

John F. "Bunk" Baker

April 29, 1930 - July 30, 2013

John Francis "Bunk" Baker, 83, of Zanesville, died 11:45PM Tuesday, July 30, 2013 peacefully, surrounded by family and many friends at his daughter's home. He was born Tuesday, April 29, 1930 in Zanesville, the son of George Baker and Agnes (Burkhard) Baker, John was the youngest of ten children. John was a lifetime member of St. Nicholas Catholic Church and a member of the last graduating class of St. Nicholas High School. John proudly served his country as a veteran of the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He was owner/ operator of John Baker Television Repair. Prior to going to Television Repair Trade School, he was a foreman at the Zanesville American Match Company on Hall Avenue.

John loved his Zanesville Community. He served as Second Ward Republican Committeeman and was very involved in many local and state political campaigns. He enjoyed being campaign manager for many candidates vying for offices such as city council, judgeships, county commissioners, state representatives and state senators' seats. All by going "door-to-door" with his own style of greeting folks. John never met a stranger. He could always be found in the Republican Booth at the Zanesville Farmer's Market and the Muskingum County Fair.

John greatly enjoyed his civic service to his community by serving as a board member of Rambo Health Center, Zanesville Community Action Agency and The Muskingum County Conference & Welcome Center. He also spent precious time at the Muskingum County Center for Seniors, at the Sunrise

Center, where he was a member of the Wii Bowling team. John was a staple at the Muskingum County Courthouse where he would regularly visit with his friends.

John was an absolute Notre Dame fan and an avid supporter of local sports including Rosecrans and Tri-Valley. For many years, he was the ticket taker, and later the "Ball-Guy" who served at both Bishop Rosecrans boys and girls basketball games. He was known as the "foul-ball retriever" at the yearly Zanesville Babe Ruth State Tournaments. He sponsored and served at many golf tournaments, having been an early Zanesville Country Club caddie. He also sponsored the "Big Buck" Deer Competition as well.

John was very rich in family and friends. Many can relate to how John would bring joy into their lives with just a "one-liner" or one of his wonderful stories of by-gone days. He loved everyone in their own unique way. The legacy John leaves is to go and live out your life, bringing forward a legacy of that joy, kindly touching the lives of all whom you meet.

John is survived by his ex-wife: Barbara (Heil) Baker, who never left his side throughout his illness, having been married for 47 years; three daughters: Jennifer (Baker) Westerheide, Jacqueline Baker and Julie (Baker) Dysinger all of Zanesville; one son: John F. & Roxie Baker of Mount Gilead; eleven grandchildren; three great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Friends may call from 2:00 to 4:00 & 6:00 to 8:00 PM, Friday, August 2, 2013 at The Hillis, Combs & Nestor Funeral Home, 935 Forest Avenue, Zanesville.

A Christian prayer service will be held Friday at 7:45PM. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 10:30 AM Saturday at St. Nicholas Catholic Church with Fr. Martin J. Ralko as celebrant. Burial will follow with VFW Post 1058 conducting Full Military Honors. To leave a personal note of condolence or sign the online guestbook visit www.hilliscombsnestor.com.

Cemetery Details

Mount Olive Cemetery

2057 East Pike
Zanesville, OH 43701

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 2. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Hillis Combs Funeral Home
935 Forest Avenue
Zanesville, OH 43701
(740) 452-5494
directors@hilliscombsnestor.com
<https://www.hilliscombsnestor.com>

Visitation

AUG 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hillis Combs Funeral Home
935 Forest Avenue
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Funeral Service

AUG 3. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Nicholas Catholic Church
925 Main St.
Zanesville, OH

Tribute Wall



“ *John F. "Bunk" Baker*

October 06, 2023 at 04:22 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. It has been many years, but you have not been forgotten.*



Dan & Liz - August 09, 2013 at 06:11 PM



“ *It was truly a pleasure to know John. I am going to miss seeing his smiling face and ornery antics. I saw him almost everyday for the past three years and there was never a day that he didn't express a kind word or gesture. I will always treasure the time spent with him. May the many memories of years past bring you comfort and solace in the days ahead.*

Becky Bruce - August 05, 2013 at 07:28 AM



“ *I just got of the phone with Dave & Linda and learned of your Dad's passing. My thoughts and prayers to all the family especially John who I love so much. Carolyn O'Brien Wheeler*

Carolyn O'Brien Wheeler - August 04, 2013 at 08:36 PM

LB

“ *Bunk was truly a man who never met a stranger. As a new member to the Baker family nearly 30 years ago, I met him and it was like we had always known each other. He never hesitated to speak to anyone. He always spoke to our children like they were one of his own. When he saw our daughter, he would say "Hi, Bake". She loved that. He will be missed but we have many wonderful memories of Uncle Bunk. Lezlee and Carl Baker*

L Baker - August 04, 2013 at 09:56 AM

AD

“ *4 files added to the tribute wall*



Adriana - August 03, 2013 at 02:35 PM

CB

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Baker Family.*

Mike and Cathy Burkhart & Family

cathy burkhart - August 02, 2013 at 10:01 PM

DB

“ John came to our church about six or seven years ago. I was a greeter that Sunday and John introduced himself to me. I asked him to the parish Christmas dinner in the church hall. John, my wife, and I talked and a friendship was formed. We always looked forward to seeing John in church after that time. His dad and mother was married at St. John's in Miltonsburg Ohio many years ago. Jenny, we only met you one time, but you did have a great father. Our thoughts and sorrows are with John, you, and the rest of John's family. Donnie and Marlene Burkhart, Malaga, OH

Donnie Burkhart - August 02, 2013 at 09:34 PM

AN

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Ang - August 02, 2013 at 09:28 PM

DH

“ J F Baker and family, Pat and I are so sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad... You have our sympathy. I didn't know him personally but it certainly sounds like he was a good man...

Dink and Pat H.

Dink Heinzman - August 02, 2013 at 09:16 PM

BT

“ I could always count on John to come into where I work and make me laugh with one of his stories or comments. I would be trying to work and he would say hey, "turn around here and look at me I have something important to say! When he would sing Happy Birthday to you he would ask one of the other girls what is her name because he would forget your name. I loved it! We would all laugh and he would just keep singing like nothing happened. I will miss him. May the family of John Baker find peace and comfort by the memories you hold so dear to your heart. -Beth Thompson

Beth Thompson - August 02, 2013 at 08:40 PM

SK

“ Thanks so much to John for all of the help he gave me in each of my election campaigns. He made me a winner, and he never had any doubt that he would! John was a great man, and a good friend. Steve Kilpatrick, Zanesville City Council.

Steve Kilpatrick - August 02, 2013 at 07:43 PM

KS

“ Please accept my deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved one. He will be missed by so many. He was a character who lived his life to the fullest. He made sure he sought me out each day during his treatments - said he felt better if I was there. Treasure your memories.

*Kathy Schiele Soller RN
Radiation Oncology*

Kathy Soller - August 02, 2013 at 10:53 AM

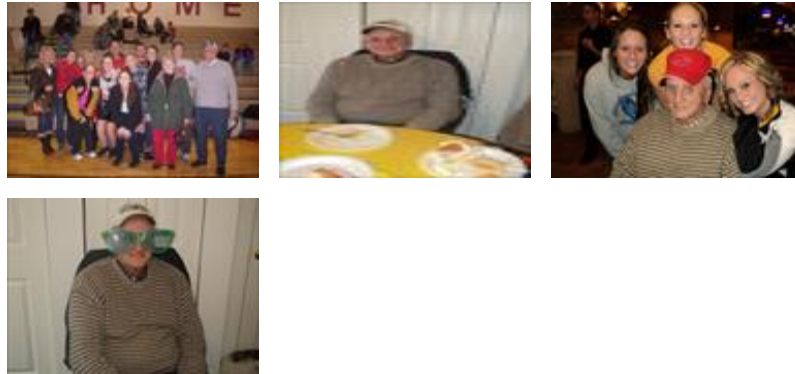
JS

“ *The Love you carried for this world and the people was truly a gift, You will be missed Bunk, and Steve say's yes, he knows he's a lucky man not to worry he will take good care of me until we all meet again. God Bless you my sweet, dearly loved friend...*
Jessie Smith

Jessie Smith - August 02, 2013 at 05:25 AM

AN

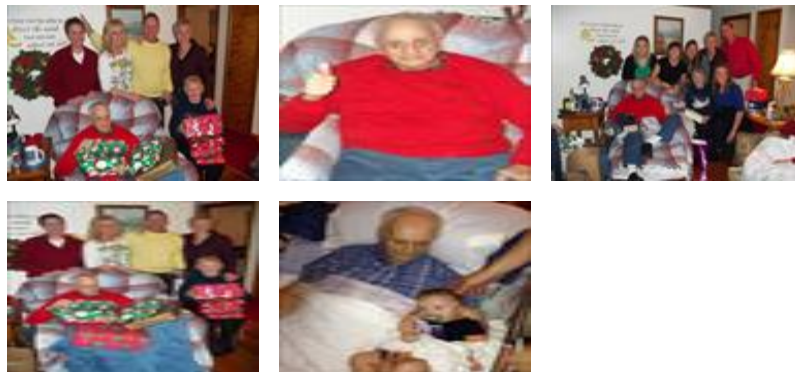
“ *4 files added to the album New Album Name*



ang - August 01, 2013 at 09:57 PM

AN

“ *5 files added to the album New Album Name*



angela - August 01, 2013 at 09:48 PM

LO

“ We have lost a very special friend and neighbor for many years. Our prayers to Jenny, Jackie, Julie, John and their families. He will be greatly missed. I could always count on him to give me news of the kids and grandkids.

Linda and Dave O'Brien - August 01, 2013 at 01:34 PM

KA

“ Prayers and sympathy to the Baker Family. May God bless you with peace and comfort as you celebrate the life of such a man loved by his family and the community.

*Karen Addy
Church of the Blessed Sacrament*

Karen Addy - August 01, 2013 at 12:40 PM

JW

“ To our dear friend Mark and the entire Baker family, we are so sorry, and we wish you all love and peace. Love, Jodi, Bill and Liam Wolfe



Jodi Mock Wolfe - August 01, 2013 at 09:38 AM



“ *Julie and family....*

Sorry to hear of your loss. Thoughts and prayers go out to you all.



Leeann (Ferguson) Riley

LeeAnn Ferguson Riley - August 01, 2013 at 08:57 AM

KR

“ *I didn't know Mr. Baker well but I served on the Community Action board with him. He always added a bit of laughter to the meetings. He will be missed! My condolences to his family and friends. Krystal Hivnor*

Krystal - August 01, 2013 at 08:33 AM

BN

“ *To the Baker Family,*

Our prayers are with you in the time of loss of Bunk. I have worked with Bunk for a long time at the Bishop Roscrans High School and we had many talks over the years. I missed him last year's basketball season and will always know he is there in spirit. Every week at the farmers market Shirley and I would see him at the corner booth and always chat with him for a while. He would always ask Shirley if she was taking care of me.

Shirley and Bob Neel

Bob and Shirley Neel - August 01, 2013 at 08:08 AM

BK

“ *Sorry for your loss.*

Bob Kline - August 01, 2013 at 07:43 AM

TA

“ *Tom Armbrust lit a candle in memory of John F. "Bunk" Baker*



Tom Armbrust - August 01, 2013 at 07:24 AM

NR

“ *Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Baker Family. May God give each of you comfort during this difficult time and may John's memory be eternal. With deepest sympathy. Nadim & Lisa Ritchey*



Nadim & Lisa Ritchey - August 01, 2013 at 06:55 AM

RM

“ *We want to extend our sincere sympathy to John's family. The Farmers Market will not be the same without his wave and "hello"*

Bob and Dolores Miller

Robert Miller - August 01, 2013 at 06:38 AM


Jennifer
Bell

“ I can honestly say I've never met anyone like John. What a character! He could be so wicked...the definition of a "Dirty Old Man"! But that's what I loved about him. Such a sweetheart. You couldn't help but like him. He will be missed so much.

Jennifer Bell - July 31, 2013 at 05:08 PM

JM

“ Jennifer Mallett lit a candle in memory of John F. "Bunk" Baker



Jennifer Mallett - July 31, 2013 at 03:44 PM

HK

“ the funniest story i remember bunk telling was when he found his dad's diary after pop had died. the diary's entries read:
day 1 - bunk came over for dinner tonight, wanted to borrow five dollars.
day 2 - i decided to lend bunk the five dollars.
day 3 - good-bye five dollars!
rest in peace.
hank and weezie kempf

henry (hank) kempf - July 31, 2013 at 01:38 PM

CD

Jackie and Family...So sorry for the loss of your wonderful father, I always enjoyed talking to him at the ball games.. Thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Cathy

Cathy Davis - August 01, 2013 at 07:55 AM