



William S. Barr

May 17, 1924 - March 27, 2014

William S. Barr, 89, of Kearney formerly of Winfield, KS, died Thursday, March 27, 2014 at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. Memorial service will be held 10:00 A.M., Saturday, March 29, 2014 at the First United Methodist Church in Kearney with the Reverend Gary Main officiating. Interment will be held at a later date in Winfield, KS. Memorials are suggested to the South Western College in Winfield, KS.

William Stephen Barr was born May 17, 1924 in Petrolia, Kansas to Alice Josephine (Martin) and Vernon Edward Barr. The family moved from Chanute to Augusta, where he attended public schools, graduating from Augusta High School in 1942. Some high school honors were Citizenship A, National Honor Society, president of Hi Y, and member of student council, and Eagle Scout as well as four year band member.

He attended Ottawa University and had some credit hours from KU and Wichita U. During WWII, Barr was in the Navy at Great Lakes, Chicago and the Pacific, After completing dental school in Kansas City, he spent a short time in Winfield before returning to the Navy during the Korean War, serving at NTC San Diego, MCAS El Toro, Korea and Japan with the Marines. Upon release from active duty was encouraged to participate in the Naval Reserve, which he did with enthusiasm. Retiring after thirty five years (active and reserve), serving many years as Captain. After this he continued for twelve more years as Area Coordinator (Kansas) for the Naval Academy Information

Program (Blue and Gold). During his time with the Blue and Gold program, the number of midshipmen from Kansas more than doubled to the total number allotted Kansas.

Returning from active duty, Barr practiced dentistry in Anthony until February 1957, when he married Merle Steinberg and moved to Winfield. After her death, he married Christine Underwood in Ottawa in 1997.

He was a life member of the Naval Reserve Association. Long time member of the Navy League, American Legion, life member of the American Dental Association, and the Alumni Association of the UMKC School of Dentistry. Was secretary-treasurer and president of the Southern District Dental Society, member of the Wichita Chapter of the Academy of General Dentistry and president of the Kansas Academy of general Dentistry, and fellow of the AGD.

He was a thirty five year member of the Winfield Lions Cub, serving as president twice, twenty five years apart. Member of the national Audubon Society and on the board of directors of the Wichita Audubon and the Chaplin Nature Center. Served a three year term representing Cowley Count on the board of Aging Projects, Inc., a ten county agency.

Was a supporter of several Native American charities, and was a charter member of the National Museum of the American Indian.

Was a twenty-six year participant in the Harvard School of Public Health, Health Professionals Follow-up Study.

Last but no means least was a long time member of Grace United Methodist Church in Winfield, Kansas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Virginia Elizabeth Clark and

first wife. He is survived by wife Christine Gangwish Underwood Barr and her five children, Clark Underwood (Springfield, MO); Douglas Underwood (Lawrence, KS); Carol Underwood (Potomac, MD); Bruce Underwood (Indian Wells, CA); and Jean Underwood (Cedar Rapids, IA), as well as seven step-grandchildren

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR **29**. 10:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
4500 Linden Drive
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall



“ *William S. Barr*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *All members of the UMKC dental community mourn the passing of Dr. Barr, a member of the DDS Class of 1949. On behalf of our faculty, students, staff and alumni, we wish to convey our heartfelt sympathies to Dr. Barr's family.*

Dean Marsha Pyle - March 31, 2014 at 03:16 PM