



William Henry Barnes

July 22, 1934 - January 20, 2025

William Henry (Bill) Barnes passed peacefully surrounded by family on January 20, 2025 in Kearney, Nebraska. William Henry Barnes was born July 22, 1934 in Wellsville, Ohio. The son of Samuel C. and Mary Francis Barnes. Bill joined the United States Air Force as a young man and served in both Korea and Viet Nam.

Bill met the love of his life, Thelma Joyce Erlewine, while stationed at the Air Base in Lincoln Nebraska. They were married on June 5, 1965. Upon retirement from the military, he and TJ, as she was lovingly referred to, returned to Ogallala to live near family. He opened and operated Barnes Cycle Center with his brother-in-law, Lyle Erlewine. In 1982 Bill and TJ moved to Tijeras, New Mexico and he began his second career as a courier for the Department of Energy. Bill and TJ traveled the world while he was in the military and later traveled the United States. First on their motorcycle and later in their 5th Wheel motor home. They saw the sights, visited family, and enjoyed attending Mountain Man events across the country. Bill also traveled and performed as a member of the Ballut Abyad Shrine Pipe Band, enchanting family and friends with his musical stylings on the bag pipes.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife Thelma Joyce Barnes, his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Lyle and Clara Erlewine, sister-in-law and brother-in-law John and Erna Rae Lee. He is survived by nieces Diane (James) Adkins,

Deon Hoffman, Quenna (Russell) Koch, Beth (Tim) Wilson, Theresa (Rick) Nowak and nephews Bryan (Chris) Lee and Jay (Dana) Lee and special caregiver, his great niece Grace Hoffman. As well as numerous other great nieces and nephews. Inurnment will be at a later date at the Santa Fe Veterans Cemetery where he will be laid to rest with his beloved wife.