



Ben Porter Barker Jr.

September 28, 1932 - December 28, 2021

Ben Porter Barker Jr., age 89, died peacefully in his sleep yesterday at Sandy Rehabilitation Center, near Salt Lake City, Utah.

Ben is survived by his wife Marta, three sons: Ben Barker III, Scott Barker, Kevin Barker and step-daughter Martina Ricketson. He also leaves behind sister Charlotte Richards, brother Robert Barker, and 6 grandchildren: Joshua Barker, Jason Barker, Bradley Barker, Sami Jo (Barker) Young, Casey Leavitt, and Zachary Leavitt, and 6 great grandchildren: Britney, Breanna, Porter, Sullivan, Benjamin and Jaxston.

Ben is a Korean war veteran, where he earned several awards including the Good Conduct, China Service, National Defense, Korean Service and United Nations Service Medals. He served 4 years with distinction as a Navy Aerographer's Mate on board the USS Sandoval on the seas around Korea and South Pacific. His love of the sea he learned in the Navy never left him, as friends and family will attest.

He grew up in St. Petersburg, Florida the son of Ben Porter Barker Sr. and Ada L. (Hightower) Barker. He grew up playing baseball and became a very good pitcher. He attended several colleges; St. Petersburg Junior College, Florida State University, and University of Georgia while working as a weather forecaster in Athens, Ga. There he became one of Georgia Bulldogs football team biggest fans. Ben retired from the National Weather Service in Tulsa, OK. as Meteorologist-in-Charge where he was instrumental in developing the Early Warning System for severe weather such as tornadoes and

implemented life saving sirens and radio warnings that are being used today.

He retired from the Tulsa weather office to pursue his other passions, gardening, traveling, photography, art, golf and fishing.

Services will be held at a later date not yet determined, and he will be interred at Bay Pines National Cemetery with full military honors in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ben Porter Barker Jr.*

October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *Wish I could share a Red & Black candle for your Bulldogs that are now National Champions! I know you are smiling in heaven with last night's win. Love you Grandpa!*



Joshua Barker - January 11, 2022 at 08:22 AM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Joshua Barker - January 11, 2022 at 08:18 AM



“ *Cheryl Cole lit a candle in memory of Ben Porter Barker Jr.*



Cheryl Cole - January 01, 2022 at 01:22 PM

BI

“ Ben Barker III lit a candle in memory of Ben Porter Barker Jr.



Ben Barker III - December 31, 2021 at 12:56 PM

MR

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Martina Ricketson - December 30, 2021 at 11:49 AM



These two pictures were displayed in the front of Ben's residence, displayed for all to see. I know they were important to him.

Martina Ricketson - December 30, 2021 at 03:17 PM

BI

Great photos! I forgot to add a great granddaughter Avery Grace Barker. R/Ben Barker III

Ben Barker III - December 31, 2021 at 12:55 PM