



Major "Jim" Barber

FEB 5, 1936 - JUL 25, 2020



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 6
Tribute Wall	Page 7
Media	Page 10



Major "Jim" Barber

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Jim Barber, 84, passed from this earth that he loved so much to a place that he knew would be even more beautiful on July 25, 2020, finally taken from us by the ravages of COPD and Alzheimer's.

He was many things, but above all he was a loving family man, who was meant to raise daughters, and love and care for his wife. He married Linda Phelps in 1959 after a long distance courtship and their bond of eternal love began. Jill came along in 1963 and Janet in 1965 to complete the young family. Next came his sons-in-law, Bryan Simmons and Chris Gurton and his two beloved granddaughters, Beth Banales (Alex) and Sami Gurton. He had just learned that his first great grandchild is due in December.

He loved his family more than anything, and Linda was the envy of so many wives because he was always very affectionate and public with his love for her and the girls. There was never any doubt that he loved them immensely, even when he got angry. He had a powerful temper, but it was gone quickly and he was always the first to apologize for anything said in anger.

He could build anything and is survived by almost everything he ever created, as he always built "heck-for-stout". He loved to read, especially history books about his beloved Arizona, and his curiosity about everything was a gift he left to his girls. He was a genuine servant, helping neighborhood kids with school projects, granddaughters with their 6th grade castles, lending his expertise in so many things to anyone in need. He was a teacher, instructing his city girl wife and later his daughters about guns, shooting, hunting, car care, tools, building, concrete, bridges, dams, roads, the desert, the mountains, cribbage and family history. He extended this to his granddaughters, taking Beth and Sami to the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show every year. He shared his hunting and fishing skills with his son-in-law Chris, and outfitted both him and Bryan with every tool they could ever need, and showed them how to love their wives.

He loved to go for long drives in the boonies and take family camping trips or go on vacations in the truck and camper, and later with Linda in their fifth wheel. He stopped at every roadside



Obituary

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historical marker he saw. He could remember stopping at a specific bend in the road in 1952 and finding a piece of Indian pottery. Stream fishing for trout in the White Mountains and deer hunting in the Canelo Hills were his favorite outdoor activities.

Almost everyone knows of his artistic skills from the 62 annual Barbaramas that he illustrated. He carved his own tooled leather belts. In later years he did hundreds of jigsaw puzzles with his daughters and granddaughters. Concrete was an art to him as well, and he would show up anytime and anywhere for a pour. Some know his "artistic" sayings, also known as Barberisms, such as "Slicker than snot on a doorknob", "busier than a one armed paper hanger", "couldn't pour pee out of a boot with a spigot on the toe and directions on the heel"

He loved to sing old country and western songs like "Froggy went a Courtin'" and "Strawberry Roan" to his girls and dance with his beloved Linda, his sweetheart, his doll, to Alan Jackson's "Remember When" in the dining room of their home. He always carried many photos of his girls in his wallet, including one of Linda in a bathing suit at Lake Tahoe in 1958. He was home for dinner with his family every night, and Jill and Janet woke him up from a quick nap between dinner and work by tickling him until he captured them both with his big strong hands. His eyes were the bluest of blue and his smile was contagious.

He was many other things...he was a son to his parents, Jim and Irene Barber, who brought him here in 1945 from upstate New York in a small trailer, making Arizona his favorite place for the rest of his life. He was a brother, an uncle, a friend, a boy scout, a Christian, a patriot, a veteran. He even tried his hand at coaching Bobby Sox Softball for Janet's team. He was an icon of western fashion, always wearing jeans, cowboy boots, and a cowboy hat, and those western shirts made by Jill, the ones with extra large pockets for his Constitutions.

Jim was a graduate of Amphitheater High School, 1954; Colorado School of Trades, 1955 as a registered gun smith; U of A in Civil Engineering, 1961; Stanford University MS in Civil Engineering/Construction, 1962; Lieutenant to Captain, US Army Corps of Engineers, 1961-1965.

After 22 moves in the first 15 years together, with school, the Army and construction, the Barbers moved back to Tucson in 1971, where Jim worked as an engineer and superintendent on several of Tucson's landmarks. He built Kino Hospital, Cholla High School, Ventana Canyon Resort, Tucson Newspaper Plant, Tucson City Center with M. M. Sundt. With the Ashton Company he worked at



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Esperanza School, ASARCO and Raytheon. He retired after 11 years as Manager of Field Engineering Division for Pima County Transportation.

Jim loved his country and his community, serving for 4 years on the Flowing Wells School Board, as president of the Southern Arizona Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers, on the U of A Engineering Alumni Council, on the State Board of Technical Registration for Engineers for 6 years, and as a Republican Precinct Committeeman for 46 years. He was Linda's rock and stood by her side for many years as she worked Republican politics in Tucson.

Jim was commissioned into the Army out of ROTC and loved shooting sports and education. Donations can be made in Jim's name to the M. James Barber Memorial Fund for JROTC at Flowing Wells School District, 1556 W. Prince Rd., Tucson, AZ 85705. Please make checks payable to the district and include the name of the fund in the memo line of your check.

A Memorial Service will be held at Faith Community Church on Friday, August 14th, 2020 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Light refreshments will follow in Harrington Hall.

To ensure the health and safety of our community, we are following all guidelines set by local, state and CDC officials.



Events


Major "Jim" Barber

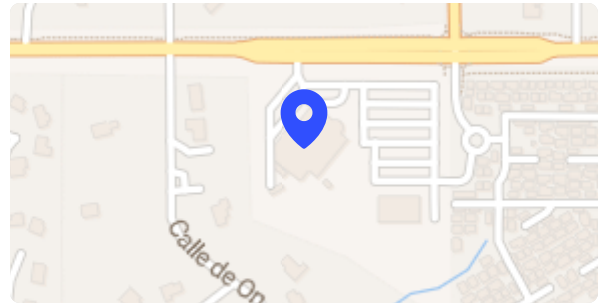
FEB 5, 1936 - JUL 25, 2020

Memorial service

 **Friday**, August 14, 2020

 2:00 PM MT

 **Faith Community Church**
2551 W. Orange Grove Rd., Tucson AZ 85741





Tribute Wall

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CH

Chuck Huckelberry posted:

I met Jim Barber a few years after he had returned to Tucson, as I was the Field Engineering Manager in the Department of Transportation in 1976, a job he later held for the County for 11 years. I got to know Jim through a variety of social networking organizations such as the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society of Professional Engineers as well as through his activities of both the Sundt and Ashton Companies. He was a well-respected engineering professional and lived in the same general Flowing Wells area that I did. He was an ardent supporter of professional development and education in general and could be counted on to give you a straight answer on anything you chose to discuss with him. He served Pima County as our Field Engineering Manager in the Department of Transportation during a major, new road construction program. Jim successfully completed every project he worked on and was a tremendous professional asset for Pima County. Many of the roads that you drive on or buildings you work in were built by Jim Barber. He loved his family and respected his coworker, two admirable traits among his many accomplishments. Chuck Huckelberry Pima County Administrator and Coworker of Jim Barber

August 14 at 8:15 AM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Barber family.



August 13 at 12:33 PM

BA

Bruce Ash posted:

Condolences on the loss of such a great American and a really sincere and good person. Jim's suffering is over and he is at peace. Long live his memory and life accomplishments. Bruce Ash

August 13 at 2:18 AM

TB

Tammy Bose lit a candle in honor of Major.

I didn't know him but I want to thank his family for all the wonderful service he did for our community and especially for the Republican Party. 46 years as a committeeman! That must be some kind of a record! He must have been a special man and obviously very selfless. You have my condolences and blessing for you and your family.



August 12 at 2:17 PM



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DP

Dave & Cherlene Penilla sent a Divine Light to the Barber family.



August 12 at 12:25 PM

AH

Ann Hollis posted:

Thank you, Jim, for your life-long service to our country.

August 12 at 12:14 PM

RT

Rebecca And Scott Thompson sent a Sweet Tranquility Basket to the Barber family.



August 10 at 4:23 PM

RS

Russell Steinebach posted:

I can truly say Jim was a life long friend. Jim and I were scouts together. Explored the desert while our wives and daughters were participating in Rainbow functions and hunted deer in the Galiuro Mountains. I have a 900 sq ft monument to Jim, It's my garage which Jim help design and construct. Rest in Peace my friend. Russ

August 3 at 3:51 PM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Barber family.



August 1 at 6:42 AM



Anonymous sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Barber family.



July 30 at 4:38 PM



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Ralph Nichols posted:

Bob Barber was my bother -in-law and that is how I meet Jim. My condolences to the Barber family and he will be greatly missed. We last saw him after Bob passed away and he was kind enough to let us visit with him and listed to the stories about the Barber boys

July 30 at 1:22 PM



Jill Simmons shared an album called **Slide show**.



July 29 at 1:06 PM



Gene Chewning posted:

Jim was a great man. I really enjoyed sitting at his table at the Prince of the NRA banquets. When Jim heard that the cross at my church had been torn down he built a new one and installed it. Jim and Linda were a good influence on my life here in Tucson.

July 29 at 11:43 AM



Linda Barber shared 6 photos to the **Family photos from the 1940s and 1950s** album.



July 27 at 4:27 PM



Linda Barber shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.



July 27 at 4:27 PM



Media

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Jill Simmons shared a video to the **Slide show** album.

July 29 at 1:06 PM



Memories of Jim



Linda Barber shared 6 photos to the **Family photos from the 1940s and 1950s** album. July 27 at 4:46 PM



Jim, Irene, Major and Bob Barber



Playing the trombone for Amphi



Media

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Bob and Major say Merry Christmas. Early 1950s



Father and son



Skiing in upstate NY



With his mother at Rodeo days in Prescott



Media

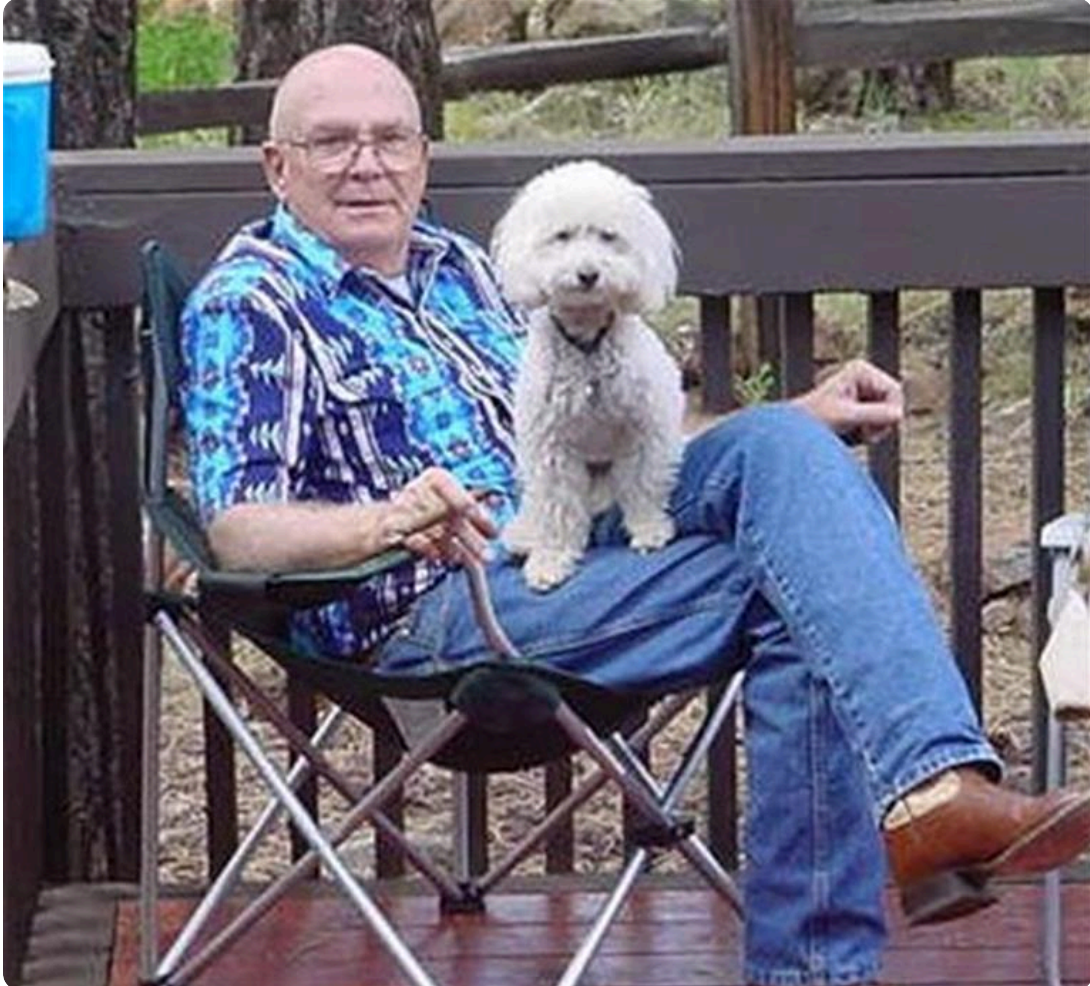
Major "Jim" Barber

FEB 5, 1936 - JUL 25, 2020



Linda Barber shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

July 27 at 4:27 PM



With Dory in Pinetop, 2005



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Major by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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