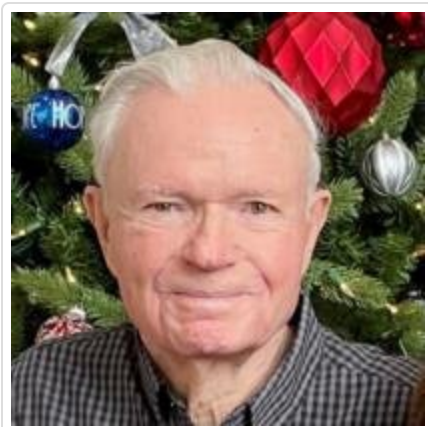




Mr. Gerald David Barnes

November 26, 1937 - August 31, 2025

Mr. Gerald David Barnes, 87 of Lakeland passed away on August 31, 2025 peacefully in his home. Gerald was born to the late David P. and Mildred Ritter Barnes, in Tampico, Mexico. His father's work relocated the family to Aruba where Gerald was raised and spent twenty years of his life.

In August 1958, Lakeland, Florida became home. He attended Florida Southern College obtaining his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. He began his accounting career in the local phosphate industry, and in his later years, retired from the Florida Department of Revenue as an auditor. After retirement, Gerald sought activities to fulfill his time as well as give back to his community. He was an Honorary member of The Knights of Columbus at Resurrection Catholic Church. Here he volunteered during their annual carnival, Sun N' Fun Fly In, Bingo, fish fry and Lakeland Tigers events. He was once honored as their volunteer of the year. Gerald was an excellent bowler, avid golfer, and played softball in his youth. He was famous for his chocolate chip cookies which he delivered to family, friends, doctors and even his insurance agent.

Although these accomplishments are profound, he was most proud of his children, Sandy and Danny, and the lives they created. He was a treasured father, friend and brother who will truly be missed.

Gerald is preceded in death by his son, Daniel Barnes; brother, David P. Barnes; sisters Mary Barnes and Martha Barnes Rainer.

He is survived by his daughter Sandra "Sandy" Barnes Hitt and her husband, Jeff; daughter in law, Catherine Barnes; brother, Frank Barnes and his wife Ann; sister Margaret "Maggie" Barnes Smith and her husband Doug as well as a host of friends and acquaintances whose lives were touched by Gerald.

No services are planned at this time.

Donations may be made in Gerald's honor to the American Cancer Society.

Tribute Wall

TF

“ We will always remember “Uncle Jerry”, as we called him as a dear friend and family member. Our grandchildren looked forward to seeing him at many events and holidays. We loved him here and will always love him in heaven. He was the true definition of a nice person. We love home and will truly miss him.
The Wizda Family 💕🙏🦋

The Wizda Family - September 09, 2025 at 07:29 PM

LC

“ Jerry was a wonderful neighbor. When Jerry would sit in his garage he would pull a chair out so i could sit with him. He would talk about family history. When i would walk my talk Oreo he would see Jerry he would bark for me to take him over and visit him. Yes the chocolate chip cookies were excellent. I can not say enough about Sandy and Jeff they took such wonderful care of Jerry. Taking care of his yard running him to The doctors. Sandy and Jeff your dad was so proud of you both. May all the wonderful memories of your dad last you a life time. God Bless you both and your whole family.

Linda and Ron Critoph - September 07, 2025 at 10:17 PM

MS

“ Jerry was my brother. Because he lived in Lakeland and I grew up in Lakeland we often saw each other when I was growing up. He always had a quiet, but wonderful sense of humor was very kind and very sweet in his demeanor. I will never forget that he told me that my daughter could only marry a general, she could never marry anyone else. And when it came time for her to date, he wanted to be her first date. I will miss his love of history, his love of the Civil War and World War II in particular. We had many good conversations about great figures of history.

Maggie Smith - September 05, 2025 at 12:46 PM

CB

“ My heart is still breaking. 💔 The best father-in-law a daughter-in-law could ever ask for!! So sweet and kind. You will be missed by so many!!

Cathy Barnes - September 04, 2025 at 04:31 PM