



Mr. William Lonnie Barlow

May 31, 1942 - July 30, 2019

Funeral services for William Lonnie Barlow, 77, of Cochran, who died on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, will be held on Friday, August 2, 2019 at 3 p.m. in the Cochran First United Methodist Church with Dr. Bill Woodson, Dr. Felix Haynes and the Rev. Joy Fisher officiating. Burial will be in the Berryhill Family lot in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Barlow was an attorney at law and a Baptist. He was the author of "Bleckley County," published in 2010 and was the official Historian of Cochran and Bleckley County by Proclamation dated August of 2004 by the Mayor of Cochran and the Sole Commissioner of Bleckley County.

Born on Sunday, May 31, 1942 on Violet Street in Cochran, Bleckley County, Ga., his parents were Nolan Henry Barlow and Mary Frances Berryhill Barlow. He was named for his grandfather, William Lonnie Berryhill. Lonnie grew up in downtown Cochran and started school in the fall of 1948 next door to the Cochran City Auditorium. His family, including sisters, Nola Jean Barlow Hardy and Mary Anne Barlow, were all members of the First Baptist Church of Cochran. It was there that Lonnie made a profession of faith during an April revival and was baptized on April 27, 1953. He graduated from Cochran High School on May 31, 1960 with honors. He graduated from Tulane University on June 1, 1964 and from the Walter F. George School of Law of Mercer University on June 4, 1967. Lonnie served four years during the Vietnam Era in the United States Navy and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Navy Achievement Medal. He passed the State Bar of Georgia exam and was admitted to the practice of law on May 10, 1971. He served three two-year terms as a City Alderman on the Cochran City Council and was Mayor Pro-tempore in 1979 and 1985.

Lonnie was engaged in the general practice of law in Cochran for 45 years. The highlight of his legal career was an appearance before the Supreme Court of the United States on October 4, 1993, in the case of Hall v. Holder, which sought to contest the single county commissioner form of government in Bleckley County. In a 5-4 decision handed down on June 30, 1994, the highest court in the land upheld the single county commissioner form

of government in Bleckley County, thus preserving our local form of government since creation of the county in 1912.

Lonnie and Bertha married in the sanctuary of First Baptist Church in Cochran on February 18, 1995. They were active in the Oneness Sunday School Class, which Lonnie taught for 17 years. He played the piano at prayer meetings for 35 years and served briefly as church organist. The church was always a guiding star for both of their lives. Lonnie was ordained on October 15, 1975 and served seven terms on the church Board of Deacons. He was clerk of the church for many years, and he served on the committees 1975-76 when the Dykes Street Building was built and 1991-99 when the East Annex and Fellowship Hall were built.

Together, Lonnie and Bertha enjoyed flowers and gardening. Their hobbies included reading, music and piano. Lonnie enjoyed local history and writing. Over the years, they have been caregivers for their parents, relatives and close friends whose memories are cherished.

He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Bertha Barlow of Cochran; two sisters, Nola Jean (Jack) Hardy of Bluffton, S.C. and Mary Anne Barlow of Decatur; three nephews, Jack (Libby) Hardy of Bluffton, S.C., Jeff (Sharon) Hardy of Raytown, MO and Joel (Carole) Hardy of LaGrande, OR; three stepchildren, Curtis M. (Dr. Paula H.) Bryant of Cochran, Linda B. (Zane) Dykes of Bonaire and Kristi B. (Michael) Corrigan of Macon; five grandchildren, Jack Corrigan, Alyssa Grace Corrigan, Colby M. (Bailey) Bryant, Mallory Dykes (J.T.) Holton, and Maci Dykes ; and two great-grandsons, Bo Bryant and Sam Bryant.

The family will be at the residence on Paula Drive, Cochran, and will receive friends Thursday night from 6-8 at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, make donations to Nolan Frances Barlow Scholarship, In Memory of William Lonnie Barlow, MGA Foundation, 100 University Parkway, Macon, GA 31206, or First Baptist Church St. Simons, 729 Ocean Blvd., St. Simons, GA 31522.

Fisher Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery

Cedar Hill Cemetery

126 GA Hwy 126

Cochran, GA, 31014

Comments



“ When I bought the building for Simply Made, I could find no historical information on it, even though it was one of the first buildings, built in 1894. Mr. Lonnie came to the rescue and sat down with me for over an hour, telling me every bit of history about my building, the annex in 1965 and the entire history of Bleckley and Pulaski Counties! Sherry Ledbetter's piano was still sitting in the store and when Mr. Lonnie noticed it, he gave an hour concert of gospel songs and hymns that gathered a crowd looking in the windows. I finally opened the door and invited them to come in. Whenever he mailed a package, he would sit down and play that piano and I always opened to doors to share that beautiful sound of hymns Mr. Lonnie played on that old, out- of- tune piano. I will always miss those times with Mr. Lonnie.

Carol Denmark - August 02, 2019 at 08:40 PM



“ Dear Bertha,
Mary Anne has always spoken so lovingly of all of you and I have prayed for Lonnie for such a long time. His passing leaves a huge void, but think of the blessings that have come his way after suffering so long. I pray the Lord will comfort you with His love as only He can until you will see dear Lonnie again and all those loved ones who have gone before.
Blessings and prayers,
-Heidi

Heidi Smith - August 02, 2019 at 09:27 AM



“ Dear Mary Anne and family,
My heart goes out to you in this time of sadness for the loss of Lonnie. I pray that your sadness soon turn to joy as you celebrate dear memories of Lonnie, the joys of his life, and the great faithfulness of God.

Tim Carrigan



Tim Carrigan - August 02, 2019 at 08:19 AM



“ Have been friends with Lonnie all through school and was proud that I was able to use him as my attorney for years. He was a special person to so many and he will be missed. Bertha we will continue to pray for you and all the family. Love you and pray God’s blessings on you.

Grace Floyd Carrier - August 01, 2019 at 06:46 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Lonnie was a wonderful man, who loved his family, friends, church, and community. He will be greatly missed.
Sam and Debbie Barrs

Debbie Barrs - July 31, 2019 at 05:50 PM



“ Bertha & Family,
Oh, what a sweet man and great attorney. He was there in good times and bad. We too will always keep him in high regard and pray that your wonderful memories will bring you comfort.



Ned & Hope Dow - July 31, 2019 at 05:18 PM



“ Bertha, Mary Ann, & Nola Jean,
We are so sorry for your loss. I’ve know Lonnie for 60 plus years. He was a true gentleman.
May your memories stay in your hearts.
Much love,
Your cousin (3 rd or 4th cousin). Lonnie would have known.
Shawna

Shawna Ward - August 02, 2019 at 08:42 PM



“ Bertha

I am very sorry to learn of Lonnie's passing. You are in my thoughts and prayers.
Cathy (Davis) Sanders

Cathy Sanders - July 31, 2019 at 04:59 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Mr. William Lonnie Barlow.



July 31, 2019 at 03:48 PM



“ A dear friend and neighbor to my Granddaddy. Rest In Peace Mr. Barlow. Prayers for your family.

Cheryl Carr - July 31, 2019 at 01:37 PM



“ Lonnie has always been one of my favorite people. When I lived in Hawkinsville, he would always come over on Friday nights to visit Aunt Lola and then would stop by to play my piano. I really enjoyed those special evenings. He was a unique and wonderful person. Judy Lancaster Abney

Judy Lancaster Abney - July 31, 2019 at 10:38 AM



“ The Cooper Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mr. William Lonnie Barlow.



The Cooper Family - July 31, 2019 at 10:25 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. William Lonnie Barlow.



July 31, 2019 at 10:13 AM



“ Lonnie was a friend to our family. Mama (Betty Jo Cooper) was his and Alvin's secretary for many years and we all got to know him very well and found him to be a kind and honorable man. He will be missed.

Cooper family
(Sonny, Julie, Sherry
and Susan)

Julie Lee - July 31, 2019 at 10:08 AM



“ Mr. Lonnie was a true Southern gentleman who loved Cochran and the citizens of Bleckley County. I always enjoyed hearing him talk about the history of the area - he will be missed by all. My love to Mrs. Bertha, Curtis, Paula, Colby, Bailey and the boys.

Suzanne Dabbs - July 31, 2019 at 10:04 AM



“ Always giving of himself to help others. Remember when he came to Salem Church to talk to the seniors. When he spoke he was well worth listening to. He lived his beliefs.

Deborah Fordham - July 31, 2019 at 08:24 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. William Lonnie Barlow.



July 30, 2019 at 08:18 PM



“ Bertha and family, The citizens of Cochran and Bleckley county have lost a great man and honorable ambassador who served this city and county well. All of us, who found Lonnie dear to and in our hearts , shall always hold him ,” In High Regard”

Faye Mullis - July 30, 2019 at 07:25 PM



“ Lonnie was an outstanding attorney, historian, Christian, citizen, author, neighbor and friend. He was kind and compassionate. He loved my grandparents and parents, and they loved him. He will be missed. Our condolences, on behalf of the Whipples and the Aldermans,
Amy and Jonathan Alderman

Jonathan Alderman - July 30, 2019 at 06:26 PM



“ Lonnie was unique in his historical knowledge, his intelligence and his big heart. It was my pleasure to have known him and I shall treasure the time spent talking with him.

Tami - July 31, 2019 at 09:26 AM



“ Lonnie will certainly be missed, he has been a good friend to many people throughout his life here. It saddens me to hear of his passing. I send my condolences to Bertha and his family.

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Hubert (Hugh) Hill - January 03, 2020 at 09:06 PM



“ We are saddened to hear news of the passing of Lonnie Barlow, a long-time friend of the Whipple family and for many years a fellow barrister of my father's. Lonnie was also a prolific writer who gave of his considerable talent in chronicling the lives of the community's people. For recent years, Lonnie has been my connection with a hometown of many fond memories. He will be missed. Nona and I send our condolences to the family.

Bennett Whipple
Sandy Springs, Georgia

Bennett Whipple - July 30, 2019 at 04:57 PM



“ A remarkable man who was more knowledgeable about this community than anyone I know. He loved the people here and they loved him in turn. Intelligent, humorous, remarkable human being.

Robert Heath, MD - July 30, 2019 at 02:24 PM



“ We will miss Lonnie he was a good friend will miss his jokes and humor. Bertha just remember the good times.

Roy and Sherri Hart - July 30, 2019 at 12:33 PM