



Donald R. Barnum

DEC 23, 1952 - DEC 11, 2020



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Donald R. Barnum

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Donald R. Barnum, aka Barn, Bunga, Chief, Pappy, retired Chief of Police for the City of St Clair passed away Friday morning December 11, 2020 after a two- month battle with COVID-19. He was 67.

Barn was born December 23, 1952 in St. Clair, MI to Glenn and Gayle Barnum. He graduated from St. Clair High School Class of 1971, attended the Macomb Police Academy, and later graduated from U of M. He served the community of St. Clair for 30+ years with the Police Department, starting as a cadet and advancing through the ranks to become Chief of Police.

He was the founder of and involved with countless youth organizations and programs throughout his career, including D.A.R.E, CRC, Friends of the St. Clair Library, Shop with a Cop, Student Police Academy, Children's Book Club, and numerous others.

He was the past president of the St. Clair Rotary Club, a season ticket holder and die-hard U of M football fan. He was a history buff, a criminal justice educator at SC4, and substitute teacher for East China School District and St. Mary's Catholic School. He also participated in the D.A.R.E Hockey Team, ran marathons, went fishing with his children, restored classic license plates, and will be especially remembered for his keen wit and sense of humor.

His favorite friendly reminder was to not be afraid to be a goofball and a little bit obnoxious for your own sake. "You have to learn how to make yourself laugh if you ever expect to keep yourself sane."

Barn is survived by his children Brooke (James) Ahles, Aaron Barnum, Caitlin Barnum (Bradley McNinch) ; his siblings Michael (Maria) Barnum, Randy (Linda) Barnum, Brook Barnum, Betsy Edwards and Nancy (Ken) Knox. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law Roger Edwards.



Obituary

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A memorial gathering of friends and family will be held Saturday, December 19, 2020 from 2pm-8pm at Young Funeral Home, China Twp.

Memorials are suggested to Wishes of the Family, Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Agency or Children of Fallen Police Officers.

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, 15 people will be allowed in the funeral home at a time. For the safety and comfort of others, guests entering the funeral home must wear a mask. To leave a message of comfort visit www.youngcolonial.com




Events

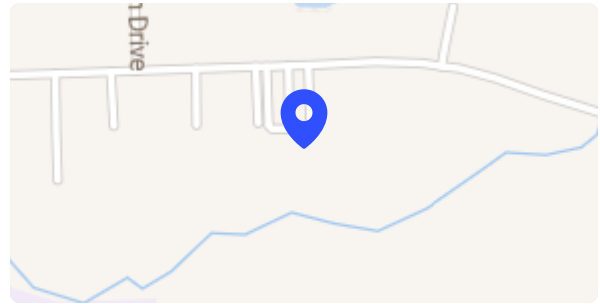
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Visitation

 **Saturday**, December 19, 2020

 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

 **Young Colonial Chapel Funeral Home**
4061 Saint Clair Hwy, East China MI



Cemetery Details

 Cremation



Tribute Wall

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Brooke Ahles shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Happy 68th Birthday Dad. You were a legend with a heart of gold, an intelligent and thoughtful man that will live in my heart and soul forever. Brooke

December 23 at 10:12 AM



Aunt Kim & Uncle Gary, Chris & Kim And Morgan sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Barnum family.

December 18 at 10:12 AM



Anonymous sent a Dreams From the Heart Bouquet to the Barnum family.

December 17 at 7:37 PM



Laura Crawford posted:

From former classmate Be ky Holden: I had a world history lecture class and sat in between Don and Dan Rourke and they were so funny that they made me laugh so hard I couldn't stop. Even when the teacher asked me what was so funny, I ended up in the hall because I couldn't stop. They didn't get in any trouble because they could fake a straight face. I am blessed that I ever had two wonderful friends;so sad that they both passed away in such senseless ways. Love and prayers

December 17 at 6:48 AM



Wendy Mckenzie December 17 at 9:29 AM

We remember how much Don loved to interact with children of all ages and how wonderful he was with them, all of the wonderful things and hard work that he did for our community. Don loved sharing his history of old St Clair with his photos and knowledge. He was an all around great guy and will truly be missed! Our condolences to the entire Barnum family 🙏❤️ Love The McKenzies



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Barnum family.



December 17 at 4:02 AM



Don And Beth Graham lit a candle in honor of Donald.



December 16 at 4:46 PM



Nelson Westrick lit a candle in honor of Donald.



December 16 at 12:44 PM



Dale & Michelle Reichle lit a candle in honor of Donald.



December 16 at 12:18 PM



James R. Dandron posted:

I've known Don all my life, I watched him come up through the Ranks, starting from Cadet all the way to becoming Police Chief, he was a very Good Man and will be missed, The Barnum Family have my Deepest Sympathy. James R. Dandron

December 16 at 10:08 AM



Michele Malane posted:

Went to school with the entire Barnum Family, and Don always stood out as such a character. He could turn a frown upside down. RIP old friend. You will be remembered fondly by the citizens of St.Clair. Michele Malane

December 16 at 6:01 AM



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BG

Bill & Mary Galvin posted:

So sorry to here about Don.Had many laughs with Barn in are younger days when we started lifes journey at the apartments on Brown street. Prayers and thoughts are with the family. Bill & Mary Galvin

December 16 at 4:54 AM

ST

Stacie Thorpe lit a candle in honor of Donald.

We had the pleasure of working with Don for many, many years. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. RIP Don.

December 16 at 2:57 AM



JB

Jules And Carol Bougenoy lit a candle in honor of Donald.

December 15 at 7:47 PM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Barnum family.

December 15 at 5:45 PM



LM

Lynn Mcqueary lit a candle in honor of Donald.

So sorry for your loss. We were classmates, and haven't been in touch since graduation, but I was saddened to hear of his passing. Don was witty, funny, and you always knew when he was in the room. Take care.

December 15 at 4:26 PM



DB

Donald F Burgett posted:

Don was a great man. We had alot of laughs in the time i knew him. Many years. I was owner for years at Burgett's Towing and that afforded me time to see Don as a St Clair City police officer and up to Chief of police. I can't express my sorrow enuf in his passing.

December 15 at 4:03 PM



Tribute Wall

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Dave & Sandy Barnum lit a candle in honor of Donald.

December 15 at 2:42 PM



Margaret Pauly posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with his family. I will really miss him. He was a great guy. Margaret Pauly

December 15 at 2:38 PM



Lindsey lit a candle in honor of Donald.

December 15 at 1:54 PM





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Keith A Campbell posted:

Don was the embodiment of a small town boy who made good. He always tried to keep things light and to see the brighter side of life...even when slinging a paint brush. He never shirked from responsibility or going the extra mile to make a difficult situation right. He certainly loved a good laugh, a good beer and was unafraid to play music he loved his way. Don added so much to the lives of the people he met. Good bye my friend... may you find peace and comfort in the after life...it is so richly deserved.

December 15 at 1:07 PM



Bill Scharnweber December 16 at 10:33 AM

Been great friends with Barn since childhood. Best friend. Funniest person I ever knew. Always respected him & admired his ability to work hard & play hard. I feel like a member of the Barnum family as Bunga felt a part of mine. Memories? Could write volumes. All amazing, funny & good. I'll miss you terribly my friend. I'll see ya when I get there buddy. Love, Willie



A J Welser December 15 at 5:09 PM

My best memories of high school was when I was a freshman member of the St. Clair track team and when Don was a half-mile runner. He was the best half-mile runner in the league and always gave it his all. Win or lose he was all smiles and laughs. So knowing the happy times we had in track and field back then with Don, Heavens is sure to be a happier place today. Rest in peace, my good friend.



Brian Gilmore December 15 at 1:18 PM

RIP officer Barnum..May God accept and hold you close in heaven...



Michael A Hernandez lit a candle in honor of Donald.

I met Mr. Barnum when I solicited his help in refurbishing a license plate frame. We hit it off from the start. When talking on the phone one day he says to me you and have much in common. I enjoyed our conversations and we'd talked about me coming for a visit and going to a UM football game. When I found out from his daughter Brooke that he had been stricken with Covid 19 it really devastated me. I feel like a part of me was taken. In the short time I knew Mr. Barnum I grew to admire and respect him. I will miss talking to him, but he'll forever with those who loved him in their hearts. REST IN PEACE my friend. You may be gone, but will never be forgotten. Michael A Hernandez



December 15 at 12:32 PM



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Rick Tebeau posted:

Barnie will be missed, he was a great chief and Michigan fan. He loved to talk Michigan football , whenever you walked by his office ,back in the day, he would yell out Go Blu!!! Barnie and the Barnum family are in our thought and prayers! rick and mary tebeau

December 15 at 12:02 PM



Jeffrey Hendrick lit a candle in honor of Donald.

My thoughts and prayers to the Barnum Family, Don was a great person to have a conversation with and loved his job and was one of the best to hold the position of Chief.



December 15 at 11:38 AM



Nancy Beaudua lit a candle in honor of Donald.



December 15 at 10:57 AM



Mike And Gail Ciborowski December 16 at 8:07 AM

Mike and I extend our deepest sympathy to the Barnum family. Don was such a great guy, a great Chief and wonderful friend.



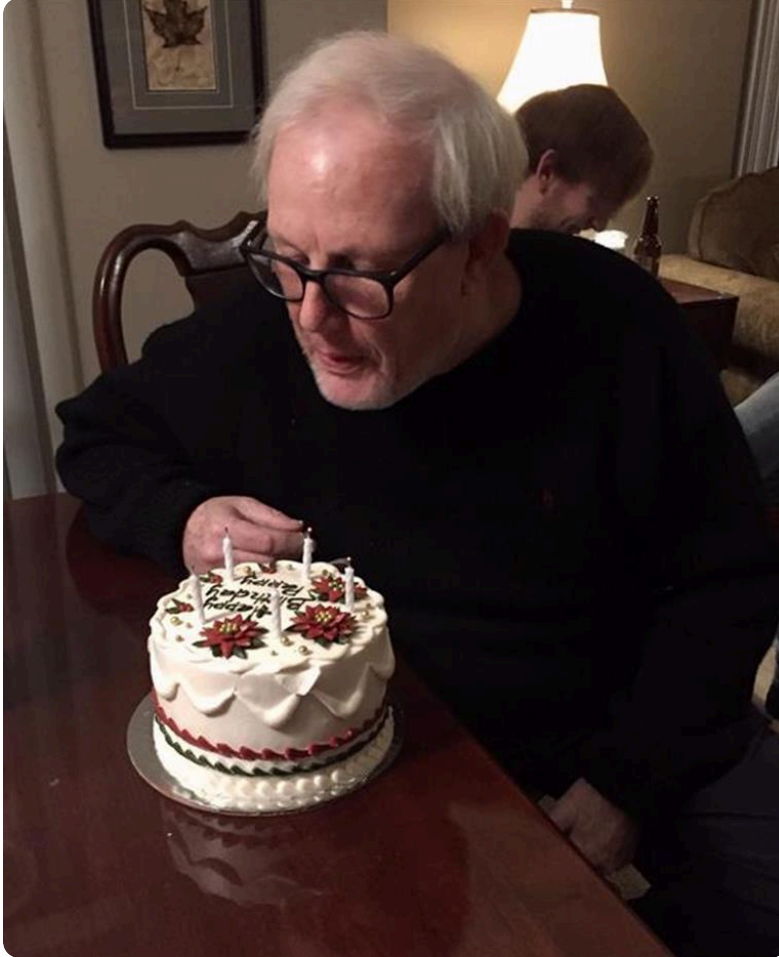
Patti(Gallagher)Janis December 16 at 3:10 AM

I was 16 and driving up North Riverside on my way to Kentucky Fried Chicken in Marysville for Sunday dinner for the family. Here come the flashing lights on the police car behind me. Pull over. Here comes Donn. Asked me what the speed limit was and where I was headed. Let me off with a warning and told me to, "Watch my foot." Thanks Donn



Brooke Ahles shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 23 at 10:12 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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