



Barry B. Brooks Sr.

January 14, 1942 - October 2, 2023

East Longmeadow -

Husband, Father, Grandfather, Father-in-Law, Great-Grandfather passed away quietly on Monday, October 2, 2023, at the Reserve at East Longmeadow. He was 81.

Born January 14, 1942, in Washington, DC to George H. Brooks and Bernita V. (Rhodes) Brooks, he was their only child. Barry was an activist, guidance counselor, educator, coach, and mentor for most of his adult life. He began his career in Washington, DC in 1961, continuing to Springfield, MA, Warehouse Point, East Windsor, CT and UMASS Amherst to his most revered time at Amherst Regional Junior High School, now known as Amherst Middle School, finishing his career at Holyoke Community College, Holyoke, MA in 2018.

Barry was a former co-director at the Amherst ABC House, original member of The Black Men of Greater Springfield, a volunteer DJ on STCC (Springfield Technical Community College), founder of "The Group", a summer camp for young men from all backgrounds, and many more.

He loved taking pictures, being at the beach and spending time with friends and family. He will be missed by his daughter Bonnie B. Anderson and her husband Shelbert T. Anderson, Jr. of Springfield, his son Barry B. Brooks, Jr. and his wife Mellisa Brooks of Amherst and Shawna M. Cobb of Springfield,

whom he loved like a daughter. He will always be honored by his grandchildren Christopher W. Brooks and Cornell E. Brooks- Robbins, his step-grandchildren Shelbe M. Anderson and Shelbert V. Anderson and his great-granddaughter Marley V. Brooks, all of Springfield.

A celebration of Life will take place Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 2 PM at the Amherst Middle School Auditorium, 170 Chestnut Street. Amherst, MA. followed by a reception in the Middle School Café.

New England Funeral & Cremation Center, 25 Mill Street, Springfield, MA has been entrusted with the arrangements. Please visit Barry's memorial page at www.nefcc.net. for expressions of sympathy.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **28**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Amherst Middle School
170 Chestnut Street
Amherst, MA 01002

Tribute Wall

TA

“ I was accepted by Barry as a friend when I was a 1st year student in 1963. I was honored to be so as during that time period racial differences were significant. Barry was bright, articulate and had a great sense of humor. We both liked to dance and did we dance to the music of the time and to the beat of a different drummer. The world has lost another good man. Condolences Tom Adamo '67 Maine

Tom Adamo - October 10, 2024 at 04:34 PM

RL

“ Coach Brooks meant so much to so many young men and women in his community and beyond. His wisdom and heart were connected for all to see and share. I'm saddened that I couldn't attend his memorial, but gladdened that those who could shed the same tears that I am while writing this. My deepest condolences to his family. Barry Brooks will be remembered. With much love and respect. Richard LoebI

Richard LoebI - November 03, 2023 at 02:19 AM

CM

“ Mr. Brooks was a great educator and a wise man. He never lost his sense of humor even when dealing with the toughest of situations. He was a role model for many of us in the ARMS building years ago. He spoke calmly but with authority and respected all students and staff. I feel grateful our 3 children were able to know him during their time in the Amherst schools. Condolences to Mellisa and Barry Jr. and deep gratitude for caring for Mr. Brooks during his later years. You role model what family means.

Camela Moskin - October 28, 2023 at 08:37 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Barry B. Brooks Sr..

October 27, 2023 at 09:10 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Barry B. Brooks Sr..



October 27, 2023 at 09:10 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Barry B. Brooks Sr..



October 27, 2023 at 06:02 PM



“ Barry Brooks Sr. is the reason why I chose to go into education. He supported me when he was my Guidance Counselor at Amherst Junior High and all through my adult life. I'm so thankful for all of the kindness, wisdom, love, and support he gave me, and so many others, during his life. You will be remembered and greatly missed.

Talib Sadiq - October 27, 2023 at 09:16 AM



Barry, the greatest mentor I met. Soft spoken but firm and full of wise words. Thank you for all you did for our youth.

Sonia Pope - October 27, 2023 at 11:44 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Barry B. Brooks Sr..*



October 24, 2023 at 05:24 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Barry B. Brooks Sr..*



October 23, 2023 at 05:45 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Barry B. Brooks Sr..*

October 23, 2023 at 05:45 PM



“ *I started my day everyday in Mr Brooks room with Bonnie . I remember him as kind ,caring and welcoming . I was new to Amherst in 1978 . I will always be grateful for his gift of helping me feel welcome and a part of the community. I imagine my experience was not an uncommon one , I am honored to have met him Tarja Bennett- (Williams) aka Teri Bennett*

Tarja Bennett-Williams - October 22, 2023 at 09:57 AM

JS

“*Condolences to Barry's family from Phil Crafts and Joan Snowdon. We had the pleasure of working with Barry at Amherst Junior High School during the 1980's and 1990's. Barry brought kindness, thoughtful words and a twinkle in his eye to many students and to his interactions with parents and with us his colleagues. I remember one day when he brought his mother to school and introduced her around. What a special bond they had. He and Judy were pillars of the educational community in Amherst and are still sorely missed. Love and peace to you all.*

Joan Snowdon - October 20, 2023 at 12:49 PM