



## George Perkins Barton

November 1, 1946 - January 31, 2021

George Perkins Barton

(Nov 1, 1946- January 31, 2021)

George Perkins Barton passed peacefully away in his sleep in the early morning of January 31, after an 11-year battle with Lambert Eaton Myasthenic Syndrome, or LEMS. He lived 42 of his 74 years at his home in Holly, Michigan, where he was able to spend his last days with family.

George was born on November 1, 1946 to John Titus and Ramona (Perkins) Barton. He was the third of four children. He spent his childhood in Montour Falls, NY, in the state's Finger Lakes region, where his family split their time between their summer lake house on Cayuta Lake and their home in town. After graduating high school at Odessa Montour, George went on to pursue a bachelors in engineering at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, from 1964-1968. He stayed at Cornell to earn his MBA between 1968 and 1970.

George married Mary Ellen Young on June 20, 1970. Over the course of their fifty-year marriage, they raised four children, Deborah (Barton) Kay, Emily (Barton) Alford, George Barton and John David Barton. George was an active, proud father who was known for hosting tailgate parties at his children's tennis and cross-country tournaments. He was fiercely proud of his children and could always be counted on to share stories of their latest activities.

George's life was led by his passions, of which he had many. As an engineer, he had a love of math, problem solving and all things mechanical, which he used professionally as an engineer for 30 years in the Detroit auto industry. At

home and with friends, he was quick to share stories, trivia, and jokes- especially puns. He also loved sports, especially Michigan Football, where he spent years as a season ticket holder and faithful fan, as well as all the athletic teams of his alma mater, Cornell.

His love of machines translated to a boatbuilding business in his early retirement years and a lifelong love of motorcycles. As a motorcycle enthusiast, George managed to travel to and ride in most regions of the United States during his lifetime. He was also a regular attendee of the Daytona Beach Bike Week and the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. In later years, his passions also included traveling to see his kids and eight grandchildren, Breyer Kay, Ruhnar Kay, Alexis Alford, Owen Barton, Evan Alford, Orion Kay, Cam Barton and Fisher Kay.

George is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, his three siblings (Linda (Barton) Fosberg, John Edward Barton and Debbie (Barton) Keammerer), and their respective families. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made in his name to the National Organization for Rare Disorders ([rarediseases.org](http://rarediseases.org)) or Holly Calvary Church ([hollycalvary.org](http://hollycalvary.org)). Due to COVID restrictions a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

# Tribute Wall

TK

“ George will always be remembered for his support of the Holly Schools. We enjoyed watching his daughter Debbie run in cross country for the Holly Team. George would be the one having a cook-out after a major meet. We are proud to have know George, Mary Ellen and family.  
*The Kovach Family*

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**Tony and Sharon Kovach** - May 18, 2021 at 06:34 PM

JM

“ George was my close childhood friend for many summers at Cayuta Lake, NY where his parents had a home. His incredible energy, his sense of humor, his knowledge of so many subjects, and his love of life, made all those childhood summers exciting times. I remember that he was a whiz at all things mechanical and that he practically jumped for joy whenever he was able to show me boats, motors, or model planes that he had built or modified. I regret that we lost touch with one another after college. I'm sure those traits that I so enjoyed continued with him throughout his life and that he will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

*John Moore*



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**John Moore** - April 01, 2021 at 01:00 AM

JM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**John Moore** - April 01, 2021 at 12:31 AM

GM

“ I had the privilege of spending one year with the Bartons as an exchange student in 1999. George and MaryEllen always worried that I would feel welcome and that I had a good time while there. It was one of the best time I had in my life and experienced new things that would help define the person I am today. I am very grateful for that. A short car ride he'd talk about history facts and his life experiences which made me think "This guy knows about so many things!", and I'd be jist delightful to listen to that! Thanks for the good times, George! You may rest in peace



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**George Martins** - February 07, 2021 at 12:03 PM

MF

“ George was a great neighbor, along with his family, when I lived in Holly with my children. Many blessings, many happy memories. Bless you, Mary Ellen, and your dear family.  
*Marsha Fenton*

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**Marsha Fenton** - February 07, 2021 at 12:27 AM

GS

“ I am thankful for being George’s friend at Cornell and beyond. We were roommates our last year and I can still remember our famous “Sunday make pizza nights.” Our more recent phone conversations were a delight as I always learned many things I didn’t know about sports, cars, Detroit and more. We were both married the same year and I know George loved his family. I pray God’s peace will help us all grieve this loss. Thank you God for your promised hopes.

*Greg and Renee Sethness*

*San Antonio, Texas*

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**Greg Sethness** - February 06, 2021 at 11:43 AM

GS

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*Greg and Renee Sethness*

*San Antonio, Texas*

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**Greg Sethness** - February 05, 2021 at 11:09 PM

JB

“ Jean A Baumgard lit a candle in memory of George Perkins Barton



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**Jean A Baumgard** - February 05, 2021 at 12:16 PM

WM

“ Thinking of your family and remembering George and the kindness he showed us when Heather died. You are in our prayers.

William and Cheryl McDougal - February 02, 2021 at 09:38 PM

HH

“ Heidi Morris Howieson lit a candle in memory of George Perkins Barton



Heidi Morris Howieson - February 02, 2021 at 03:46 PM



“ Pink Rose Buds (Silk Cemetery Flowers) was purchased for the family of George Perkins Barton.



February 02, 2021 at 01:40 PM



“ Judith Prose lit a candle in memory of George Perkins Barton



Judith Prose - February 02, 2021 at 12:36 PM

CE

“We grieve, but not like those with no hope.”

*Our family has such wonderful memories of George. From school, church or community events, George was there with his infectious smile. He was the first to help in any way that was needed no matter the cause or project. We are so blessed to be able to call him "friend".*

*Each of us must release the hand of someone we love into the hand of someone we have not seen. -Max Lucado*

*Our sincerest sympathies,  
Randy and Charlene Estes*

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**Charlene Estes** - February 02, 2021 at 10:04 AM

PA

*As a good friend long separated by work & location, I was shopping for his lost phone # when I came across this feared info. I have urgent need to contact Mary Ellen and would deeply Appreciate her phone number. I lost all my contact info during our move to assisted living near our 3 children in Orange County CA for my bride of 68 years who is severely burdened by a brain tumor. I must talk with M/E. Please help me if you can. My phone is 989 448 1926, email 19phil34@ gmail.com  
Phil Arndt, Chief Powertrain Analist, Ford Motor Co, retired*

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**phill arndt** - November 26, 2022 at 11:33 PM

MG

*George and I fished, traveled. together, rode motorcycles all over the. states stayed in many motels for many years. God bless. George and. Maryellen forever! Michael. Grajcar, friend.*

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**Mike. Grajcar** - March 17, 2023 at 02:26 PM

MC

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. I served on the Holly Township Planning Commission under George. He was the best chairperson I served under. Greatly admired George.

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**Mark Cornwell** - February 02, 2021 at 09:13 AM

JB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Chink and her family during this most difficult time. Enjoy the many good memories!

*John and CJ  
Brummeler*

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**john brummeler** - February 01, 2021 at 04:49 PM