



Charles Oliver Barker

October 7, 1945 - June 8, 2023

Charles Oliver Barker MD, MPH, MTS was born in Waycross, GA on Oct. 7, 1945 to Gilbert Harrison Barker and Lucy Jay Baker Barker. He grew up in Valdosta, GA and graduated from Valdosta High School and Emory University.

He received his graduate education and training at Emory University School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, and Southern Methodist University Perkins School of Theology. He obtained board certifications in both Family Medicine and Aerospace Medicine, spending fifteen years in private practice and twenty years in Navy Medicine. In 2010 he affirmed the Charter for Compassion and founded Compassionate Dallas/Fort Worth, a non-profit organization that promotes the Charter for Compassion, the value of compassion and compassionate action in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex with the Golden Rule as its core operating principle. He served as Chair of the Board of Trustees, and on the Governance Committee of the international Charter for Compassion. Dr. Barker's primary interest was in compassion cultivation education and training. He was a certified facilitator of Compassion Integrity Training and facilitated medical school ethics sessions at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, collaborating with faculty on studying the effectiveness of compassion cultivation training and education of medical students. He is the author of a book centered on being and becoming excellent, a series of reflections. He was a member of St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church in Richardson, Texas where he served as an elder and

Chair of the Outreach Committee.

He is survived by his wife Conoly, children Emma and Sean McDonald, Tom and Shannon Barker, Lucy and Shane Durbin, grandchildren Joshua McDonald, Kyle and Manda Casimir, Aidan Casimir, Benny Durbin, Finna Barker, and Leo Barker. 'Adoptive' grandchildren are Ahmet Tas, Ebru and Jumaly Dzhumayev and great-grandson Alper Ali.

The family is requesting donations be made to the Charter for Compassion's Barker-Campbell Endowment Fund (<https://charterforcompassion.org/endowment>) or to St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, memo Outreach Committee, 1220 W. Belt Line Rd, Richardson, TX 75080.

Cemetery Details

Eloise Woods Natural Burial Park

115 Northside Lane
Cedar Creek, TX 78612

Tribute Wall

WG

“ *Dr Barker, also Charles to my parents Grif and Lucile Griffin, was a true friend and was loved. Grif was a fully disabled Air Force veteran, and Charles was present consistently in my parents' life as a source of comfort and advice, as my parents adapted to disability and caregiving. Dr Barker came to visit us as recently as 2015. I hoped to speak to him and find that he has passed. My love and best to the family, and from my parents.*

Will Griffin - January 30, 2024 at 02:04 PM

LW

“ *Charlie was my dear friend in college at Emory and when we worked together one summer in Washington. His kindness for and to everyone was unrelenting. His respect and yearning for knowledge was constant. Much to my regret we lost touch after college.*
Larry Woods

Larry Woods - December 22, 2023 at 06:15 PM

HH

“ *I remember the good times we had racing the go carts at the track just south of Valdosta. He always won because he was lighter than me by many pounds. I remember hanging out with him as he worked on his science project of cancer in mice. He was already at Emory when I was selected for All State Chorus, I was allowed to spend my nights in his room at the frat house. I jokingly told him that I didn't really like him but that my mom wanted me to be near him in hopes that some of his intelligence would rub off on me. It never did! I will attend our class' 60th reunion tonight missing my friend Charlie. Rest in Peace Charles, I love you.*

Henry Harnage - October 21, 2023 at 06:24 AM

CM

“ *Dr. Charles was my dear friend and Ethics Facilitator in the Sprague Academic Colleges' group at UTSW Medical Center. He always exemplified empathy, kindness, and compassion and was a role model for students, staff, and faculty. He will be missed. My condolences to the family.*

Clarice Grimes MD, MPH

Clarice Grimes MD, MPH - August 29, 2023 at 01:27 PM

RH

“ It was a great blessing to have met and known Dr. Charles Barker, as he took my class in World Religions and Christianity (Interfaith Studies) at Perkins School of Theology, after having re-tired from what was already a life of dedicated service for others through having provided medical and health care services for so many. He was not only an outstanding (lifelong) student, he excelled and exceeded what was required in class, by choosing a summative thesis theme that required him to go out and visit and interview members of different religious communities in the DFW area and find connections with them. This carried over into his work after graduating with a Master's degree in theology, as he joined and took on a leadership role in Compassionate DFW, which called on all people living in the area to live more compassionate lives, advocating for policies that embodied compassion and not exclusion,

In this capacity, he came to our Zen community of the Maria Kannon Zen Center, together with some of his teammates, to lead us in a workshop on how to be a more compassionate person in society. We continued to be in connection through the years. He was a participant and significant voice at the periodic gatherings of the Parliament of the World's Religions, opening up and coordinating a booth with exhibits of Compassionate DFW in cooperation with interfaith groups in the DFW area. He gave us an example of how we can live a life totally given over to the service of others, and in doing so, finding joy, living in gratitude, and constantly having one's heart open to the cries of the world, responding to the needs of the community as one is able. We will miss his presence among us, but he will continue to live on in our hearts.

*Ruben L.F. Habito
Perkins School of Theology
Maria Kannon Zen Center
Dallas, Texas*

Ruben Habito - July 02, 2023 at 01:23 PM

MV

He was an awesome person and doctor , so compassionate for others always, I had the honor of working for him while he was in Valdosta. He is going to be missed by everyone who knew him. He had a wonderful family . When I told him that I was praying for him, he asked me to please pray for his wife Conoly who was his caretaker also.

Maria Vick - July 14, 2023 at 11:16 AM

SG

“ I had the pleasure of meeting and working with CAPT Barker at Naval Hospital Roosevelt Rhodes, PR. A warm, caring XO always an open door. My sincere sympathies to Mrs Barker and family. I know God will keep you in his arms. CDR Sue Gianino

Sue Gianino - July 01, 2023 at 10:31 AM

AW

“ I started working with Charlie in 2015 when he was bringing a meal packing event to the DFW area for Compassionate Richardson/DFW. We worked together for many months every year until 2022. I will miss his heart for the community and bringing all faiths together for a give back event. He will be missed!



Amanda Weber - June 28, 2023 at 04:36 PM

 Debbie Rima

“ Dr. Barker reached out to me as a leader of GLOWS and invited me to join Richardson Interfaith Alliance which brought me in touch with so many wonderful people. He was a true believer in taking care of others, especially those less fortunate. God bless you for all of your kindness and love of others Dr. Barker!! Please continue to guide us from heaven!!!

Debbie Rima - June 27, 2023 at 07:52 AM

WD

“ I knew Charles in high school 1961-1962. He was a very intelligent student and destined to achieve greatness in his lifetime. The obituary is that of a man who made a great contribution to society! In late 70's and early 80's Dr. Barker was my primary physician. In fact, he diagnosed my kidney stone and referred me to Shand's Hospital for the new Lithotripsy procedure. Dr. Barker was a kind and caring physician and a man of outstanding character. My sincere condolences to the family and friends who have suffered a great loss.

W. Perry Dasher
Valdosta, GA

Walter Perry Dasher - June 24, 2023 at 06:13 AM

LA

“ He was one of the most profound, kind, fair, and justice leaders I worked under. I remember our last meeting before my husband, infant, and I PCS'd standing in his office at attention with child in arms. He laughed and said, “seriously, at ease, sit and let me see that baby.” His fairness towards the good people was greatly respected. Thank you for an amazing 2 years at Rosie Roads. RIP, sir.

Laura - June 21, 2023 at 06:27 PM

DS

“ I had the pleasure of working with Dr Barker at Dallas MEPS. VERY sorry to hear of his passing. He was a great Dr. Great Leader! I bet he was a great husband and father

Drew Sambell - June 21, 2023 at 03:45 PM

DS

I wish I could talk to him more about his compassion organization. Will pay forward all his great qualities. GO NAVY!

Drew Sambell - June 21, 2023 at 03:48 PM

JB

“ He was one of the best XO's and person I ever met throughout my naval career. He was the epitome of what an officer should be. He would give the shirt off his back or pick you up if he saw you walking on Roosevelt Roads Naval Station. My sincere condolences to his family. RIP to the best!!

Jessica Burns - June 20, 2023 at 09:06 AM

GB

“ Ich hatte die Ehre, ihn zu treffen als er in Puerto Rico stationiert war. Ich habe ihn als eine sehr sympathische und zuvorkommende Person in Erinnerung sowie manch amüsante Unterhaltungen.

Seiner Frau und den Angehörigen mein herzliches Beileid.
Gisela Berner, Germany

Gisela Berner - June 20, 2023 at 08:48 AM

DC

“ I had the pleasure of serving under CAPT Charles Barker at Naval Hospital Roosevelt Roads while he was XO. He was a good man. A Christian man, a leader, and a mentor. One of the finest Officers I ever had the pleasure of serving with. I was a young Officer that needed guidance. He was there for me on more than one occasion. His lessons, and example of Christian leadership served me well throughout my Naval career. I have nothing but respect for CAPT Barker. Fair winds and following seas. God Speed!
CDR (Ret) David Crumbley NC, USN

David Crumbley - June 19, 2023 at 09:37 PM

JB

“ From the first day I walked into St. Barnabas in May 2007 it has been clear what a leader and mentor of so many Charlie was. I have never met a finer man than he. He encouraged me in our Outreach endeavors, especially the blood drives, and I will sorely miss him.



John Kevin Bean - June 18, 2023 at 06:25 PM

RW

“ I remember Charlie's smile, kindness towards others and his work with the Interfaith Community. His compassionate heart reached out to everyone he met. It was always a joy to see him at Retreat House Spirituality Center.
Peace and Blessings,
Rev. Sherry Ward



Rev. Sherry Ward - June 17, 2023 at 06:19 PM

MO

“ I have admired Charlie Barker for many years. His faith and his compassion are such an inspiration. I imagine he is watching over his loved ones even now.

Mary Pope Osborne - June 15, 2023 at 09:34 AM

RB

“ Charlie was a kind, compassionate and welcoming soul, and I never heard him say a bad thing about another person. He's greatly missed. I've no doubt that Charlie will soon be running the welcome desk in heaven.

Ron Bemis - June 12, 2023 at 03:48 PM

SF

“ Sympathies to the immediate family. Charles was a friendly bright person at all the reunions and inspiring. The last visit was a special treasure with Charles and other family members. He will be missed while he goes to heaven. Frank and Sarah Finnern

Sarah A Finnern - June 10, 2023 at 09:29 PM

MV

Dr Barker was one of a kind, I worked for him in Valdosta for 15 years, he was so compassionate for his patients. He cared about them and his staff. I hope I get to see him again one day, I know he is in heaven and he will watch over us

maria Vick - June 17, 2023 at 10:24 AM

DP

“ My Uncle Charles was the kindest man I have ever known. His life's work has been helping others in need. He was an amazing uncle whom I was able to grow closer to over the last few months. He was the one who kept the “Barker” family together. I will miss him terribly.

Deborah Parris - June 10, 2023 at 09:16 PM

DP

Godspeed Uncle Charles. I love you!❤️

Deborah Parris - June 10, 2023 at 09:29 PM

KB

“ *Little did we know that this would be our last visit with Charles and Conoly Even with his diagnosis on everyone's minds, we all managed to make the most out of this bittersweet time. Oh, how you will be missed Dear Charles. We love you ❤️*



Karene Barker - June 10, 2023 at 08:57 PM