



## William Jay Barger

June 2, 1925 - March 7, 2017

William Jay “Billy” Barger, 91, of Belo, WV, departed this life on March 7, 2017 in Fort Mill, South Carolina. The son of the late William Burton and Minnie Belle Barger, Billy was born in Gilbert, WV on June 2, 1925. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mae Lawson Barger, five brothers, James, Ted, Lucian, Bob, and Owen, and four sisters, Minnie Marie, Francis, Josephine, and Kathryn, and a very dear niece, Shirley Anita (Browning) Hendrick.

Survivors include sons Teddy Lee (Dolly) of Statesville, NC and Eddie Ray (Brenda) of Rawl, WV and two daughters Billie Jo Powers (Ronnie) of Belo, WV and Kathy Kitts (Gene) of Fort Mill, SC. Also surviving are a special niece Kay Barger Tull (Jeff) and sister-in-law Betty Tiller Barger of Louisville, KY.

One of Billy’s greatest joys was being PawPaw to his three grandchildren, Monica Fielder (Don), Megan Cremeans (Ricky) and Seth Powers (Becky). Billy and Mae’s yard was their private playground and they loved being there. As much as he loved his grandkids, he found a special place in his heart for his two great-granddaughters, Maelen Kathryn Cremeans and Brooklyn Mae Powers.

Billy also treasured the time he spent with Teddy’s stepchildren, Crystal (Todd) Harkey and Jason (Shellie) Martin, and step-grandchildren Gracie, Brayden, Grayson, and Emma.

He spent his early years in Gilbert before his family moved to Trace Creek in about 1930. Even in his 90’s, he fondly recalled his father teaching him to hunt and fish and his mother preparing whatever game he brought home. Digging

for ginseng was another favorite pastime in his younger years. To help support his family even more, he left school early and took a job with a logging company until he was almost 18, at which time Island Creek Coal Company hired him. However, after less than three months as a miner, in August 1943 he enlisted in the Navy and proudly served in the South Pacific for the duration of WWII before returning to his home. Like most of the Greatest Generation, he promptly went back to work, met and married his sweetheart Mae, and started a family.

He spent his career in the coal mines in southern WV and eastern KY working as an electrician. He was a lifelong UMWA member and served as a delegate to the international conventions held in Cincinnati and Pittsburgh. In recognition of his long mining career, Billy was named Mr. King Coal 2009 during the King Coal Festival in Williamson, WV.

He was a member of Parsley Bottom Freewill Baptist Church and in his later years he enjoyed the fellowship of the Duncan Fork United Baptist Church. He was Past Master of Kermit Masonic Lodge #167 where he was a member for 61 years. He was the Scoutmaster of Troop 27 for many years.

Visitation will be held at the Parsley Bottom Freewill Baptist Church in Lenore, WV on Friday, March 10 from 6 pm to 9 pm. Funeral services will be at the church at 11:00 am on Saturday, March 11, with the Rev. Lewis Hall presiding. Interment will follow at the Stafford–White Cemetery at Gilbert, WV.

Pallbearers will include Seth Powers, Ricky Cremeans, Jason Martin, Todd Harkey, James Fugett, and Bruce Howard. Masonic rites will be observed. Contributions to the Lenore K-8 “Weekend Backpack Program”, #1 Ranger Drive, Williamson, WV 25661 are suggested in lieu of flowers. Arrangements are under the direction of Chafin Funeral Home in Delbarton, WV.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 10. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Parsley Bottom Freewill Baptist Church  
Lenore, WV 25676

## Service

MAR 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Parsley Bottom Freewill Baptist Church  
Lenore, WV 25676

## Burial

MAR 11 (ET)

Stafford-White Cemetery  
Gilbert, WV

# Tribute Wall



“ *William Jay Barger*

November 21, 2022 at 02:05 PM



“ *Jennifer Napier lit a candle in memory of William Jay Barger*



**Jennifer Napier** - March 16, 2017 at 07:49 PM



*My great uncle*

**Jennifer Napier** - March 16, 2017 at 07:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Jay Barger.*



March 10, 2017 at 11:20 AM



“ *Theodore & Lori (Poe) Wolford lit a candle in memory of William Jay Barger*



**Theodore & Lori (Poe) Wolford** - March 10, 2017 at 10:54 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of William Jay Barger.*



---

March 10, 2017 at 10:51 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William Jay Barger.*



---

March 10, 2017 at 10:44 AM



“ *Wendy Crum and Rosa Burkett purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William Jay Barger.*



---

**Wendy Crum and Rosa Burkett** - March 10, 2017 at 10:39 AM



“ *Billy Barger was a true Christian man who truly loved and cared about all children. I am so thankful to be so blessed that he cared about mine. I always loved talking with him. I wish more people were like him. Lots of love and prayers to his family from Kathy Lackey*

---

**Kathy Lackey** - March 10, 2017 at 07:42 AM

KA

“ Thank you for your service to our country Mr. Barger!

Kaye - March 09, 2017 at 07:42 AM

ED

“ God Bless the family of Uncle Billy Barger. What a man! Loved his calm, gentle spirit. Never heard a harsh word come out of Uncle Billy's mouth, but always wise counsel. He loved Aunt May and his children and they were all wonderful folks, just like he was. Our parents knew the meaning of "life long friendship". Eddie Dempsey will miss this Ole Trooper that served in God's Army. Thank you Lord for allowing Us on this Earth to share life with such a great fella as Billy Barger.

Eddie Dempsey - March 09, 2017 at 06:47 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Jay Barger.



March 08, 2017 at 09:45 PM

TH

“ I am saddened to hear of your father's passing. He is a great person. I always enjoyed when Mom and Dad would stop by and talk with us kids in the car. He always had a smile. Saying prayer for all. Teresa Melaine Hall

Teresa Melaine Hall - March 08, 2017 at 08:50 PM

DP

“ When some folks pass away it saddens you deeply. Teddy, Eddie, Billie Jo, and Kathy, please accept our condolences because of the death of your wonderful dad. He has always been one of our closest family friends. Mom and dad counted your mom and dad as their dear friends. Billy has been here for us all of my life. I have fond memories of times playing in your yard at Parsley Bottom, especially in the winter when we would ride our sleighs off the hill in the front yard. Your dad never complained, but accepted us all, and watched over us as though we were his own. As we grew into adulthood, he was always available to offer us wisdom and guidance. While it is true that he cared for the children of his friends, he cared for all of you so much more. You children were the apples of his eye. He could not have been more proud of you. Not many people are as fortunate as you, to have a dad as good as yours. Thank God for giving you to him. We will keep you in our prayers.

David, Coletta, and Jackie Parsley - March 08, 2017 at 08:39 PM

MP

“ Margie Parsley lit a candle in memory of William Jay Barger



Margie Parsley - March 08, 2017 at 08:04 PM

MP

Billy was very special. It was a joy to be in church with him. He is enjoying the promises that our Lord has promised to all of us who love Him. He is in the presence of our Lord and Saviour. What a wonderful blessing to his family. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Love, Margie Parsley

Margie Parsley - March 08, 2017 at 08:15 PM

VG

*Very sorry to hear of your dad's passing. I remember him well from when we lived on Trace Creek, he was a good friend of my parents. I attended Lenore HS with his children. Sincerely Vivian Dillon Green.*

**Vivian Dillon Green** - March 08, 2017 at 10:43 PM

JN

“ *Jannie Dempsey Newsome lit a candle in memory of William Jay Barger*



**jannie dempsey newsome** - March 08, 2017 at 05:02 PM

BH

“ *Bruce and Elley Howard purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of William Jay Barger.*



**Bruce and Elley Howard** - March 08, 2017 at 03:45 PM

DT

“ *So sorry for your loss he was a great man, prayers Donna Messer Tomblin*



**Donna Messer Tomblin** - March 08, 2017 at 10:28 AM

AR

“ *I have very fond memories of Uncle Bill and Aunt Mae . The whole family . Your cousin ArchaLynn*

**Archa** - March 08, 2017 at 10:10 AM



“ Lana Sheppard lit a candle in memory of William Jay Barger



---

**Lana Sheppard** - March 08, 2017 at 08:16 AM

LH

“ Teddy, Billie Jo, Kathy and Eddie, sending condolences to your families for the loss of your father. He was a wonderful man and always had a smile and kind word for all. Our thoughts, prayers and love are with you all.

*Buddy and Linda Hall*

---

**linda hall** - March 08, 2017 at 07:51 AM

KJ

*Billy was always ready to help anybody who needed help. He was a good man who let his light shine.*

---

**kitty Day Jewell** - March 08, 2017 at 03:48 PM

JN

*billie was a great man new him all my life he allways had a smile on his face  
he loved his family so much. annd i pray for them and i love you all .  
jannie ( dempsey) Newsome*

---

**jannie dempsey newsome** - March 08, 2017 at 05:08 PM

JV

“ *Joanne (Bartoe) Varney lit a candle in memory of William Jay Barger*



---

**Joanne (Bartoe) Varney** - March 07, 2017 at 11:14 PM

MO

“ *Deepest sympathy to the family, truly sadden to hear of your dad passing. May God be with each of you during this time. Billy was a friend and a wonderful person. he loved people.i will never forget what he did for mom and us kids when dad die he would bring food to the house so us kids had and mom would not have to worry about feed us till she got her check started back*



---

**mary ooten** - March 07, 2017 at 10:50 PM

DC

“ *So sorry to hear of the loss of this wonderful man. As far back as I can remember, Billy was a cherished family friend. He was always so soft spoken and never failed to have a big smile and warm greeting. He often spoke fondly of my parents and sister who had passed. It was always a pleasure to see him. Love and deepest condolences to all his family.*

---

**Diana Chafin** - March 07, 2017 at 09:17 PM

P(

“ *This is truly one of the kindest and caring men that I have ever known. He raised a wonderful family. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*

---

**Patricia and Wesley Bartram (Parsley)** - March 07, 2017 at 08:21 PM

GM

“ *Deepest sympathy to the family, truly sadden to hear of your dad passing. May God be with each of you during this time. Billy was truly a dear friend and a wonderful person. Quite a talker and loved people. My husband and I go along time back in friendship with his kids and have known Billy for years . He was also a member in the same Masonic lodge as my husband . Stroll Heaven with Mae Billy.*

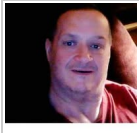
**Gary & Sandy Marcum** - March 07, 2017 at 07:48 PM



“ *So sorry for all the family. I can't remember a time in my life that Billy didn't show up when a family member died or was sick. He was a fine man...sending love and prayers for the family.....:(*



**Tammy Newsome** - March 07, 2017 at 07:46 PM



“ *I'm sending my deepest condolences and heartfelt love to the family. For as long as I can remember the families have been close. I never remember a time in my life when Brother Billy and Sister Mae and their children and their's were not an extension of our own. Daddy and Billy and then Teddy worked together in the mines and Billie Jo and I worked together at school and shared a classroom for 3 years (along with our secrets and happiest thoughts.) It is a long long line of love that will end like our Faith in sight when we cross that river and join each other in a place called forever. I truly believe that Brother Billie has joined "That Great Cloud of Witnesses" who are waiting for us, and that Heaven is a little sweeter and brighter because he has arrived. God Bless and Keep you all.*

**Dow Ooten** - March 07, 2017 at 07:32 PM

EB

“ Evelyn Brewer lit a candle in memory of William Jay Barger



Evelyn Brewer - March 07, 2017 at 06:57 PM

EB

“ I will never forget you Billy Barger,you were so good to my daddy (Wade Brewer)you always helped him and treated him with respect and even though i was just a child at the time i remember very well,and to the family i am sorry for your loss,he was and is such a good man,rip my brother.

Evelyn Brewer - March 07, 2017 at 06:56 PM

AH

“ Prayers for comfort for Bill's family. He was a wonderful man. One night we broke down on the four lane and we walked to his house. He opened his door for us to use his phone. He offered to take us home. His kindness was never forgotten.

Anna Hartley - March 07, 2017 at 06:51 PM

BO

Billie will always be remembered by all of Trace Creek, was a great man. prayers for the family.

Beulah Ooten - March 07, 2017 at 08:06 PM

LG

“ My deepest deepest condolences to Kathy, Gene & Megan on the loss of such a special man. I enjoyed visiting with him whenever I popped by Kathy's. He was wonderful to me & my girls & he loved to talk He was very wise. To Kathy & her sister, I know how hard this is for you. God bless your hearts for making his old age so pleasant. He's in a better place & will join the love of his life. I am so sorry to hear about his passing. May God shower his blessings on you & your family. With love from The Govender Family



Leesha Govender - March 07, 2017 at 06:40 PM

CC

“ Billy was a very good friend. All ways a smile and a good word. Rest In Peace. My condolences to his family.

Chip Canterbury - March 07, 2017 at 06:20 PM

MP

“ Billie Jo, Kathy, Teddy and Eddie, I am so sorry for your loss. Prayers for the family.

Mary and Danny Preece - March 07, 2017 at 06:15 PM

DS

“ Sending our deepest sympathies. Prayers for peace.

Dwayne & Debbie Starr - March 07, 2017 at 05:58 PM

PT

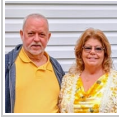
I have lots of fond memories of this family. Love you all and am praying for you.

Pat Tingler - March 07, 2017 at 06:16 PM

PO

*A pillar in our community, a great Christian, and a wonderful friend-----  
I'll never forget Billy Barger----he was one of the best.  
Prayers for this good family.*

**Pastor Roger Ooten** - March 07, 2017 at 07:25 PM



*Sending love and prayers for the family. Love you all...*

**Kathy Thompson** - March 07, 2017 at 08:55 PM