



Herman J. Baker Jr.

November 14, 1933 - October 26, 2020

Herman Jennings Baker, Jr., age 86, of Little Switzerland, North Carolina, passed away on October 25, 2020, surrounded in love by his children. He is reunited with his beloved wife, Dawn, parents, Herman and Violet, and lifelong friend and brother-in-law, Joe Long.

Herman was born on November 14, 1933 in Wise, Virginia, the second of six children to the late Herman Jennings Baker, Sr. and Violet Lipps Baker. He was raised in Bristol, Virginia and graduated from Virginia High School in 1952. He attended Washington and Lee University before serving in the U.S. Army. After completing his military service, he played football for Clemson University and graduated with a BS in Chemical Engineering. While at Clemson, he met and married his wife of 54 years, Dawn Jacobs Baker of Johnson City, Tennessee.

Herman had a fulfilling engineering career which took he and Dawn, and their children, Mary, Eric, and Carl, to homes in several states and abroad to Iran, cultivating many cherished friendships along the way. The final stop was in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where he spent the longest stint of his career. When he retired from Arcadian Corporation in 1992 as the Western Region District Manager, he was responsible for four ammonia plant complexes in several states. After retirement, he used his skills and gifts to pursue a personal dream. He designed and built a beautiful home in the Blue Ridge Mountains so he could live closer to his parents and extended family. He chose Little Switzerland because of its beauty and the Swiss heritage of his mother.

Herman and Dawn shared the gift of hospitality and enjoyed hosting family and friends in their home. He continued this after her passing and looked forward to having visitors. Throughout his life he was always busy either building or repairing something and enjoyed listening to classical music while he worked. He was an avid fan of all sports with an intense passion for football. A few of his favorite teams included Clemson, Virginia Tech, and LSU, and he amused his Louisiana friends when he told them that he played football for the “real” Tigers. Despite the many accomplishments he made, his greatest joy was spending time with his family. Known as “Granddaddy” or “Uncle Herman” to the younger

generations, he held large Thanksgiving celebrations in his mountain home and looked forward to the family beach trip each summer which was a tradition started by his parents. He loved history and had a great interest in genealogy studies. He had a tender spot for animals and will be greatly missed by his dog, Ruby, who spent his last years with him.

Herman is survived by his daughter Mary Baker Vaught and husband David of Charlotte, NC; son Henry Eric Baker of Prairieville, LA; son Carl Elex Baker and wife Robin of Baton Rouge, LA; four grandchildren, Allison Vaught Lawing and husband Nathan of Maiden, NC; Matthew Richmond Baker of Layton, UT; Charlotte Baker Moss and husband Matt of Jackson, MS; David Jennings Baker of Baton Rouge, LA; a great-grandson and his mother, Luke Jacobs Baker and Ahlisha Baker of Glenwood, AR; siblings, Jane Baker Long of Newton, NC; Fred Baker and wife Peggy of Knoxville, TN; Nancy Baker Long and husband Phil of Simpsonville, SC; Doris Baker Gallagher and husband Fred of Lynchburg, VA; and Carter Baker and wife Beverly of Bristol, VA. His many nieces and nephews will mourn the loss of their Uncle Herman who never grew tired of telling them family stories.

A funeral service will be held in the chapel at the Webb Funeral Home in Spruce Pine, North Carolina at noon on Thursday, November 5, 2020. The family will be receiving visitors at 11:00 a.m., before the service. Burial will take place at the Spruce Pine Memorial Cemetery following the service.

Pallbearers will be Matthew Baker, David Baker, Fred Baker, Jr., Rodney Gallagher, Nathan Lawing, Jett Phillips, Brian Richmond, and Robert Thress. Honorary pallbearers will be Paul Badame, James D. "Moe" Richmond, Jr., and Robert "Bob" Stewart.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his honor to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, P.O. Box 4125, Houston, Texas, 77210-4125, or <https://www.nationalmssociety.org/Donate>.

Due to the current COVID-19 regulations, our staff is committed to taking care of our guests and families that we serve. Please understand we will be following the State's COVID guidelines. We also ask all guests and family members attending the graveside service to please bring and wear a mask.

Words of comfort may be e-mailed to the family by going to our website; <http://www.webbfh.com>., selecting Herman Baker, Jr's. name and then you may sign his guestbook. Webb Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements for Mr. Baker and is honored to be serving the Baker family. Mr. Baker's obituary has also been posted on Facebook for viewing.

Cemetery

Spruce Pine Memorial Cemetery

Hwy 226

Spruce Pine, NC, 28777

Events

NOV **Visitation** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

5

Webb Funeral Home Chapel

128 Roan Rd., Spruce Pine, NC, US, 28777

NOV **Service** 12:00PM

5

Webb Funeral Home Chapel

128 Roan Rd., Spruce Pine, NC, US, 28777

Comments



“ Herman my father-in-law who passed one year ago today was an energetic pursuer of a never ending to do list of challenges most people would never identify much less attempt. I loved him, respected him and learned much from him. The following quote from a man of similar ilk seems a fitting tribute to the man as I saw him.

Teddy Roosevelt “Man in the Arena”

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

David Vaught - October 25 at 09:59 PM



“ Roger Lipps lit a candle in memory of Herman J. Baker Jr.



Roger Lipps - November 05, 2020 at 01:34 AM



“ Condolences and thoughts to Herman's extended family from the Lipps family in Wise, Co., VA.

Roger Lipps - November 05, 2020 at 01:32 AM



“ Roger H Lipps lit a candle in memory of Herman J. Baker Jr.



Roger H Lipps - November 05, 2020 at 01:28 AM



“ To the Baker Children: Am so sorry to read about the passing of your Father. I am Connie Bullock, twin to Carole & sister to Charlotte & Claudia. (Family of Dr. Charles Foxworth Bullock & Dorothy). I think it appropriate to share the impact your Dad had on my thinking as a child, growing up in Bristol, Va. His love for his wife & family, his work ethics so impressed me. Doris spent much time with our family & was loved as one of us- Charlotte's very best friend. As a very young child, I remember hearing about each of you & through the years, although you were all much older, & probably had no idea the twins were listening, watching & learning- we were & we did. I do thank God for your Dad & Mother & for having such outstanding children. In my mind, Mr. Baker's children, all, set high standards & were examples that impacted the many neighborhood children. West Bristol was an outstanding place to raise a family. A little piece of heaven. I believe we were influenced by some of God's best. Your Dad will certainly be missed, but he has left the best part of himself in each of you... Thanks again, Mr. Baker & thanks to each of you... (Chaplain Connie Bullock Lambert)

Chaplain Connie Bullock Lambert - June 22 at 07:47 AM



“ Condolences and thoughts to Herman's family from Lipps family in Wise, Co. , VA

Roger H Lipps - November 05, 2020 at 01:26 AM



“ My name is Roger Lipps, the son of the late George R. and Peggy Lipps, Wise, Co Va. I met Herman and Dawn in September 2003 and both were so welcoming and nice people.

I always got a big laugh when Herman would tell a wild tale, so much like Uncle Bake. On behalf of the Lipps family I offer thoughts and condolences to Herman's family.

Roger H Lipps - November 04, 2020 at 04:09 PM



“ Nutrien-Geismar, LA purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Herman J. Baker Jr..



Nutrien-Geismar, LA - November 04, 2020 at 12:44 PM



“ Ever Upward Bouquet was purchased for the family of Herman J. Baker Jr..



November 04, 2020 at 11:52 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Herman J. Baker Jr..



November 03, 2020 at 04:05 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Herman J. Baker Jr..



November 02, 2020 at 09:08 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Herman J. Baker Jr..



November 02, 2020 at 02:00 PM



“ My name is Victoria Ledford O'Connor and I am writing on behalf of my parents, Ted and Eleanor Ledford. Ted and Eleanor live in Little Switzerland and were friends with Hetman and Dawn for many, many years. My parents have asked that I convey to the family their deepest condolences on Herman's passing. They cherish many, many fond memories of laughing, eating and visiting with Herman and Dawn over the years. Herman and Dawn were two of the most generous and inviting people my parents have known. Herman will be sorely missed at the Wednesday Men's Coffee gathering. He leaves a hole in the community which cannot be replaced. May he Rest In Peace.

Ted & Eleanor Ledford - November 01, 2020 at 06:45 PM



“ My name is Lil Arrants. I am Jack Arrants wife. I just wanted to let you, Herman's family, know how sad I was to hear of Herman's death. I was hoping to meet him this fall during football season. I grew up in Clemson, S.C. where Herman played football in college. my father was Banks McFadden and he coached Herman. We had spoken on the phone about those times. We keep a condo at Clemson to go back for games, but then covid came and stopped us. Jack is 89 now. My husband, jack played football in high school with Herman and has many fond memories of him. They kept touch by phone the last few years and met up at Clemson last year for a football game. Jack will write some of his memories later. We will be thinking of you all and sharing your sorrow . May God bless you and give you peace.
Lil Arrants

lil Arrants - October 31, 2020 at 02:27 PM



“ Thank you, Lil. I am Mary Baker Vaught, Herman's daughter, and although I never met Jack, I heard dad speak of him with fondness and admiration many times over the years. I'm thankful for their friendship and wish you both the best. I would love to hear Jack's memories too.

Mary B. Vaught - January 15 at 07:17 AM



“ Praying for the family Herman was a good man good friend and will be dearly missed from Johnny Husking lawn service and firewood

Tonya Beaver - October 30, 2020 at 08:14 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to the family. I grew up “around the corner”, and went to school with Carter. those were the days.
Claudia Bullock Taylor, sister of Charlotte (Lytz), Connie (Lambert) and Carole (Yeager) Bullock.

Claudia Bullock Taylor - October 28, 2020 at 05:25 PM



“ Jeanne S McClellan lit a candle in memory of Herman J. Baker Jr.



Jeanne S McClellan - October 27, 2020 at 05:56 PM