



## Ralph L Barnes

October 2, 1936 - August 2, 2017

Late last week, Frankfort lost one of its Old Guard, Ralph L. Barnes. Ralph loved books. He loved history. He loved people. At 80, Ralph was still the life of the party, a master at the art of conversation with an unmatched sense of humor, he was most often funny when he wasn't trying to be and he laughed loudest when the joke was on him.

Ralph was active until almost the very end, retiring from his last job two years ago as head doorman for the Kentucky House of Representatives. He joked that no doors were stolen from the Capitol under his watch

Ralph also enjoyed his status as unofficial leader of the Dragonites, a happy band of pub regulars who took their name from the old St. George and the Dragon and never stopped pubbing after it changed hands, spreading their mirth to other favorite gathering spots around Frankfort, too.

As a true Kentuckian and firstborn of the proprietor of the regrettably long gone Daniel Boone Inn, one of Ralph's last wishes was for a sip of bourbon, a request accommodated in the presence of good friends who emptied more than one bottle smuggled into his hospital room just a few weeks ago.

Ralph was a man of many talents and vocations. After the Army in which he was stationed in Berlin for 3 years during the mid-1950's, followed by

executive positions with IBM, Corning, and Kroger, Ralph left to pursue his passion of entrepreneurship. A bold move at age 32 in those days, Ralph owned and operated numerous restaurants and retail establishments around the Commonwealth. His career continued as CEO over the Correction Industries programs in Kentucky, Ohio, Mississippi, and Florida.

Most important about Ralph is that he was a family man and a good guy who showed his love by making people laugh.

Cheers to you Ralph for getting right whatever this life thing is supposed to be about.

Ralph is survived by his wife of 58 years, Maryanna White Barnes, his sons Brett and Beau (Stephanie) Barnes, and grandchildren Anna, Riley, and Jack Barnes. He also leaves behind several family and friends to cherish his memory. A celebration of life will be held later this month.

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home. Condolences may be shared via the online guestbook at [www.harrodbrothers.com](http://www.harrodbrothers.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ralph L Barnes*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *I only knew Ralph when he became chief doorkeeper of the House of Representatives. I was the sound system operator. It was easy to be a friend with Ralph, as he had a great sense of humor. Ralph also had that rare quite demeanor, dignified almost when he performed his duties. To be best of my knowledge he never had a problem with any of his doorkeepers. In my 25 years serving the legislature, Ralph was the best Chief Doorkeeper we ever had. My condolences to his family.*

**Bob Boden** - August 07, 2017 at 11:37 PM



“ *For about 6 months in 1972, I opened Burger Queen each morning for Ralph, who was a very conscientious owner/operator. Everything was clean as a whistle in that store and the food was fresh and delicious. But best of all was Ralph's humor and wit, he was a great boss.*

*Years later I became re-acquainted with Ralph in genealogy research and really enjoyed his stories and 'finds'.*

*Frankfort has been blessed to have Ralph, he was one fine fellow.*

**Brian Harney** - August 06, 2017 at 10:06 AM

RM

“ *Ralph and his joyous personality will be missed in Frankfort and beyond. If there is ever someone who deserves to migrate to heaven, I'm sure Ralph is it. And they up there can all learn new ways to laugh. Raulee*

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**Raulee Marcus** - August 05, 2017 at 04:09 PM

JP

“ *Sorry for your loss. We went to Estill Co. High together and the Revenna Nazarene Church as youngsters.*

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**Jim Puckett** - August 05, 2017 at 01:34 PM

AM

“ *Much love to Maryanna, Brett, Beau, and family. "Vaughn" was very dear to his Haines City family. His wit, intelligence, interest in the stories of others, generosity, and kindness will be greatly missed. He was one of a kind... in a very good way.*

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**Alice Matthews** - August 04, 2017 at 10:14 PM

MM

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Ralph. Maryanna and family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Mary Mathews** - August 04, 2017 at 09:58 PM