



William G. Baker

November 12, 1942 - June 20, 2009

William G. Baker, 66, died Saturday, June 20, 2009. A lifelong resident of New Castle, he was born in Henry County, a son of the late Leah Ledgerwood Baker McIntyre and Carl Baker.

Bill enjoyed playing golf (most of the time), traveling, and sharing stories with a “small hint of the truth” with friends and family.

He graduated from New Castle High School in 1961 and Earlham College in 1965. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Indiana University Law School, Indianapolis, in 1970 and from George Washington University Law School with a masters degree in urban law in 1972.

After law school, Baker was a trial attorney in the Civil Division, US Department of Justice, and later a special assistant to the Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division, US Department of Justice.

Baker was an attorney in New Castle since 1973. He was active in citizenship education through the Indiana Bar Association and the Center for Civic Education. He was one of the founding fathers of the “We the People-the Citizen and the Constitution” program and the longest serving chair of Indiana’s Citizenship Education Advisory Committee, and a member of the Center for Civic Education’s National Advisory Committee. He was chair of Governor Orr’s Committee on Civic Education; and a member of Indiana Bar Association’s Bicentennial Commission (Constitution and Bill of Rights).

He was the attorney for the New Castle Community School Corporation for 30 years. He served on the Burkett scholarship committee for the Henry County

Foundation and was a member of the Rotary Club and First Friends Meeting. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Jane; son, Jay (wife: Jeanne) Baker of Sullivan, IN; daughter, Jill (husband: Aaron) Smith of East Grand Rapids, MI; granddaughters, Kayla and Emma; brother, Jon (wife: Sharon) Baker of Connersville, IN; mother-in-law, Garnet Showalter of Muncie, IN; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at First Friends Meeting, New Castle.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Burkett Scholarship Fund/Henry County Foundation P.O. 6006, New Castle, IN 47362 or www.henrycountycf.org or the Indiana Bar Foundation Civic Education Fund 230 E. Ohio St., 4th Floor, Indianapolis, IN 46204 or www.inbf.org.

Arrangements are in the care of Sproles Family Funeral Home. You may send the family a personal condolence at www.sprolesfamilycares.com.

Tribute Wall

GM

“ *What a great life of service to others! Bill set an example for so many of us with his keen intellect and his passion for civic education. Our future will be brighter because Bill was among us.*

Gary Marx - August 05, 2009 at 04:15 PM

DS

“ *Jay, Mrs. Baker, Jill and the Baker family, I am so sorry to learn of your father, husband & grandfathers death. At a time like this, we are at a loss for words to express our condolence to someone who has lost a loved one. How to say it to bring comfort? How to say that we care? How to say that we understand? Remember that death ends a life, but not a relationship. And I know that you and your family shared a loving relationship with your dad that will never be forgotten. Praying for friends to comfort you, faith to uphold you, and loving memories to help you smile again.*

Doug Sutherland - June 24, 2009 at 01:09 PM

KG

“ *William G. Baker*

Katie GREEN - June 24, 2009 at 11:51 AM

JM

“ To Jane and family: My deepest sympathy to you and to all whose lives were touched by my cousin Bill. I still recall those days in Newberry when we would play in Grandma and Granddad Baker's yard in the summertime. He was such a sweet little boy. When he was a teenager Granddad Baker was very proud of his excellence in basketball and went to his practices whenever he could. The last time I saw Bill was at Uncle Carl's funeral. Afterward, Bill and I sat up late reminiscing about those bygone days in Newberry. With love, Cousin Janet

Janet Wakins Masoner - June 24, 2009 at 10:27 AM

DW

“ May God give your family strength and heal the pain in your hearts. What a great loss to everyone in this community.

Darlene White - June 23, 2009 at 01:03 PM

LM

“ Jane - So sorry to hear about Billy. I left indiana at the age of 9 so I can't tell you any childhood stories but I can tell you I remember what a sweet little boy he was. My sister(Janet)and I are the daughters of Carl's sister Clouris. We had an opportunity to meet you and see Billy again when Carl died. Please know that we are thinking of you and your family and send our sincere sympathy. I know he was a wonderful man and gave so much back to your community. Lois

Lois Watkins Matesa - June 23, 2009 at 11:14 AM

CC

“ *To the Baker Family,
I am very sorry to hear of your loss. Bill was a great champion of civic education and without his efforts, teachers like me would not have the opportunities that we have today.
He will be missed by many people.
Sincerely,
Chris Cavanaugh*

chris cavanaugh - June 23, 2009 at 11:14 AM

MP

“ *Dear Jane, Jay, Jill and family:
Our deepest sympathy goes out to your family at this time. Bill was a great man and I always enjoyed his company. It was obvious that he loved his family and cared about others. The New Castle community has lost a great friend. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Sincerely,
The Penrose Family Mike, Joy, Emma, Jacob*

Mike Penrose - June 23, 2009 at 10:17 AM

PK

“ *Jane and family, I am glad to have known Bill. His life and presence will be greatly missed by many as well as his family. You will be in our thoughts and prayers as you work with the grief of this great loss in your family. Bill's participation in the Rotary Club was an inspiration to me. He demonstrated a caring attitude toward those with whom he was around and had a reputation as a good and caring person and legal counselor. God Bless with a special measure of Faith, Hope and Love. Phil King*

Phil King - June 23, 2009 at 10:01 AM

SL

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Bill Bakers's family. I remember Bill best from his association with the WE THE PEOPLE programs, starting when he brought the programs to my late husband Jack Lyle's attention over 20 years ago. Thank you Bill for your many contributions to your community, your state and your country. You were a good American and Patriot.*

Sandi Lyle - June 23, 2009 at 08:51 AM

JK

“ *Dear Jill, Aaron, and Family, Your friends at East Middle School and throughout the East Community are thinking of you and are so very sorry for your loss. Many of us met your father at your wedding and realized very quickly he was a very special man that loved his family very much. Take care of each other during this difficult time and please let us know if there is anything we can do. Sincerely, East Middle School Friends*

Joann Kuklewski - June 22, 2009 at 06:50 PM

KN

“ *Jane, Jill, and family, Sorry to learn of Bill's passing. Praying for God's comfort and strength for you all in this difficult time. May you be comforted by the love and prayers of family and friends. Kevin Niles*

Kevin Niles - June 22, 2009 at 11:58 AM

KS

“ Sending our love and sympathies to our dear friend Jill and the entire Baker Family. You are all very much in our thoughts and prayers.

*With love from Australia,
Kerri, Winsome & John xxx*

Kerri Stephenson - June 22, 2009 at 10:30 AM

NH

“ We are SO SO Sorry to read about Bill. Our deepest condolences to his wife, children, and family. We were classmates at Chrysler High School & have seen him professionally in recent years. He was a GREAT GUY and will be sorely missed.

Nancy (Reynolds) & Dave Hargiss - June 21, 2009 at 11:02 PM