

David Hugh Barrow

The one and only David Hugh Barrow joined us on this good earth on June 13, 1948 and slipped into the next on December 15, 2024. Born in Cedartown, GA to David Trammell “Bud” Barrow and Jo Garner Barrow, he and brother Ken spent many memorable years on Marshall Street in Cedartown with Mama Garner (maternal grandmother Ruth Lawson Garner) and then roamed the backwoods of Pine Bower in Polk County when the family bought a beautiful farm there.

His peaceful, bucolic days were interrupted by the arrival of troublesome sister Virginia “Ginger” Barrow (now Harman) but the move by the family to the beloved Barrow House in Bowdon, Georgia just a short while later was some consolation. As the center of the known Universe and the home of David Hugh, the Barrow House soon became occupied by a host of Barrs, Kents, Coleys, Rowells, Roops, Cooks, Witts and scores of others who David and Ken collected from near and far. Sister Ellen was added to the craze and seemed a little lost until she established herself by hiding every useful thing in the house in some nook or corner and then, as the “little finder” locating it to great fanfare. However, even she never dared hide something in the sanctum sanctorum of David’s room!

Both sisters soon wished their mother had honed her own finding skills as David and Ken took to stuffing the two of them into closets, cabinets and dirty clothes bins, or David’s favorite, the wood box where he swore all of the dead cowboys and Indians from the TV set fell to rot and mold. Sister Olivia came so much later that she managed to avoid the specter of sitting amongst the rotting cowboys, though the stories still left her with a few nightmares.

Despite it all, the girls joined Ken and most of an entire generation of Bowdon kids in watching and learning from David. Music, travel, SCUBA...but most of all an insistence that he live every moment of his life according to his own values and no one else’s. To be sure he also watched, learned and listened to those he admired. His grandmothers, Mama Garner and paternal grandmother Virginia Trammell Barrow were at the top of the list, but an ever curious and critical mind took in so much and distilled it into such a unique world view that pegging it to anyone or anything other than David is impossible.

He loved Bowdon but left early to travel all over the world. He took off to Grand Cayman to dive the wall at age 16. He dove and photographed the Red Sea at a time when Saudi Arabia had closed it to outsiders for decades. He dove for treasure with Arthur C. Clark off the coast of Sri Lanka.

Soon after returning state side to work on building a new Seven Mile Bridge in the Florida Keys, he met the love of his life and soulmate, Debbie Craft, also a native of Bowdon. They shared 42 years of adventure and companionship and the type of bond at a molecular level that cannot be reduced to words on a page.

David and Debbie built a life in the Keys that pulled the rest of their family in like a magnet. David ran his surveying company, Barrow Surveying and Mapping, Inc. in Tavernier. At some point every member of their respective families spent time with them or even moved to the Keys. Their home became a home base for generations of Barrows, Crafts and other lucky family and friends seeking to soak in sun and savor the favor of their company. Yes, the Keys are magical. But the true magic was and is found in the shared intellectual drive, the insistence on excellence, the curiosity about everyone and everything ... the love that the two of them brought to every day of living. David leaves

that legacy with every person lucky enough to have known him. No telling what that guy is up to now.

David was predeceased by his Mom and Dad, his ridiculously wonderful mother-in-law Jackie Craft and father-in-law WT Craft as well as his sister-in-law, Beth Craft, with whom he was so close and brother in law Tracy Harman who was like another little brother. He leaves behind a host of lost and bewildered family and friends wondering how to navigate without him: his beloved wife Debbie in Tavernier , siblings Ken (wife Sheila) of Carrollton , Ginger of Rome, Georgia, Ellen now in Newnan Georgia and Olivia (husband Matt West) of Juneau, Alaska together with nephews William Harman, Joseph Barrow and Barrow West and nieces Ginni Harman Poole, Kate Harman, Leslie Barrow Potier and Lupine West as well as several great nieces and nephews. His sweet Aunt Julianne Garner of Rome, Georgia also survives as well as many wonderful cousins and extended family.

A private memorial service will be scheduled at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that, if you are so moved, you support a cause close to his heart: your best local animal rescue organization, however you can be it time, money or some words of encouragement that just might make someone in rescue work's day. If you don't have a rescue that you know makes good use of funds, consider [Hounds in Pounds, Inc.](#) They make a such a difference for shelter animals in Polk County and you can be sure that your dollars are being well spent.





