020 at 01:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Robert Douglas Barker.



March 07, 2020 at 01:07 PM