



Robert Charles Baker

March 20, 1934 - December 29, 2025

Robert Charles Baker was born in Woodburn IN in 1934, but was raised in Henry County. His father, Charles Baker, of Liberty Center, was Superintendent of Liberty Center Water & Electric, Fire Chief, and a Mason. His mother, Marie (nee Ordway) of Malinta, was known for her cakes and being a Mason's Eastern Star. He is survived by his younger sister Louetta Sue Briner. Bob graduated from Liberty Center High School and went on to earn a Bachelor's in Education, a Masters in School Administration, and an Education Specialist's degree all from Bowling Green State University. He paid his way through school by working summers at The Ohio Dept. of Highways, Creager & Sons Paving, and the WH Blausey Company building Interstate 75. While at BGSU, Bob went on a double blind date with his Pike Fraternity brother and met love of his life Janet (nee Yarolin), an Alpha Xi Delta BGSU student born in Cleveland. They were married and remained in NW Ohio.

In 1957 Bob completed US Army Artillery & Missile School to be a Field Artillery Officer, serving in the Army Reserves from 57-65 when honorably discharged.

Bob was a teacher (History & Government), a coach (Basketball, Football, and Track), a referee (21 years), and an Athletic Director serving Liberty Center, Anthony Wayne and Woodville Local Schools. Beginning in 1966, Bob joined Henry County Schools eventually serving as the County Superintendent for 20 years.

He was a member of many professional organizations such as Buckeye Association of School Admin, American Association of School Admin, Henry County Board of Mental Retardation & Development Disabilities, Ohio Association of School Superintendents, Phi Delta Kappa (Men's Honorary Educational Fraternity), NW Ohio Computer Consortium for School Districts, NW Ohio Special Ed Regional Resource Center, NW Ohio Educational Television Council, and more. He served as Commissioner of the NW Ohio Athletic League for 17 years.

In 1987 he won the Exemplary Leadership Award for the State of Ohio Socially, Bob belonged to the Elks, Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, Henry Co Farm Bureau, Henry Co Cancer Society, and the Loyal Order of Moose.

Together Bob & Jan had 4 children, Linda, Rich, Carol, and Jennifer- all graduating from Napoleon High School. Linda is a Certified Nurse Practitioner, serving Vets, with 3 children (Erich, Elise, & Eva Numrich) and 1 grandson, Ben. Richard played on the 1981 NHS State Champion Basketball Team, attended BGSU and tragically died in 1982. Carol is a recently retired School Psychologist with 3 children (Molly Pirik, Jake and Trey Ryan). Jennifer is a Certified Human Resource Professional with 1 child (Jazz Williams). Bob lost Janet to COVID in 2021 after 63 years of marriage.

Bob was known to be a prolific gardener selling his produce both at his stand at the Farmer's Market as well as the wagon out front of his home in Anthony Wayne Acres. If it was a fruit or vegetable that could be grown in NW Ohio, then Bob grew it! Bob loved building Model T Fords, watching high school basketball, collecting miniature train sets, and listening to Polka music.

Friends and family will be received at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon on Monday, January 5, 2026, from 3pm until 6pm. Services and interment will be private for the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Henry County Special Olympics, c/o HOPE Services, 135 E. Maumee Ave. Napoleon, OH, 43545. Online condolences may also be left for the family at rodenbergergray.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Rodenberger Funeral Home - Napoleon
1010 Westmoreland Avenue
Napoleon, OH 43545

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Video*



Rodenberger Funeral Home - January 14 at 11:30 AM

MB

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to the Baker family. Mr. and Mrs. Baker always had smiles on their faces and were very kind and generous in everything they did. I have wonderful memories of catching up with them when I visited my family in Napoleon over the years.*

Margaret Barry - January 05 at 11:45 AM

TK

“Mr. Baker” was one of the most influential people in my life. As a student at Woodville High School, he was my teacher for American History, Government & Current Affairs. Not only did I WANT TO GO TO CLASS EVERY DAY, I decided that I wanted to become a teacher. I then spent 44 years in public education as a teacher, principal, superintendent & supervisor of the Alternative Opportunity Center in Hancock County.

Two of my favorite memories are The Panic Button Mr. Baker set up in his classroom podium. Before each test, he let us come up to the front of the classroom and Push The Panic Button. A buzzer sounded and everyone relaxed.

The other thing I will always remember is the advice he gave me when I decided to go to Bluffton College to become a teacher. His words to me were simple: “Tim, don’t let School get in the way of your Education”.

I didn’t. My life was blessed having Bob Baker as my teacher.
Peace, Tim Kruse, Findlay, Ohio

Timothy R. Kruse - January 04 at 12:54 PM

CR

Love your share! Thanks so much!! Carol Baker Ryan

Carol Ryan - January 07 at 02:33 PM

CR

Thanks so very much for sharing!! Carol Baker Ryan

Carol Ryan - January 07 at 04:04 PM

SB

“ The Steve & Susan Briner Family have made a donation in Uncle Bob's honor to the HOPE Services Foundation.

Steven & Susan Briner - January 03 at 04:06 PM

CR

*Thank you so much!
Carol Baker Ryan*

Carol Ryan - January 07 at 02:36 PM

SB

“ 3 files added to the album Robert Baker Photos



Steve Briner - January 03 at 03:01 PM

SB

“ Sue Briner purchased the Lavender Reflections S
pray for the family of Robert Charles Baker.



Sue Briner - January 03 at 02:43 PM

SB

“ Sue Briner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Charles Baker.

Sue Briner - January 03 at 02:43 PM

CJ

“ Condolences to the family of my cousin, Bob Baker. My mother, Lucille Baker was his aunt. RIP Bob. You will be missed. Celia Johnson-Aldrich.

Celia Johnson-Aldrich - January 03 at 11:42 AM

CR

Thank you so much!
Carol Baker Ryan

Carol Ryan - January 07 at 02:35 PM

LB

Thank you v do much for coming. I remember the Johnson Baker family reunions At Liberty Center. Good good fun with family! Have a healthy new year.

linda baker - January 11 at 06:14 PM

“ From the fields, forests, plains of Africa and war-torn Europe, to the frozen tundra of Korea, to the jungles of Southeast Asia, from the deserts of Kuwait and Iraq to the mountains of Afghanistan, brave patriots have protected our nation’s ideals, rescued millions from tyranny, and helped spread freedom around the globe. America’s veterans answered the call when asked to protect our nation from some of the most brutal oppression the world has ever known. Military service demands a special kind of sacrifice. The places where you are sent to live and serve bring risk every day. From the time you put on that uniform for the first time, the interests of the nation move to the forefront and define your life. Those duties are shared by family members who make many sacrifices of their own, sometimes bearing the burden of losing a loved one. Service brings rewards as well. There is pride in developing one’s own character, serving a cause far greater than self-interest. Every person who wears America’s uniform is part of a long, unbroken line of achievement and honor. No single military power in history has done greater good, shown greater courage, liberated more people or upheld higher standards of decency and valor than the Armed Forces of the United States of America. That is a legacy to be proud of and those who contributed to it must never be taken for granted. To honor our veterans, we must keep the promises we have made to them. We must care for those who have been injured in the service of our country. We must honor and remember those who have died. And we must remember those whose fate is still undetermined. We fly the Prisoner of War flag on Veterans Day for a reason, to show that this nation will not relent until we have accounted for every one of our missing Americans. Thank you for your service. Thank you for all that you have sacrificed for this great nation. Thank you for being the backbone of America.

Major General Mark W. Lee, United States Army

MG (Dr.) Mark Lee, USA - January 03 at 07:00 AM



Thank you for remembering our dad and his service

linda baker - January 11 at 04:28 PM