



# Barry L Harbison

MAY 24, 1941 - DEC 28, 2021



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## Barry L Harbison

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**B**arry L. Harbison died on Dec. 28, at age 80. Barry was born on May 24, 1941, in Cleveland, to William and Elizabeth Harbison. As a child Barry was stricken with juvenile polio, which partially paralyzed his right leg. He was able to overcome this hardship and graduate fourth in his class at Parma Senior High School, class of 1959. Barry's next stop was Muskingum College, where he graduated with a history major, intent on becoming an educator. He began his teaching career at Cloverleaf HS (Lodi, Ohio) before being hired at Berea HS/Polaris JVS, where he first was a teacher and then a guidance counselor for more than 30 years. While pursuing his master's in education from the University of Akron, Barry met Christine (nee Munn). They began dating and were married in 1968 — a union that lasted 53 years. The couple were parents to daughter Robin, and sons Brad and Mark. Above all, Barry enjoyed spending time with family, especially on summer vacations and during the holidays. Barry is survived by wife Chris; brother Philip; daughter Robin (Andrew) Hansen; son Brad (Julie); son Mark (Jeanne); and grandchildren Meredith, Cate, Neil, Lauren and Emily. A memorial service for family members is planned; it will be recorded and made available online. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to John Knox Presbyterian Church <https://johnknoxpc.org/gratitude-generosity>; St. Jude Children's Hospital <https://www.stjude.org> or the Greater Cleveland Food Bank: <https://support.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org>.



## Tribute Wall

**Barry L Harbison**

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RV

**Ruth Vasicek** posted:

I was Barry's secretary in the Guidance Department at Berea Highl always remember the great times we had. My condolences to your family

January 11 at 10:20 AM

GC

**Gary Croy** posted:

Barry was a valued colleague at Berea High School for many years. He came to Berea as a member of the Social Studies Department and later became a very effective Guidance Counselor. He was not only highly regarded by his fellow staff members, but by the students he advised as well. I also had the privilege of working with Barry as a fellow counselor at Cleveland Scholarship Programs after we both retired. As a more experienced counselor, Barry mentored me through the process of advising students on college admission and the scholarship and financial aid process. Gary Croy

January 10 at 12:28 PM

JK

**Judy Kastelan** posted:

Chris and family please accept my sympathy at your loss. Barry, as I remember him, always had a smile on his face. We all first met at Muskingum. I believe Barry always saw the best in life and people. He gave much to many....a Christian legacy. Judy Kastelan

January 10 at 10:32 AM

JL

**Judy Luff** posted:

Barry was the Guidance Counselor at Berea High when our three kids were students there. Our youngest son needed help because he used a wheelchair to get around. Barry was very much appreciated by our family with his smiling disposition and always willing to go the extra mile to help in any situation that Steven needed. I too remember his wonderful laugh when I was in meetings with him at the High School. The students and faculty of Berea High were truly fortunate to have Barry as a co-worker, friend and mentor.He and Chris were at an ILR luncheon a couple years ago and sat at our table. We enjoyed getting reacquainted with him.Prayers to his family.Judy and Bill Luff

January 8 at 11:03 AM



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CK

**Cynthia Ross Kettler** posted:

My deepest sympathies go to the Harbison family. Barry was my guidance counselor at Berea High School and also a fellow church member at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. He helped to guide me in high school to Ashland College where I became an education major. Love and prayers to his family. Cynthia Ross Kettler

January 7 at 7:44 AM

DH

**Dave Humpal** posted:

Barry was my cooperating teacher and remained a good friend and mentor for many years. He was a smart, caring, dedicated educator who was just a wonderful person. Nothing but fond memories that those of us who knew him will always have.

January 1 at 2:10 PM

MW

**Mary Walsh** posted:

I so enjoyed talking to Barry, especially at Mark and Jeanne's, house where we could sit on the high chairs and rest our bad legs! Love and prayers, Mary Walsh

December 31 at 11:57 AM

JM

**Jeff Munn** posted:

One of the many fond memories I have of Barry is how much he liked to laugh. Throughout our long relationship, especially when I was younger and more unfiltered, I never shied away from telling Barry a joke or what I thought to be an amusing story or anecdote. Unlike others in the family who might respond to some of my admittedly lame or otherwise unfortunate attempts at humor with a scowl, blank stare, or forced bemusement, I always got the feeling that Barry at least "got" the joke and even if he didn't find it particularly funny, was polite enough to genuinely appreciate the attempt. I think this was just another reflection of his authentically warm and welcoming nature and I will miss that from our interactions.

December 31 at 11:13 AM



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**Bonnie Matus** posted:

We are thinking about all the years we spent together as neighbors. So many times we were each other's support systems. For that we are grateful. Barry was always so proud of Chris, Robin, Brad, and Mark. Each of them brought him joy! We will always remember Barry's contagious laugh when he was delighted with something. You just had to join in. Know that we send each of you our love and will be keeping you in our thoughts. Love, Bonnie and Marty Matus

December 31 at 6:48 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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