



## Dr. James E. Barnett

November 2, 1926 - February 21, 2019

Dr. James Earle Barnett died in his home on February 21, 2019. An icon in the Greenville County medical community and devoted civic citizen, Dr. Barnett is survived by his daughters Lesha (John) Nix of Conyers, GA and Kimberly (Matt) Elliott of Greenville, SC; his daughter-in-law Annalynn Barnett of Greenville, SC; and his granddaughter Margaret Nix of San Francisco, CA. He is also survived by his brother George (Betty) Barnett of Easley, SC and many beloved sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews. Dr. Barnett was predeceased by his wife Alma Lee Barnett; daughter Melanie Ann Barnett; son James Earle Barnett Jr.; sister Frances (Lawrence) Buchanan; and brother Charles Barnett.

Born on November 2nd 1926, James was a fixture in the Marietta community where he worked on his family's farm with his three siblings. He graduated Slater-Marietta High School (class of 1943) and entered Clemson University for one and a half years where he played on the Clemson Basketball team and trained in the Reserve Officer Training Corps. In 1945, he joined the United States Army and served in the first occupational forces in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Upon returning home, he re-entered Clemson University and finished pre-med in 1949.

His sense of adventure was cultivated in the Pacific, and after graduation, James decided to venture on a grand 11,000 mile journey to drive the newly paved Alaskan Highway with his dear friends and their 18-month old baby. This trip became a source of infinite stories of his resourcefulness and

scrappiness.

In 1950, James married Alma Lee Murray and immediately moved to Charleston, SC for James to attend the Medical University of South Carolina. Following his internship in Greenville, SC, the couple settled in Travelers Rest and Dr. James Barnett began his work as a family physician with Doctors Landrum McCarrell and John Holliday. Serving many generations of Greenville County residents, Dr. Barnett was known for his meticulous and thorough care, as well as a keen eye for early detection of life threatening diseases.

Over the next decade, Dr. Barnett's devotion to his patients and the community inspired him to become involved in local politics. After noticing that his patients were becoming gravely ill due to no sewer system and limited water lines, Dr. Barnett began petitioning for change. As a result, he ran for Mayor of Travelers Rest in 1969 on the platform of bringing much needed infrastructure - specifically a sewer system and clean water - to all parts of the community. During his two terms in office, he was successful in achieving his goal, and in the process, he passionately paved the way for the YMCA, the Travelers Rest Library and the Greenville Hospital System outpost - all to be realized after his terms in office. Given his focus on clean water, he was appointed and served on the governing board of the Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority for 19 years, the last 5 years as chairman.

Dr. Barnett continued to invest in his community throughout his lifetime. He was a longtime member and leader in the Travelers Rest United Methodist Church (TRUMC) and served on the Blue Ridge Council Boy Scouts of America, along with many other civic organizations within the community. His passion for Clemson - especially Clemson football - never diminished, and he spent over 40 years as a stands' doctor at Clemson Memorial Stadium.

After 50 years of practicing family medicine, Dr. Barnett retired at the age of 76 to Marietta, SC with Lee. Investing time in his favorite hobbies including auto-repair, gardening and woodworking at his one-man sawmill, he also

found time to become involved in his Marietta community. Additionally, he spent the next 10 years caring for Lee who suffered from Progressive Supranuclear Palsy.

In 2018, to honor Dr. Barnett's decades of service to Greenville County, the SC General Assembly renamed the US 276 (Greer Highway) and SC 288 (Pumpkintown Highway) intersection in Marietta in his honor. It is fitting that these roads lead to the patients and the mountains he so loved.

The family would like to extend their deep gratitude to the committed caregivers and friends who lovingly devoted themselves to Dr. Barnett every day over the past several years.

Funeral services will be held Monday, February 25 at TRUMC at 3:00 p.m.

The family will receive friends prior to the service at 1:30 p.m. Burial will be at Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Travelers Rest United Methodist Church, 19 S Main St, Travelers Rest, SC 29690

The family is at home. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at [www.howzemortuary.com](http://www.howzemortuary.com).

The Howze Mortuary, Travelers Rest, is in charge of arrangements. 864-834-8051.

# Cemetery Details

## Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery

28 Ebenezer Church Road  
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **25**. 1:30 PM - 2:50 PM (ET)

Travelers Rest United Methodist Church  
19 South Main Street  
Travelers Rest, SC

## Church Service

FEB **25**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Travelers Rest United Methodist Church  
19 South Main Street  
Travelers Rest, SC

# Tribute Wall

WB

“ I could only think of one expression when i learned of Jims passing ,the great physician is now in the company of the Great PHYSICIAN. I had the great honor of knowing him for over 55 years,he was more than a doctor. To me he was a mentor ,comforter,advisor, friend, confidant and a stone to support me through the hardest times , and there have been many, he and i helped each other whenever either of us had a need for help. MY doctor did not just heal the body, he healed many souls, rescued human spirits, comforted those who mourned, and was always there for support and a gentle word that calmed and reassured everyone.It is with a heavy heart that i say goodbye. I have known a few good men, none who had his devotion to others, and nobility. May God bless you all at this time,he will always be respected and remembered, for he gently helped and touched so many.  
with deepest sympathy  
Walt Bowers

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**WALT BOWERS** - February 25, 2019 at 01:33 PM

JB

“ So sad to hear Dr Barnett's passing he was family dr for years Plus he was a customer of lumber company He and Dad became good friends We love your entire family and our thoughts and prayers are with you all

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**Janet Peterson Bridges** - February 25, 2019 at 12:15 PM



“ Kim and Lesha, I am so sorry to hear of your dad's death. I lost both my parents last summer, and it is truly a chapter of your lives closing. My heart is with you all.  
Love, Jane Irwin Parkinson Lynch

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**Jane Lynch** - February 25, 2019 at 09:04 AM

BD

“ Dear family of Dr Barnett my heart goes out to you. He was a wonderful friend to my dad Robert Childs.  
Love Barbara Childs Daniel

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**Barbara Childs Daniel** - February 24, 2019 at 11:36 AM

PB

“ Dear Lesha, Kim and family,  
My heart is heavy of hearing the news about your dad. He was a wonderful and kind man. My dad thought of him not only is his closest cousin but best friend. Oh, the stories they would tell of growing up. My mom was one of his high school teachers. She always properly called him James even though my dad called him Jim. Dad always made sure we stopped at your house on Christmas morning. I think he wanted to sample your mom's wonderful cooking... Oh she could cook. Memories come flooding when I think of your family. I wish I could be there for his service on Monday. Heartfelt love and sympathy. Love to you all.  
Patra Cox Bugg

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**Patra Cox Bugg** - February 24, 2019 at 10:43 AM

RA

“ So many of us who grew up in Travelers Rest have such fond memories of Dr. Barnett, Dr. Holiday and Dr. McCarrell. Those were the wonderful days of Travelers Rest History that I really miss. Sincere condolences to your family on the loss of this very nice man.

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**Rev. K. Scott Ayers** - February 24, 2019 at 09:41 AM

AA

“ Lesha, Kim, Margaret and Family;  
We just want you to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers  
at this time. We loved your Dad, and Mom, they were great  
neighbors for many years.. Dr. Barnett was a very special man and  
will be greatly missed..  
Love  
Charlie and Annie Anderson

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**Annie Anderson** - February 24, 2019 at 09:06 AM

RW

“ Reva Wilson lit a candle in memory of Dr.  
James E. Barnett



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**Reva Wilson** - February 24, 2019 at 05:26 AM

SC

“ Shelia Carter lit a candle in memory of Dr.  
James E. Barnett



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**Shelia Carter** - February 23, 2019 at 08:14 PM

KB

“ A very sweet man who always had a smile  
and a friendly word. He will be greatly missed  
at TRUMC.



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**Karen Bryant** - February 23, 2019 at 06:49 PM

Cindy  
Lou  
Stamey

“ *Cindy Lou Stamey lit a candle in memory of  
Dr. James E. Barnett*



Cindy Lou Stamey - February 23, 2019 at 02:42 PM

RB

“ *"Doc" Barnett was a great man who cared deeply about his family  
and his community. He was a positive role model for many of us! It  
was an honor to know him! So many fond memories....*

Rick Blackwell - February 23, 2019 at 08:32 AM

PH

*Dr Barnett was my Dr for many years.He was also my husbands Dr .He  
was also our friend.He was a wonderful person.He cared for his family  
and his community.He will be missed.*

Patricia Hightower - February 23, 2019 at 09:37 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for  
the family of Dr. James E. Barnett.*



February 22, 2019 at 07:27 PM

MT

“ A cousin and our family doctor. I will never forget his kindness when our Dad died. He and Dad had known each other their entire lives and here Dad was in his office at only 43 years old and he kept saying to me how sorry he was for the world that he could not save such a good man. Dr B, you were a healing, kind physician and all who knew you were the better for it.

Mary Lee (Guest) Thilman - February 22, 2019 at 07:21 PM

HJ

“ Dr.Barnett was a wonderful and kind person . He took care of my family since I was a little girl. He went to school with my mother . My prayers are with his family. He was like family to us so we share your lost also.

Huetta Duncan Jackson - February 22, 2019 at 07:18 PM



“ I loved Dr. Barnett !! He delivered me at Greenville General 58 years ago. And then he was my doctor for years!! He will forever hold a place in my heart !!



Bernice James - February 22, 2019 at 07:13 PM

PJ

“ Dr Barnett's delivered me and my sister into the world, my mom and I was sad to hear of his passing, he helped so many people to heal and feel better. Rest In Peace sir



Pamela Johnson - February 22, 2019 at 05:44 PM

LL

“ dr

*was a great person i will miss him and our talks*

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**Lawrence Ledford** - February 22, 2019 at 03:37 PM

PP

“ *Praying for the family at this difficult time. Dr B was loved and always a pleasure to see him in Stax's Original Restaurant. .no matter which server he sat with at one time or another we all would make our rounds to see him and get a hug. RIP Dr B..you will truly be missed.*



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**Patricia Painter** - February 22, 2019 at 01:48 PM

CW

“ *Wow, what a fabulous man. so very sorry for your loss. god bless and give you peace and comfort in your hearts. god gained a precious angel. you are in my prayers.*  
*Charlotte Cantrell Walters*

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**charlotte walters** - February 22, 2019 at 09:27 AM



“ *We will always remember him, my grandma would take and make him cakes, whether it was a pound cake or Coconut Cake. He loved them. Our condolences to the family you are in our prayers!*  
*Dora Green & (Cash family)*

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**Dora Wilson-Green** - February 22, 2019 at 07:55 AM

JT

“ *Joyce King Thorne lit a candle in memory of Dr. James E. Barnett*



**Joyce King Thorne** - February 22, 2019 at 06:13 AM

JT

“ *Joyce King Thorne lit a candle in memory of Dr. James E. Barnett*



**Joyce King Thorne** - February 21, 2019 at 07:51 PM

PS

“ *Wonderful Doctor and friend.*



**Pauline Segar** - February 21, 2019 at 06:28 PM

JG

“ *Janet Buchanan Gravely lit a candle in memory of Dr. James E. Barnett*



**Janet Buchanan Gravely** - February 21, 2019 at 04:54 PM

SS

“ *Very sorry to hear of your loss. Dr. Barnett was my family Doctor until was grown. My mother was in the same class with him in high school. My first job was in his office during a summer when I was out of nursing school.*

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**Susan Wright Smith** - February 21, 2019 at 02:48 PM

FP

“ *Frankie Pace lit a candle in memory of Dr. James E. Barnett*



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**Frankie Pace** - February 21, 2019 at 02:38 PM

TT

“ *Tracey & Scott Tate lit a candle in memory of Dr. James E. Barnett*



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**Tracey & Scott Tate** - February 21, 2019 at 01:49 PM

AB

“ *Annie Mae Blackburn lit a candle in memory of Dr. James E. Barnett*



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**Annie Mae Blackburn** - February 21, 2019 at 01:22 PM