



Charles Alfred Barnhill

July 21, 1939 - July 31, 2023

Charles Alfred Barnhill was a man of many names. Chuck. Fred. Barney. Grandpa. Mr. Barnhill, if you were his student. Charles Alfred, if you were his mother and he was in trouble. Battling Bass Barnhill to his longtime childhood chums. No matter what you called him, if you knew him, you had a friend in Chuck.

Chuck was born and raised right here in Bloomington, born to James and Mary in 1939. He spent his formative childhood years romping around the woods and fields with his best buddies, pitching tents in every stand of trees and fishing in every body of water he could access (which often ended in being escorted away by the all-too-familiar university security staff). He attributed his love of nature to his father, who himself was an avid outdoorsman and taxidermist, and to his mother, from whom he inherited an affinity for caring for animals, including his famous and beloved pet alligator. Chuck developed an interest in art which was fostered by his good friend and neighbor, George Weymouth, and his high school arts teachers Mr. Mills and Mr. Floyd. He went on to study art and art education at Indiana University, where he earned a bachelor's and a master's degree. He eventually exhausted all of the studio art classes and put his degree into practice as an art educator at Edgewood High School, from which he retired 26 years later. Prior to enrolling in college and becoming an arts educator, Chuck enlisted in the United States Air Force where he was a fierce competitor on their national marksman team. He enjoyed several years of traveling nationally to compete

in shooting competitions, many of which he won. All these years later, despite being hampered by aging eyesight, he could still out-shoot us all.

Chuck continued developing his own art pursuits while still teaching at Edgewood High School. Considering himself to be a wildlife artist, he created in several media, including wood sculpture, three-dimensional stained glass, and wood block printings. His pieces were featured in exhibitions sponsored by the Indiana Fine Arts Museum; the art education Matrix Gallery; the Indianapolis Museum of Art; Southern Indiana Exhibition; the Brown County Art Guild; and the Hoosier Hills Art Guild. He also was the recipient of several honors and awards for his art. After his retirement from public education, Chuck did not entirely retire from teaching; his grandchildren became his art students and he greatly enjoyed instilling in them a love of artistic expression through carving and stained glass. In his retirement he continued to be actively involved in helping children and adults reach their potential through art. He was motivated and inspired by others as they realized the extent of their own creative ability and felt great accomplishment at seeing others grow and express themselves visually.

Chuck's love of nature was not limited to creating works of art. He additionally spent his time fishing, camping, canoeing, and simply walking in the woods. He loved to end his days chopping wood and stoking the fire and lamented the coming of hot summer weather when his fireplace and favorite axe would be neglected. This is probably the primary reason that he purchased a vintage log cabin just outside the Boundary Waters where he and his wife Linda spent their summers – a place where fires are welcome most of the summer, flannels are year-round fashion, and he could roast hot dogs while listening for loons or eagles on the lake. Here in his beloved log home in Bloomington, he loved watching turtles on their pond, throwing tomahawks and knives, and showing his grandchildren how to throw the atlatl.

In short, Chuck was someone who truly lived each day to its fullest. He took the greatest pleasure in the simplest joys. His favorite and most-quoted saying was "Are we having fun yet?" which perfectly sums up his attitude toward life.

He met each day with positivity, an attitude being carried on by those who were loved by him, including his wife of 27 years, Linda Barnhill; his daughters Belinda Thornhill and Lisa Barnhill; his son Jeff Barnhill; his grandchildren William, Noelle, Ashley, Makinsey, Collin, Halley, Adelaide, and Emmett; and his four great-grandchildren Addyson, Emily, Tucker, and Xander.

Chuck passed away just after his 84th birthday, peacefully listening to the soothing sounds of his beloved Northwoods loons, surrounded by his family. He will be missed by everyone who was touched by his incredible life. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Hoosier Hills Food Bank <https://hhfoodbank.org/donate/>

Services for Chuck will be held Saturday, August 5, 2023 at 2:00PM at Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37. Reverend Tim Thompson will officiate and burial will follow in the Rose Hill Cemetery.

Visitation will also be held Saturday, August 5, 2023 from 11:00AM until the time of the service at 2:00PM at Allen Funeral Home and Crematory.

Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

West 4th Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 5. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Funeral Service

AUG 5. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Tribute Wall

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“ It was a tough thing to know "Barnhill" had left the house! His art room and my English room were side-by-side at Edgewood High. We were colleagues and friends--so many of his own high school friends became friends of mine when I moved to Bloomington in 1980. He was a teacher who loved and was loved by his students and colleagues alike. Our friendship netted me an invitation to your wedding, Linda! Unique in all the world as in "The Little Prince," and I felt special to have been with all of you on that day. Losing two friends who themselves were close friends--both Jan and Barnhill--in a season was heavy for all concerned. However, memory is a special gift. My memories of this great teacher who was my fine friend will remain with me the time I have been given. I feel good that one of the small things I can do is HHFoodBank. Linda, your becoming one with dear Charles Alfred Barnhill was one wonderful happening! Sarah (Robinson) Bruner

Sarah K Bruner (Robinson) - September 04, 2023 at 12:55 PM

RB

“ What a great and wonderful teacher that we had the privilege of knowing. We still have several of the art pieces that were done in his classes at RBBCSC! He will be missed for sure, but his legacy will live on. Our condolences to the family.

Scott and Roberta Bruce (Edgewood High --Class of 1975)

Roberta Bruce - August 05, 2023 at 03:25 PM



“ It was a pleasure to meet Mr. Charles Barnhill and his wife Linda. I visited him everyday while in the hospital. The first time I prayed for him at the end of the prayer I tried to release my hand from his to leave and he held onto my hand. I said “Mr. Charles May I have my hand? He quickly said “no.”...lol. So we held hands a little longer. So precious. He became my “Buddy.” I sang “Happy Birthday to him which brought on a huge smile. I am so grateful to God I had the privilege of meeting this gentleman and his loving family. Linda you all are in my prayers. Chaplain Cheryl McElroy, IU Bloomington Hospital. 🙏💜

Cheryl McElroy - August 05, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ Mr Barnhill was my art teacher in the late 1970's. I still have some of the artwork I did at that time and good memories of art class. I never knew about his personal life, so thanks to the family for sharing. If anyone has a picture of him from around 1978-79, I'd love to see it. My condolences to his family and friends.



Lisa Ensman - August 04, 2023 at 11:41 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles Alfred Barnhill.



August 04, 2023 at 10:03 AM

DP

“ He was my favorite teacher. We sure gave him a hard time and he took it le a champ. So sorry to hear of his passing.

Dee Porter - August 03, 2023 at 07:24 PM

PS

“ Paula S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles Alfred Barnhill.

Paula S. - August 03, 2023 at 01:30 PM

JS

“ What a great teacher. This man changed and guided so many of us to be creative and genuine. I have loved art and my family have been educators in the RBBSC for decades. When you are young you don't realize the shape your life and soul will take. Mr. Barnhill saw into all those that he contacted and with his affable style and honest joy of life directed all of us to be the best version of ourselves. As I now have retired from the corporate world and have become an art teacher in my local community, I pray every day to be as effective in guiding those who come into my classroom and my world to believe in themselves the way that Barnhill guided those of us that were blessed to have him in our lives. Be blessed, Barnhill. A good and faithful teacher of life through creative arts. John Gregory Summitt, Edgewood class of 1986.

John G Summitt - August 03, 2023 at 10:39 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Charles Alfred Barnhill.*



August 03, 2023 at 10:12 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Charles Alfred Barnhill.

August 03, 2023 at 10:12 AM



“ *Mr Barnhill was my art teacher from 1987-1991. He was the best teacher ever!! He was such an inspiration to each and every student. I will never ever forget some of his sculptures of eagles and an Indian chief with full head dress. He was so patient even with the most difficult student. His life is a testimony of success and humility. He was loved and respected and will be missed by many.*

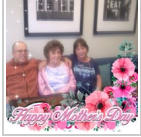
Margaret (Ison) Torres - August 02, 2023 at 11:29 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Charles Alfred Barnhill.*



August 02, 2023 at 05:25 PM



“ Fred (as I called him Fred for all the years I have known him) was a wonderful friend. He entered my heart many many years ago ice skating on a pond in Bloomington. I didn't know how to skate & I think he loaned me a pair of his old skates (which were miles too big for me) & took my hand & encouraged me to not fall down. His life was filled with encouraging others to learn & appreciate the world we live in. After many more years, he met the lady of his dreams (Linda). My oh my when I saw them together, they were perfect for each other. Thank you Linda for taking care of my friend, Fred. Love You & may God bless you always. Connie Parke

Connie Parke - August 02, 2023 at 02:47 PM

SB

“ Sally B. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles Alfred Barnhill.

Sally B. - August 02, 2023 at 12:42 PM

BB

“ Fred. Jeff a golf coach, and I were playing golf at the local golf course here in Ely, MN. At the end of the first hold, Jeff ask Fred what he got on that hole. Fred replied, "Put me down for an eight, I like eights, they are round on top, round on bottom, I like there shape, put me down for an 8." Jeff replied, "You didn't get an 8 you got a 5, I'm putting you down for a 5. At the end of hole 2 Jeff again asked for Fred's score. Fred replied. "Put me down for an eight, I like eights, they are round on top, round on bottom, I like there shape, put me down for an 8." Jeff replied, "You didn't get an 8 you got a 4, I'm putting you down for a 4 We get to the end of hole 3, again Jeff asked for Fred score. Fred replied. "Put me down for an eight, I like eights, Jeff interrupted Fred and Said, "You don't want me to keep score do you?" Fred pointed to his nose. Fred was playing for the enjoyment of the game not for any type of competition.

Ben C. Butler - August 02, 2023 at 12:20 PM

BB

“ 1 file added to the album MY FRIEND CHUCK



Ben C. Butler - August 02, 2023 at 12:02 PM



“ He was my art teacher at edgewood i enjoyed his class the most i will never forget the year he retired he let me hit one of the art tables and fell to pieces the first hit one of the best teachers i knew and a great friend Jon Langley

Jonathan Langley - August 02, 2023 at 06:50 AM

T

“ *Mr. Barnhill was my Art Teacher for 4 years. He was always so encouraging. His favorite saying was "Let's Get Motivated". I recently found a linoleum block, the print and the watercolors print that he insisted I enter in the Brown County Art Show. He was on my mind last week when I found these 40 yr old pieces of art work and now I know why. Will he missed but never forgotten.*

Teresa Hawk (class of '80) - August 01, 2023 at 07:28 PM