



Benjamin Greer Barksdale

July 12, 1983 - March 27, 2019

Benjamin Greer Barksdale of Madison County, AL was born on July 12, 1983 in Lajes Field of the Azores, small islands off the coast of Portugal. Ben was a caring and thoughtful son to Mark and Dyanne Barksdale, evidenced by his gift-giving goal to cause tears. He respected and loved them fiercely. Born the baby of the family to older sisters Tanya Barksdale and Claire Sharp (Trey), Ben naturally had to ride in the middle of the backseat and was doomed to lose the floor is lava game. Yet even with such abuse, Ben loved and adored his older sisters, having such a strong bond to outlast earthly limits.

One of Ben's proudest lifetime achievements was his years in the Navy. He served on the USS George Washington during Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Persian Gulf. He was a relatively shy introvert, but became very animated and unreserved when sharing stories related to this time. His comrades and men with whom he served held a special place in his heart. No matter the distance of place or time, he felt very close to these souls.

Ben could be characterized as an 80-year-old man in a 35-year-old body. As in grumpy, and "get off my lawn." But don't let that persona fool you. Ben adored animals and devoted some of his time and money to animal rescue. He really did like people; he helped those in need very quietly but still with compassion and, most importantly, with respect.

Ben treasured being able to work with his hands. He appreciated his woodworking shop, where he created and put such love in everything he built. His home was filled with projects, both big and small. He wanted his finished work to be touched and felt, leaving a piece of him on earth for us to cherish.

He had a passion for music and talent for playing guitar. Many an afternoon, the house would reverberate with Dave Matthews Band or Jason Isbell. Not only playing, he also enjoyed refurbishing and recreating guitars. His work was with precision and attention to detail.

Ben married his fellow dork and partner in crime, Michelle Townsend Barksdale, on May 9, 2015. Despite being embarrassed by his singing-and-dancing-in-public wife, he loved her with complete abandon. They went on many adventures together, whether that was hiking, driving a back-country road, going to a concert, or oogling over a car. There was music and laughter, so much laughter. Most importantly, they celebrated one another, believed in the greatness of the other, and wanted to see the other fly. Although only knowing one another for 6 ½ years, their love was genuine and profound. They had a love that knows no bounds.

Ben died on March 27, 2019 from cancer, holding the hand of his supportive wife. In the words of Stuart Scott: "You beat cancer by how you live, while you live, and in the manner in which you live." Ben beat cancer every day.

Ben desired to be cremated, with his remains scattered in Colorado and the Redwood Forest. His military marker will be located beside his Grandad's (Maurice Barksdale) grave at Athens City Cemetery. Much appreciation to his Nana (Donna Barksdale) for this kind gesture. He was extremely proud to be their grandson.

Services for Ben will be held at Limestone Chapel in Athens, AL on Saturday,

April 6. Visitation at 2 PM, Memorial Service at 3PM (Central Time). Officiated by Pastor John Tanner.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to one of the following causes. Ben would be so appreciative.

F.O.R. (Friends of Rescue) – Animal Rescue: <http://forrescue.net/donate-money/>

BeArded WARRIORS of Huntsville – a Veteran organization: www.paypal.me/BeArdedWARRIORS
or at any Redstone Federal Credit Union, deposited into the BeArded WARRIORS account

Hospice Family Care of Huntsville: <http://hospicefamilycare.org/donate.aspx>

Tribute Wall

BS

“ Sorry we can't be with you in person today for Ben's memorial. We extend our condolences to Michelle and the entire Barksdale family. Ben's and Michelle's love for each other was beautiful and will last through time and beyond. May he rest in peace.

Bob and Marcella Townsend Schmidt

Bob and Marcy Townsend Schmidt - April 06, 2019 at 10:50 AM

RJ

“ Reminding those whom you support that your thoughts are with them.

Robert, Amy, Layla, and Jameson - April 06, 2019 at 09:42 AM

RT

“ Ben lived and loved consciously, deliberately, without apology or hesitation, he was loved in return completely, unconditionally, without caveat or expectation, and he will be missed and remembered fondly by all of us who knew him best. Rest well, brother, until we see you again.

Robert Townsend - April 02, 2019 at 06:01 PM

GU

“ All, So sorry to read this. I will remember Ben as the young man who didn't quite know how to take me and Uncle Kenny messing with him. Although his time on earth was cut short he will be remembered and I am blessed to have known him. Uncle Greg

Greg Urbanowicz - April 02, 2019 at 08:50 AM

BB

“ Our hearts go out to all of you with Ben's passing. It was our privilege to know Ben during his high school years, both as a fine young man and as an employee working for Randy helping to install security systems. May God surround you with His great love and the caring words of friends. Our love and prayers,
Becky and Randy Bowles

Becky Bowles - April 01, 2019 at 09:14 PM

JS

“ We only got to know Benjamin for a very short while here at Tyonek, but we could tell that he was great worker and was going to be an asset to the company. He had a quiet personality but was eager to help wherever needed. He definitely left an impression here and will be missed.

Our thoughts and prayers to Benjamin's family...

James Sanchez - April 01, 2019 at 03:21 PM

JB

“ I had the honor of knowing Ben and Michelle through their work and membership with the Greenbrier Church of Christ. Ben made an immediate and positive impact on the lives of the church and he will be greatly missed. May God keep His loving and gracious hand ever on Michelle and on Ben's family. John Bryson

John Bryson - March 30, 2019 at 06:58 PM