



## Mr. William Brown Barrett

January 8, 1923 - April 1, 2019

Mr. William Brown Barrett, 96, passed away on April 1, 2019, at Lebanon Health and Rehab Center in Lebanon, TN. He was born on January 8, 1923, to the late Sadie Brown Barrett and Ben Barrett in Water Valley, Mississippi. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 70 years Jane Hosmer Barrett, sisters Grace Barrett Lovorn and Janet Barrett Smith. He was a dedicated and faithful father to his daughters, Betsy Barrett (Pat Pesci) of Manhattan, KS and Rebecca Ringenberg (Clint Turner) of Mt. Juliet, TN; and grandfather to Amy R. Kelly (Andy Kelly) of Nashville, TN and great-grandfather to Barrett and Knox Kelly both of Nashville, TN.

He attended the University of Mississippi and Delta State University before entering the Maritime Service where he was deployed in the Pacific during World War II. After the war, he attended the Belk School of Broadcasting in Minneapolis and then returned to Mississippi to become an announcer and sportscaster at WELO Radio in Tupelo.

In 1947, he became a news and sportscaster for WCJU in Columbia, Miss and was the play by play announcer for the Columbia High School football games. In 1956, he became the Director of the Chamber of Commerce for the city of Columbia, thus beginning his career in industrial development. After four years with the Chamber, he became the assistant director for Industrial development for the state of Mississippi's Agricultural and Industrial Board.

During this time, he became widely respected as a leader in industrial development throughout Mississippi and the country. In 1961, he was selected to become the Executive Director of the North Mississippi Industrial Development Association headquartered in West Point, Miss. There he traveled throughout the US to bring new industry into the 29 counties of north Mississippi. Because of his expertise, he was asked to serve on the faculty at the Industrial Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma in Norman and often served as an "after dinner" speaker for many organizations throughout the southern US. He retired in 1986 and formed his own business, William Barrett Associates which offered consulting to communities needing assistance with industrial development.

He was an avid sports fan and especially loved Ole Miss football. He and Jane traveled throughout the country attending football and baseball games. They enjoyed Mississippi State baseball and followed the team to the World Series several times. Bill loved his church, the First Christian Church of West Point, where he served as a deacon and on church committees. After he retired he served on several boards for the community and became the director of the Clay County Red Cross.

He was known as a wonderful husband, father, professional and citizen. He was an enthusiastic story teller and especially loved a good joke. He loved his family and was especially proud of his granddaughter and great grandchildren.

Graveside services will be Friday, April 5, 2019, at 2:30 P.M. from Greenwood Cemetery in West Point with Mr. Mort Stroud officiating. Calvert Funeral Home of West Point is honored to be entrusted with the arrangements.

Memorials may be made to First Christian Church, P.O. Box 208, West Point, MS 39773 or to Charity of Donor's Choice

Visitation will be Friday 1:00-2:00 P.M. at Calvert Funeral Home.

Friends may leave an online condolence at [www.calvertfuneralhome.com](http://www.calvertfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Greenwood Cemetery

West Point, MS 39773

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 5. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Calvert Funeral Home  
P.O. Box 77  
27600 East Main Street  
West Point, MS 39773  
(662) 494-2833  
info@calvertfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.calvertfuneralhome.com/>

## Graveside Services

APR 5. 2:30 PM (CT)

Greenwood Cemetery  
West Point, MS 39773

# Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. William Brown Barrett.*



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April 04, 2019 at 02:46 PM



“ *So sorry for the loss of Mr. Barrett. Prayers and healing for all the family. May he rest in peace now that he is beside the love of his life. Leon & Sharon Taylor*

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**Sharon Taylor** - April 04, 2019 at 11:03 AM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Mr. William Brown Barrett.*



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April 03, 2019 at 06:34 PM



“ *We loved Bill and Jane. Such a special couple and wonderful neighbors, friends, and church workers. Please know that we will always cherish their friendship and love. Tim and Bonnie Teater*

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**bonnie teater** - April 03, 2019 at 05:52 PM

MB

“ *Bill was a positive and lasting influence in my career.*

*All of us who trained at NMIDA have many William B Barrett stories to share and cherish.*

*RIP my friend. Mark S Bounds*

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**Mark S Bounds** - April 03, 2019 at 12:10 PM

JB

“ *Mr. Barrett hired me right out of MS State in 1981. What a tremendous training ground for me to learn the economic development profession and how to conduct myself in business. He was the quintessential professional. He taught me well, as he did countless others before me and a couple after me. I use his follow up methods in my real estate business even today! I am thankful for Bill Barrett's influence in my life.*

*Jim Brown, Broker, CCIM  
Southaven, MS*

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**Jim Brown** - April 03, 2019 at 09:01 AM

AH

“ *Mr. and Mrs. B were our baseball buddies and we all shared our love for Mississippi State baseball. I remember arriving early to get the top row of the old broken down bleachers at the old, old Dudy Noble. Those were the good ole days! I fondly remember our trip to Clemson, South Carolina to watch Mississippi State play in a baseball regional. Clemson was the first team out and us Mississippi State fans took over the place. We won the regional and advanced to Omaha. I will never, ever forget that trip and the wonderful memories we made on that trip. They are together again and that is the most important thing. Love y'all forever.*  
*Allyson Hamlin and Hilda Hamlin*  
*Hail State!*

*One more memory- Can't remember what year it was but one year for Christmas, my brother Robert and myself were given Ole Miss T-shirts for a gag Christmas present. They knew that we hated Ole Miss. But, we got him back on his birthday in January with the gift of an Alabama t-shirt. He hated Alabama. We all posed in our shirts and had our picture taken with those hated shirts. Nobody outside us, Mrs. B, and my mom has EVER SEEN those pictures and they NEVER WILL!*  
*Allyson Hamlin*

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**Allyson Hamlin** - April 02, 2019 at 10:26 PM

ST

“ *With sympathy and friendship,*  
  
*Susanne Allen Thomas*

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**Susanne Allen Thomas** - April 02, 2019 at 05:09 PM