



## Tom Barnes

April 17, 1946 - April 1, 2023

Tom Barnes, born April 17, 1946 in Vina, Alabama, passed away on April 1, 2023.

He is survived by his wife: Donna; his daughters: Sherri Barnes and Rachel Dillard (Jason); his daughter-in-law: Carrie Barnes (Tommy); his stepdaughter: Holly Webb; his grandchildren: Hannah Danho, Bentley Barnes, Harper Dillard, and Harrison Dillard; and his step-grandchildren: Makinzie McKee, Kaytlin Webb, and Holland Posey.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Clarence Leonard Barnes and Ausie Jessie McCarley Barnes; his sister: Willodean Barnes Simmons; his brother: James Edward Barnes; his brother: Herbert Louis Barnes; his son: Tommy Barnes; and his stepson: Dustin Pierce.

Tom voluntarily enlisted in the US Marine Corps in 1963 and was soon deployed to Vietnam for active duty. He was the forward observer for his team in the Force Recon Special Operations. He received two Purple Hearts due to serious injuries from enemy action, including gunshot wound to his abdomen and mortar fire wounds.

In a book called "Lullabies for Lieutenants" by Franklin Cox, the following was written about Tom: "Corporal Tommy Weaver (name changed in book) made

his rank at 20 years of age. He was an incredibly gifted youth who approached his daily regimen with optimism and intelligence. He was a Marine's Marine, rare at his age. He grew up in the rural fields of the south trapping and hunting and never missed a beat in the bush. He was at home in the jungle as the enemy."

He proudly served 10 ½ years in the Marine Corps. He later joined the US Army National Guard and eventually retired from military service. Tom then achieved a bachelor degree from University of Montevallo.

He had numerous civilian jobs including criminal investigation and undercover drug enforcement with Shelby County Sheriff's Office, and drug enforcement with DEA and FBI. Tom trained and worked with drug detection K9 dogs during these careers. He also owned and operated a private security and investigation company.

In his younger years, he enjoyed training and showing Tennessee Walking Horses. As he got older, he left the horses behind and focused on riding his Harley. Tom was devoted to supporting other veterans as shown by his leadership in the American Legion Post 131 in Columbiana, Alabama. He was proud to ride with the Patriot Guard escorting deceased veterans to their final resting place.

Tom had been a pastor and associate pastor of different Christian churches and was devoted to his faith. He loved singing and listening to southern gospel music. As serious as he was, he enjoyed life living at the lake, fishing and boating, "knees in the breeze" and "wind therapy," and of course he loved spending time with his family and was so proud of each one.

Tom was a very giving person who was loved and respected by many. He was one tough old Marine! Semper Fi!

Pallbearers are members of the American Legion Riders Post 131. A visitation will be held on Monday, April 10, 2023 9:30 AM at Bolton Funeral Home. A funeral service will follow at 10:30AM. Charles Longshore is officiating. Burial will take place at The Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo, Alabama. In lieu of flowers, family requests donations to American Legion Post 131 Scholarship Fund. P. O. Box 261, Columbiana, Alabama 35051

Please sign online condolences at [www.boltonfuneralhome.com](http://www.boltonfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Alabama National Cemetery

3133 Hwy 119  
Montevallo, AL 35115

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 10. 9:30 AM (CT)

Bolton Funeral Home  
207 Hwy 47 South  
PO Box 4  
Columbiana, AL 35051  
(205) 669-3179

## Funeral Service

APR 10. 10:30 AM (CT)

Bolton Funeral Home  
207 Hwy 47 South  
PO Box 4  
Columbiana, AL 35051  
(205) 669-3179

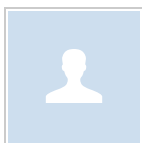
# Tribute Wall



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Tom Barnes.* ”



April 07, 2023 at 02:54 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Tom Barnes.* ”



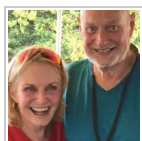
April 06, 2023 at 11:43 PM



“ *Thom Barnes lit a candle in memory of Tom Barnes* ”



**Thom Barnes** - April 05, 2023 at 08:35 PM



“ *I love Tom Barnes. He is one of the finest, kindest, brave men I have ever known. He was there for me in Vietnam. He was there for me always.  
God bless you, Tom and Donna. Save a place for me. Semper Fidelis.* ”

**Frank Cox** - April 05, 2023 at 02:53 PM

MB

“ *I light this candle in loving memory of a great man. Deepest condolences to the family and many friends. Fly high free bird 🕊️*



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**Marnie Barnes** - April 05, 2023 at 02:08 PM

DN

“ *So sorry for your loss!!! I went to Tremont school with Tommy! He was two years older than me! He and my brother, Joel, were lifetime friends!*

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**Dora Newell** - April 05, 2023 at 09:16 AM

FL

“ *Frenchell Lansford lit a candle in memory of Tom Barnes*



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**Frenchell Lansford** - April 05, 2023 at 06:33 AM

FC

“ *I only met Tom once but he left a lasting impression on me. I somehow wish we could have spent some time together. Condolences to his friends and family.*

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**French Collier** - April 04, 2023 at 11:23 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tom Barnes.*



April 04, 2023 at 07:38 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tom Barnes.*



April 04, 2023 at 04:02 PM



“ *Tom Barnes was such a dear friend to my Pop, Joe Wells. My pop loved Tom and spoke of him often. Tom helped my pop in so many ways and was there for him when my pop needed someone to listen to him. He even confided in Tom shortly before he passed that he was tired of fighting his illness and wanted to go "home". Tom spoke at my pops service after he passed and his sermon was absolutely beautiful. I know my pop was honored to have had him speak.*

*I am so sorry to the family for the loss. I know my pop was waiting with arms wide open for his best friend. I'm sure they are having the time of their lives together in the presence of our lord. ❤️*

**Amber Foister** - April 04, 2023 at 03:19 PM

VC

*I will certainly miss Tom. Our church has a hole,yet we all know his The shiniest bright Angel in Heaven. He was loved by everyone. His Faith and friendship and wisdom, just seemed to touch us all. Donna is so loved also by our church. I'm praying for comfort her and his beautiful family.❤️🙏*

Valri Collins - April 05, 2023 at 05:01 PM

HB

*Tom and I worked undercover at a multi county drug agency. We were in a joint in another county one night and I'm talking with a dancer when I hear the band bust loose and somebody sing The Girls All Get Prettier At Closing Time. It was Tom . Great Police officer, totally fearless and honest to a flaw , I love you buddy and I'll see you soon .*

Howard Brooks - April 10, 2023 at 08:59 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Tom Barnes.*



April 04, 2023 at 02:31 PM

SW

“ *Tom was a great man.Have known him for years.We went to church together.prayers for his family & friends*



Sharon wilbanks - April 04, 2023 at 12:50 PM