



Ray Jackson Barnett

November 3, 1919 - February 5, 2015

Ray Jackson Barnett, 95, died peacefully on Thursday, February 5, at Circle of Life Hospice in Springdale, Arkansas.

He was born November 3, 1919, at home in Elba, Arkansas, to George and Ida Barnett, the fifth of seven children. When Ray was nine years old his family moved to Gentry, Arkansas, where he enjoyed growing up on Flint Creek next to the neighboring farm of his future bride's family, the Hardcastles.

He married Dora Laurine Hardcastle of Gentry 74 years ago on November 17, 1940. For the past 50 years they have made their home in Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

He is survived by his wife Dora Laurine Barnett; sons David Ray; Robert Ervin and wife Margaret; Mark Stephen and wife Sandra; Jonathan Dale and wife Christy; James Odell and wife Marilyn; all of Siloam Springs; daughters Jane Ellen Johnson and husband Jerry of Waco, Texas; Mary Esther Boxx and husband Randy of Siloam Springs.

Ray is also survived by nineteen grandchildren; Marcus Johnson and wife Amy, Anthony Johnson, Jeff Barnett, Carter Barnett, Ashley Lee and husband Michael, Allison Halsell and husband Scot, Julie Levy and husband Jason,

Krista Zecchino and husband Mike, Holly Niles, Heidi Stagg and husband, Michael Barnett and wife Amanda, Stephen Barnett, Christopher Barnett, Sarah Pense and husband Jason, Joe Barnett and wife Abby, Lacey Hudgins and husband Donivan, Nicholas Barnett and wife Corina, Abbey Rowsey and husband Paul, and Jordan Barnett. The married grandchildren have added twenty-two great grandchildren.

He is also survived by twin sisters Jeanette Pettey of Siloam Springs and Geneva Taylor of Sacramento, California.

Ray was a member of the "Greatest Generation," a title given by Tom Brokaw to the brave men and women of the WW II era. He served in the U.S. Army from 1944-46 in the field artillery stationed in Okinawa and was there when Japan surrendered.

When Ray arrived home from the war, he enrolled in Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, where he received his B.S. degree in Biology in 1949, while preaching in rural churches. His love of learning kept him pursuing more education through the years. Other degrees he earned were: Masters in Religious Education from Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City in 1951; Masters of Education Administration from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville in 1957; and additional graduate hours toward a Guidance and Counseling degree.

Early in Ray's life he felt the call to ministry and was a bi-vocational pastor for 25 plus years in churches in Oklahoma and Arkansas. He was a teacher/counselor/administrator for 20 plus years at various schools in Arkansas and Oklahoma, including 9 years at John Brown University. Prior to retiring in 1990, he was a salesman for DaySpring Cards for 10 years.

In the years following retirement, Ray's main focus was investing in the lives of people. He brought joy and encouragement to all, loved unconditionally and was quick to forgive when wronged. Activities and hobbies included: teaching/counseling, gardening, hosting dinner parties with Laurine, golf, walking/hiking, traveling and going to any and all activities involving his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, attending sports events and following his favorite teams, along with volunteering in various organizations in the community, including serving on the board of the Genesis House for many years.

Barnett was a member of the American Legion Post 29 for 42 continuous years. He served as the state chaplain from June 1988 to July 2001. He also held various local posts and roles from August 1991 to July 2003. He and Laurine were the driving force in helping over 400 young students from Siloam Springs High School attend Boys and Girls State over a 40-year period (actually driving some of them to and from the event location).

Some of the awards Ray received through the years were: 1986 DaySpring Service Award; 2001 Special Recognition by Governor Mike Huckabee for distinguished accomplishments, services and deeds as a Citizen of Arkansas; 2005 Office of Human Concern Community Action for Distinguished Service; 2007 Siloam Springs Chamber of Commerce "Pioneer Citizen of the Year"; 2009 The American Legion Department of Arkansas Americanism Award.

In summary, Ray was a man who lived his life loving God, family, country, and faithfully serving others, leaving a great legacy to all who knew him. He was a faithful member of First Baptist Church of Siloam Springs.

Visitation and viewing will be Thursday evening, February 12th, at Wasson Funeral Home, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Celebration services will be held on Saturday,

February 14th, 1:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Siloam Springs. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery, Siloam Springs.

Memorials may be given to Siloam Springs First Baptist Church Heart Beat Fund, American Legion Post 29, or to John Brown University for the Ray and Laurine Barnett Civic Leadership Endowed Speakers' Fund.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

2122 W. University St.
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 12. 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wasson Funeral Home
441 U.S. 412
Siloam Springs, AR 72761
(479) 524-5131
wasson@wassonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wassonfuneralhome.com>

Service

FEB 14. 1:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
2000 Dawn Hill Rd.
Siloam Springs, AR 72761
<http://www.fbcsiloam.com>

Tribute Wall

PH

“ Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the Barnett family. Sixty years ago Ray officiated at our wedding. He must have done a good job, since our marriage has lasted so long. Goodbye good friend. We'll meet you at the Eastern Gate.

Tom and Patty Hogan

Patty Hogan - February 13, 2015 at 09:45 PM

CF

“ I shall always remember the positive influence Mr. Barnett had on me when I was a high school student. He helped me make wise decisions which influenced my life and later the lives of my children and grandchildren. In fact I had dropped out of high school when he came to my house and talked to me about returning to school and graduating. I did as he suggested . If fact I have taken classes from 11 universities and colleges and earned a PhD. Thanks Mr. Barnett for the positive things that you have done for so many people! I will always be grateful.

*Dr. Carl Eugene Ford
Plano, Texas*

Carl Ford - February 13, 2015 at 04:09 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ray Jackson Barnett.



February 13, 2015 at 03:21 PM

“ Ray was a true friend to many. May these words bring comfort to the family and his friends.

The Power of Love
Sammy Hynds Harrison
27 August 2012

At the time of the loss of a loved one, many hearts turn to prayer as they should. However, I would like to think for a moment about the power of love.

Were words left unspoken? You have the opportunity to say those words. Love is a connection between heaven and earth. When we lose a loved one, 2 Corinthians 5:8 reminds us that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Their spirit goes to be with the Lord, but their love remains with us.

Their love may return to us in our dreams, when we look at a letter, picture, a personal item that you have in your possession, when you hear a song, see their favorite flower or color in a rainbow, a sunrise or sunset – the list is endless because Love is endless.

Love is the greatest power in the universe. It is more powerful than all of the arsenals of the worlds nations combined. It is more powerful than the rockets that carry men and spaceships into orbit or to another planet. The atomic bomb exploded, destroying and killing all in its path. When Love explodes it draws all of mankind together. It brings smiles and laughter rather than heartache and tears.

The more love is used, the stronger it grows. Love is so strong that in marriage, it turns two people into one. Love is instilled in the hearts of parents for a child before birth. That feeling is too great to be described. You don't believe it could possibly be stronger until you hold that new life in your arms. That's when you have a surge of love a thousand times greater than before birth.

Love stops war. In Matthew 5:44, Jesus Christ says, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." If you are busy loving your enemy, you don't have time nor space for anger and hate.

Love is contagious. Anytime you are close to anyone who is filled with love, you catch it.

Love cannot be hoarded. It loses power if it is not used. Therefore the richest of men or women are the ones full of Love.

If anyone asks you to describe God, ask them to describe "Love" — For God is Love.

Sammy Hynds Harrison

Sammy Hynds Harrison - February 13, 2015 at 02:02 PM

SO

“*What an example of a Christian gentleman he was to whoever he met. My life is richer for knowing Mr. Ray Barnett. I look forward to seeing him again one day and experiencing the joy and celebration that I believe he is experiencing now.*

Praying for peace for the rest of the family,

*Steve Onnen
Siloam Springs, AR*

Steve Onnen - February 12, 2015 at 04:39 PM

ED

“ We have lost the patriarch of our family – to nieces – nephews – sisters-in-laws – sisters – and many more. As for me (a child born the year you married Laurine) you and Laurine have been parents, since my parents died when I was in my 20’s. To my children, you have served as Grandparents. Ted has been especially close to you - hanging on every word you spoke – soaking up your love and attention – respecting and honoring your affection for the Lord. I enormously thank and appreciate all you have done for my family. You and Laurine have made a tremendous difference in other people’s lives...with the smiles you give, with the way you warmed the hearts of everyone that came around. Those wonderful hugs you gave - when I had a hard time receiving them - since the Hardcastle girls were just not huggers – but you hugged anyway. Your legacy of Christian faith you left behind will live on through each of us and through generations to come. Thank you. Evelyn Hardcastle Davis

Evelyn Hardcastle Davis - February 12, 2015 at 11:37 AM



“ America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Ray Jackson Barnett.



February 12, 2015 at 08:40 AM



“ Written in the Stars was purchased for the family of Ray Jackson Barnett.



February 12, 2015 at 08:40 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ray Jackson Barnett.*



February 12, 2015 at 08:33 AM



“ *Growing up, Grandpa Ray as we called him, would always invite us in for an Apple or piece of candy. Countless times we got in trouble for disappearing over there or bothering him when he had better things to do. Yet he always loved having us over! RIP Ray*

- Benjamin Dean

Ben Dean - February 11, 2015 at 09:53 PM



“ *we had the privilege of being Ray and Laurines neighbor for several years before we moved from NW Arkansas in 1997 - what terrific memories we have! A life well lived for our Lord, Ray (and Laurine) were/are one in a million - may you all sense the Lord's peace in your lives in the days ahead. Psalm 121*

*warmly,
Tom and Leslie Dean
Caledonia, MI*

Tom Dean - February 11, 2015 at 07:39 PM

IR

“ This precious man never knew a stranger. He always had a big smile & a big hug to give anyone that walked his way. His family is in my prayers. He will leave a big empty spot here on earth & in your hearts. But if we could see him in Heaven right now, we'd be so happy & full of peace! GOD BLESS EACH of YOU! You remain in my prayers! BLESSINGS! Irene Roberts

Irene Roberts - February 11, 2015 at 01:42 PM

BH

“ Jonathan we were so sorry to hear of the death of your Father. Our deepest sympathy is with you and your family. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Bobby and Lois Hopper

Bobby and Lois Hopper - February 11, 2015 at 09:35 AM

VC

“ Viola Clower purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ray Jackson Barnett.



Viola Clower - February 11, 2015 at 02:10 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Ray Jackson Barnett.



February 10, 2015 at 04:56 PM

RA

“Well Done” thou Good and Faithful Servant! These are the words that come to mind when we think of Ray Barnett. Robert and Teddie (Powers) Andrews went to Gum Springs when Ray was pastoring. Robert has fond memories of growing up with James. Our families spent every Sunday and Wednesday in church. There was no reason not to go unless you were sick...And it better be a definite illness. Ray will be missed but we know we shall see him again and will know him as we are known. God bless each and every member of the family and especially Laurine! You are In our prayers.
Robert and Teddie Andrews.

Robert Andrews - February 10, 2015 at 02:33 PM

LM

“ Ray was Larry’s schoolteacher when Larry was in Colcord High School. I am sure when we asked Ray to marry us in February 1964, that he didn’t think the marriage would last. We will be married 51 years on February 25. When we joined Gum Springs Baptist Church in 1967, Ray was our pastor. Ray always had a smile and a hug whenever we would see him down through the years. He will be missed. His passing is Earth’s loss, but Heaven’s gain. We will see him again.
Larry & Connie McGarrah

Larry & Connie McGarrah - February 10, 2015 at 11:05 AM

TE

“ Ray Barnett was a living picture of what a true American is all about. His legacy of God and country will live on in the countless lives he touched. I reflect with fondness on our many conversations. He will certainly be missed. Praying for your entire family. - Tim Estes

Tim Estes - February 10, 2015 at 07:34 AM

HA

“ I knew "Mr." Barnett from when I was attending school in Colcord many, many years ago. Probably around 1963. I graduated from Siloam Springs High School in 1964. He was a great example for those attending school while he worked there. I continued to see Mr. Barnett throughout the years until leaving Siloam Springs in 1982. Always had a smile and a nod. He made a difference. I'm sure he will be missed.

Howard Anderson - February 09, 2015 at 11:07 AM

KM

“ Ray was the sweetest man!!! I loved listening to old time stories when he came into the office !!!



kim mayfield - February 08, 2015 at 07:05 PM

NL

“ He always greeted you with a smile and a story. Our condolences to the families of his passing. Yet God still has plans for him in heaven. God bless you all. The Ron Langlitz family in McMinnville Oregon

Nancy Langlitz - February 08, 2015 at 10:18 AM

BS

“ I had the privilege of working with Mr. Barnett concerning his work in Gentry. He was a past Gentry Chamber of Commerce president in the 1960s. A few years back, I recruited Mr. Barnett to honor some of Gentry's community leaders. I enjoyed meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Barnett in their home and visiting with them several times. I also enjoyed spending time with them at the Gentry Chamber of Commerce awards banquet. They were both so helpful and kind. God bless each of the Barnett family - I know you will miss this wonderful man.

Bev Saunders - February 08, 2015 at 09:18 AM

LC

“ When I think of Ray I think of a life well lived. What a legacy he has left for the Barnett family and the Siloam Springs community. Praying God will comfort & strengthen you in the days ahead.

Linn Carlson - February 07, 2015 at 10:43 PM

TR

“ I am very sorry to hear of your loss of Ray. He was always such a nice fellow. Nobody could make a vegetable garden any better than he could. Again, my sincere condolences. Tom Roberts

Thomas Roberts - February 07, 2015 at 09:35 PM

RV

“ Our condolences to the family of Ray. This is never easy in the life of a Christian. We do though have the surety of seeing our loved ones, again someday. GOD bless.
Randy & Connie Vohs

Randy Vohs - February 07, 2015 at 01:04 PM

PR

“ i have know him along time . he was a great man loved by all.

Patricia Redmon - February 07, 2015 at 12:59 PM

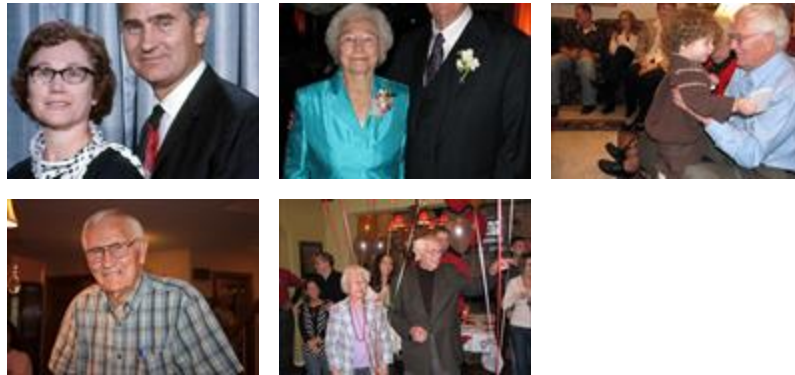
MC

“ Ray always welcomed us with a smile and hug. The world is a better place because Ray was here. He will be missed but truly welcomed in Heaven.

Mr & Mrs John Carter - February 07, 2015 at 10:31 AM

MB

“ 18 files added to the album Ray Barnett



Mark Barnett - February 07, 2015 at 10:16 AM

MB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mark Barnett - February 07, 2015 at 10:12 AM

MS

“ *One of the best of God's creations. Ray always had a smile and hug for me. What a blessing to me and the Siloam Springs community. Heaven is richer today and my life was made richer by Ray Barnett. Love and prayers to the whole Barnett family. Marcia Snediker*

Marcia Snediker - February 06, 2015 at 02:02 PM

MB

“ *2 files added to the album Ray Barnett*



Mark Barnett - February 06, 2015 at 09:29 AM

DR

He was a perfect gentleman, a patriot, I enjoyed working with him in the American Legion. He and Laurine were always there with a smile and calm word doing God's work. DeMona Reeves Past Pres Ark. ALA

DeMona Reeves - February 10, 2015 at 10:52 AM