



Charles Barker

February 29, 1944 - January 21, 2026

Charles Lee Barker, 81, passed away peacefully at home on January 21, 2026. Thoughtful, and deeply loyal, Charlie lived his life with care for people, respect for history, love for ALL dogs and a steady presence that never asked for attention. Though he spent his later years living in Royal Oak, Michigan, his birthplace and home for 79 years, Muskegon, Michigan remained close to his heart.

Charlie was born on a date as unique as him: February 29th (1944). From early on, he developed a strong sense of independence and a belief that every person mattered. He carried those values with him throughout his life in how he listened, noticed, and showed up for others.

He was quiet by nature and valued quality over quantity, in conversation, in relationships, and in the way he lived. Charlie had a dry, understated sense of humor that surfaced at just the right moment, often easing a situation with a well-timed remark. Though sentimental, he kept those feelings close, preferring action over declaration and consistency over display.

Togetherness was at the center of Charlie's life. He was married to his best friend Mary, for over 50 years before her sudden passing in 2018. Their marriage was a constant and grounding part of his life. He was also a devoted father, uncle, friend, animal lover, co-worker and advocate for the voiceless.

Charlie showed love through reliability, humor, and presence; always steady, always there.

In recent years, Charlie found joy in tinkering with things, watching his shows, going for rides, napping in the sun and all the comforting routines that shaped his days. He always appreciated the simple and meaningful things in this world. Charlie also shared a close bond with Hank. His beloved dog and constant companion, whose presence brought purpose, comfort and endless laughs to his life.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Mary (Paige) Barker, his mother, Lillian (Wolf) Barker and father, Charles R. Barker. He is survived by his children: Bradley Barker and Wesley (Amanda) Barker, as well as numerous cherished nieces and nephews.

Charlie's life was not loud, but it was full. He will be missed in the ordinary moments... the comments he would have made, the things he would have fixed, and the calm reassurance of his presence. He is remembered with gratitude, affection, and appreciation by all who knew and loved him.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 at <https://www.stjude.org/donate>.

Join us for a memorial service celebrating Charlie's life on Sunday, May 17, 2026 from 1pm - 3pm at the pavilion inside Margaret Drake Elliott Park, located just North of Pere Marquette Park in Muskegon, MI.

We look forward to sharing stories and memories and hopefully a few laughs. Light refreshments will be served. The pavilion is furnished with picnic tables, but if you prefer to bring your own lawn chair, please feel free.

Margaret Drake Elliott Park

1651 Beach Street, Muskegon, MI 49441

Sunday, May 17th

1pm - 3pm

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

MAY 17. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Margaret Drake Elliott Park
1651 Beach Street
Muskegon, MI 49441

Tribute Wall

LT

“ Love, Mish, Andy, Sandy, & Tracey purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Charles Barker.



Love, Mish, Andy, Sandy, & Tracey - May 13 at 11:14 AM

DH

“ Met Mary and Charlie years ago as a Girl Scout and never stopped thinking about him. I always wanted to keep in touch,he was family to us he will be missed .💔

Dashanna Hartfield - March 11 at 08:56 PM

DD

“ Always told Uncle Charlie he was my favorite Uncle Charlie & he always responded with a kind smile & grin, “I’m your only Uncle Charlie”! Wes so accurately described Charlie the only thing I’d add is Charlie was just cool 😎 We loved it when Charlie & Mary joined us camping on the west side of the state bc they were always just fun & loving to hang with. Sometimes my husband & Charlie would sneak off stop at the party store get 1 big beer & head for the sand dunes. Mary would stay back with me & my 2 girls & I’m pretty sure we had just as much fun as they did. They always had dogs many times as many as 3

Darlene Davidson - February 10 at 01:50 PM

DD

This thread was very difficult to leave a memory, unfortunately it cut me off & wont let me finish. One thing I wanted to add is when they would come to visit us or if we were going to see them they always treated us with love & kindness bc that's who they were 💙💛 You will be missed by the Davidsons that's for sure 💔 Much love to Wes, Amanda & Bradly

Darlene Davidson - February 10 at 01:55 PM

JE

“ *I met Charlie and his lovely wife Mary while volunteering for Mission for Area People (MAP),they both were givers always giving of their time and talents . Charlie was quiet but always dependable. He was a true gentleman and a pleasure to be around. My sincere condolences to Charlie family . May the sweet memories sustain you and live within you and may the Lord give you peace.*

*James Elrod
Muskegon Mi.*

james Elrod - January 28 at 10:48 PM

BS

“ *Wes,
We are deeply sorry for the loss of your father. He will always hold a special place in your heart. You and Amanda are in our thoughts in this time of sorrow.*

Belinda Smith & Angela Elrod

Belinda Smith - January 26 at 02:30 PM

AB

Thank you both for your love and support. I means so much to us.

Amanda & Wes Barker - January 28 at 01:04 PM

AB

“ 5 files added to the album Charlie



Amanda & Wes Barker - January 24 at 03:27 PM

JE

Charlie as we liked to call him was a great guy and a true gentleman. I met Charlie and his lovely wife Mary volunteering at Mission for Area People (MAP). They both were Givers willing to give their time and talents . Charlie was quiet but dependable and always a gentleman. My sincere condolences to Charlies family. May the sweet memories sustain you and live in you and give you peace.

*James Elrod
Muskegon, Mi*

james Elrod - January 25 at 11:21 PM

AB

Thank you so much for your kind words, James. They both truly loved their time (and the people) at MAP.

Amanda & Wes Barker - January 28 at 01:03 PM