



Thomas L.F. Barrett

July 19, 1938 - September 9, 2025

Thomas Leon Francis Barrett, 87, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family while the Phillies beat the Mets and Kyle Schwarber hit his 50th home run of the season. Born and raised in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, Tom graduated from Shenandoah Catholic as the star quarterback of the football team. Tom trained as a marine before moving to the big city to find work. He found a job as a safe cracker, and eventually advanced his education, earning a PhD in Computer Science that resulted in long careers at G.E. and Lockheed Martin.

Tom's wife, Helene, has been a constant in his life since their youth in Shenandoah. One night, Tom and his friends were crashing a high school dance and Tom needed a date. He told his friends that he would ask whoever walked out of the women's bathroom next. As Tom "Pop" often told his granddaughters, the woman who walked out of the bathroom was in a beautiful blue dress, and her name was Helene Ryan: the head cheerleader at their high school. That chance encounter led to a 62-year marriage, three children, seven granddaughters, and countless memories. The Barrett family spent their time vacationing in Avalon, watching Phillies and Eagles games, swimming at Clifton Pool, and taking countless trips to Disney World. Tom was incredibly proud of his Catholic faith, serving as Eucharistic minister and lector at Sacred Heart Church in Clifton Heights, where he and Helene were beloved members. He also published two books, fixed all of our computers constantly,

and bought more treats and snacks for the house than anyone could possibly consume.

Tom was determined to never grow up. He kept the spirit of Christmas alive for our family by insisting that he still believed in Santa, even in his 80s, and his Donald Duck impression was so accurate that kids would turn their heads and look at him in awe when they heard it. He never turned down an adventure, and was always up for a day at the zoo, aquarium, putt-putt, the movie theater, or a trip to McDonald's to get his granddaughters (and himself) Happy Meals. He was an animal lover, always storing treats in his car in case he ran into any dogs and their owners would allow him to give them a treat.

Tom would do anything and everything for his family, which was the most important thing in his life. He attended all of his kids' and granddaughters' games and performances, taking constant pictures and videos to capture every moment. If anyone in the family needed a favor or was in trouble, Tom dropped everything immediately to be by their side.

Tom is predeceased by his sister Theresa Clark; brothers-in-law Cyril "Buzz" Clark, John Ryan, and Vincent Ryan; and his son-in-law Andrew DePiero. He is survived by his wife Helene Barrett; his brother Jerry (Patricia); his daughters Kathleen and Maureen (Timothy); his son Thomas (Brenda); granddaughters Katelyn, Brooke, Lauren (Cullen) Rebecca, Lindsey, Jordan (Brenton), and Madison (Joseph); and his great-grandchildren Adair, Brenton, and Violet. Most importantly, he is survived by his best buddy, Chester Barrett: his gray cat.

Visitation: Monday, 10:00 am at Sacred Heart Church, 316 E. Broadway Ave, Clifton Heights, Pa 19018

Funeral Service: Monday, 11:00 am at Sacred Heart Church.

Interment: Private

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **15**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Church
316 E Broadway Ave
Clifton Heights, PA 19018-2609
(610) 623-0409

Service

SEP **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Church
316 E Broadway Ave
Clifton Heights, PA 19018-2609
(610) 623-0409

Tribute Wall

JM

“ I inherited his paper route with the Shenandoah Evening Herald. His dad was my godfather and a good friend of my father. Tom was a super guy!

Joe Machulsky - October 11, 2025 at 07:57 PM

RW

“ My condolences to Helene and family, and I am shocked that I didn't know of his passing. Tom and I go way back to Cherry St in Shenandoah during the 1940's and 1950's and I even typed the pages to his first book. He called me his favorite secretary. After school and while working for the labor and industry he called and said there was an opening where he worked, and I jumped on that opportunity, and we shared an apartment for several yrs, while we worked together as so called professional safe crackers. He always looked forward to coming home and sharing stories with me, signed both books he wrote one a following up to his Fathers book the Mollie Maguire's and his second The ballot Box to which there could be a mention of me in it. I will surely miss this old friend of mine, RIP Tom, your friend always Ray.

Ray Wisniewski - September 26, 2025 at 10:32 AM

AP

“ My condolences to the entire Barrett family. Mr. Barrett was a Clifton Icon who touched so many lives and will be truly missed. My prayers go out to all his family and friends. Albert Pantalone

albert Pantalone - September 16, 2025 at 10:11 PM



“ Thanks for leading by example.. your love of God, family, Philadelphia sports and Shenandoah. The best polka partner and Uncle. My Pen Pal.. the best homemade card and calendar maker. You managed to find the worst pictures to put on those calendars but we loved them anyways. So lucky to have had you as a guide in my life. Love you always!



Amy Withelder - September 16, 2025 at 08:02 AM

AS

“ My condolences to Mrs. Barrett, Kathy, Maureen, and Tommy. I just heard that Mr. Barrett passed away. I am so sorry for your loss. Your husband/dad was such a kind, patient, and soft-spoken man. I have so many fond memories of him and your family. He was our basketball and track coach. There was a trip to Shenandoah with Kathy. He was a fixture at Sacred Heart Church. I can still see him walking home from the train station as we rode our bikes around him. He was always present. Mostly I admire his love for his family. You always came first. Rest in peace Mr. Barrett.
Sincerely,
Andrea and Jim Sharkey

Andrea Sharkey - September 15, 2025 at 05:57 PM

AP

“ *Adriene Price lit a candle in memory of Thomas Barrett*



Adriene Price - September 15, 2025 at 08:35 AM

SD

“ *What a wonderful life! Tom truly lived well, laughed often, and loved much. He opened his heart to all who came into his circle, and we count ourselves fortunate to have been included in this welcome. There is no better tribute than to be as cherished by those we love, as Tom was and remains. He taught his family well!*

Susan and Steven DePiero - September 14, 2025 at 09:50 AM

PK

“ *So sorry for your loss. Recalling precious memories from Shenandoah Catholic High and Nursing School and Class Reunions & Tom's writings & updates of Shenandoah happenings that I looked forward to for many years on my computer. Love, Pat Kuzma Kutchins*

pat Kuzma Kutchins - September 12, 2025 at 09:11 PM

LK

“ *Love, from Pat Kuzma Kutchins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas L.F. Barrett.*

Love, from Pat Kuzma Kutchins - September 12, 2025 at 08:55 PM

LK

“ Love, from Pat Kuzma Kutchins purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Thomas L.F. Barrett.



Love, from Pat Kuzma Kutchins - September 12, 2025 at 08:55 PM

ES

“ Dear Helene, We are so sorry for the loss of your husband, Tom. Aunt Pat Kutchins speaks So highly of you, as a lifelong friend. Also. A Fellow graduate of Fox Chase Nursing School. We have met at OLMC Festival. May God Bless you, & may Tom R.I.P. Ed & Cindi Shafransky

Edward Shafransky Sr - September 12, 2025 at 05:39 PM

MB

“ Thank you for teaching me to always thank God when I pray!!



Maureen Barrett Byrne - September 11, 2025 at 10:15 PM

MB

“ *Rest in peace dad!! I love you!!*



Maureen Barrett Byrne - September 11, 2025 at 10:14 PM

KB

“ *Keeping everyone in my thoughts n prayers so sorry for your loss..he wa a great man...Kevin belevich*

Kevin belevich - September 11, 2025 at 10:01 PM

MB

“ *You were the BEST dad ever and I'm lucky to have had you for so long!!! Love you dad!! Rest in peace!*



Maureen (Barrett) Byrne - September 11, 2025 at 03:24 PM