



R. Kent Barnes

August 9, 1951 - August 12, 2020

R. Kent Barnes, age 69, of Holly, died Wed. Aug. 12, 2020. He was born in Sturgis, Kentucky on Aug. 9, 1951 to Robert and Justine Barnes. He was a very active member of the Holly community and will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife Debbie; 2 children, Justin (Crystal) Barnes and Robin (Nick) Brooks; 5 grandchildren, Savannah, Scarlett, Stella, Nolan, and Grayson; 3 nieces, April (Shaun) Cain, Kerry Markham, and Sheena Markham; and sisters-in-law Ruth Ann Watkins and Julia Markham. He was preceded in death by his siblings Bill Barnes and Becky Markham. Due to Covid restrictions, no services are planned at this time. Memorial donations may be made to "Through the Roof", a mission in Africa run by Paul and Becky Finkle and family, PO Box 992, Fenton, MI 48430. www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com

Tribute Wall



“ I had no idea Mr. Barnes had passed. I am sorry for your tremendous loss...he was a loss to the entire Holly Community. May God Bless and Keep you 🙏

Krissie Bass - October 28, 2020 at 01:11 PM



“ Our kids were privileged to have Kent Barnes as a Principal and friend. He also was my Husband and my friend and we loved to hear him sing in church. He glorified God everyday. He was such a blessing. Heaven received a great man and we lost one. We will see him again in Heaven. God be near and dear to his family,

Peg and Carl Feiler - September 05, 2020 at 12:17 AM



“ The family is in our thoughts and prayers! Jim, Kim & Jeremy Scherman

Kim Scherman - August 19, 2020 at 09:38 AM



“ Karin Winchester lit a candle in memory of R. Kent Barnes



Karin Winchester - August 18, 2020 at 04:44 PM

DB

“ Kent Barnes was a force of nature. His dedication to the Holly school’s students, staff, and parents was unparalleled. His contribution to the community of Holly will be forever etched in the minds of it’s residents. He will be greatly missed. Debby Bartlett

Debra Bartlett - August 17, 2020 at 07:23 PM

MA

“ I grew up in the small town of Sturgis Ky, I have know this family forever. If you ever wonder how a person comes to be such a caring, understanding friend, you only have to see how his family loved one another. Kent was a hero in my eyes, he always made time for me and many others. Kent was 11 years my senior and I hated it when he went to college, boys did I miss is smile. I met Debbie a few years later, boy was she pretty. Debbie I am heartbroken for you and your family. Smile and know he loved you!

mark applin - August 17, 2020 at 06:32 PM

DH

“ Kent Barnes was an outstanding man. Marie and I loved him dearly. His humor was boundless. He was quick to compliment. His smile was endless.
Knowing he is on paradise gives hope to all.
Say hi to my bride!

Doug Henderson - August 17, 2020 at 10:38 AM

KM

“ I met Mr Barnes when he was at Crittenden County High School in the late 80s. What a wonderful, caring man with that amazing voice. He exemplified what a good man should be. My prayers to his family.

Kristy McIntosh - August 17, 2020 at 12:10 AM

SJ

“ I remember, so clearly, Kent's interview for superintendent. He held everyone's attention. I am so fortunate to have worked with Kent and to have known him. I use the term "I need to ponder this" quite often. Something I learned from Kent. His voice, his smile and his integrity will stay with me. Debby, Justin and Robin please know that you are all in my prayer.
Hugs - Sally Johnson

Sally Johnson - August 16, 2020 at 09:31 PM

KL

“ Along the road of life many people come and go but a few literally change your life for the better and that was Kent. Kent made me a better person with his kindness and keen sense of the world. We could literally talk for hours! Normally, a person has to ask another individual to be a reference. Kent asked me if he could provide a reference on my behalf the last time we spoke - of course I accepted and grabbed his personal information as he approached retirement and began looking forward to spending more time with grandkids. Up to this day, I still did what he asked and used him as a reference. Now everytime I complete a job application, I will think of this gentleman and the fact that he left this world a better place just knowing him! RIP Kent...u r leaving a big hole in my heart! A gentle giant that will be missed as big as his personality!

Karen logan - August 16, 2020 at 03:43 PM

CB

“ Chari Beecher lit a candle in memory of R. Kent Barnes



Chari Beecher - August 15, 2020 at 11:05 PM

EC

“ My deepest sympathies and condolences to the entire Barnes family. Mr. Barnes was an incredible man and leader and I am thankful that I was able to "grow up" in this profession with his wisdom and guidance. I still remember the first time Mackenzie and I met Mr. Barnes when he hired us in 2001 to join Holly Area Schools. He put us at ease and spoke to us about what was important in the career we were about to embark on, taking care of our students and treating people with kindness and respect. In the 20 years I've known Mr. Barnes I've seen him live those values each day. Mr. Barnes stayed in touch and as recently as a few days ago sent kind words our way as we get ready for the upcoming school year, a class act and a wonderful man. He will be missed but his legacy lives on in all of those who's lives he impacted. - Eric and Mackenzie Curl

Eric Curl - August 15, 2020 at 08:15 PM

ST

“ Privileged to have had him as one of my teachers at Murray High. One of the best ever. Great influence on my career. Scott Turner


Scott Turner - August 15, 2020 at 06:36 PM



“ Mr Barnes was a sweetheart and a friend to all.

Kathleen Neely - August 15, 2020 at 02:15 PM


H1

“ Our Holly High School Class of 1979 are sending our deepest condolences to the family of Mr. R. Kent Barnes. An amazing man, with an incredible light that brought our Community together. Also sending strength and courage during this most difficult time. Peace 



Holly High School Class of 1979 - August 15, 2020 at 01:45 PM

 Laura Parker Aifd

“ My heartfelt sympathies and prayers for peace and comfort to Debbie and the family. Mr. Barnes was an amazing human being and I will never forget his kindness, humility, and humor. He was a wonderful asset to Holly as our superintendent and as a member of the community. I will never forget him coming into my flower shop and bringing his positive outlook and generous spirit to everyone. He laughed so much when I shared my kids confusion about his upcoming visit to their classroom that first year....my son came home so excited and told me his school was getting a new “Supernintendo”Mr. Barnes said “We’ll....I may not be able to live up that that expectation!” 



Laura Parker Aifd - August 15, 2020 at 12:03 PM

DO

“ Debbie I am so sorry for your loss. Hated to see this. Condolences to you and your family.

Donna Owens - August 15, 2020 at 11:19 AM

JC

“ Jimmy And Denise Croft lit a candle in memory of R. Kent Barnes



Jimmy and Denise Croft - August 15, 2020 at 09:28 AM

JP

“ I played for Coach Barnes at Crittenden Co High School (Marion, KY) when we won the Class A State Championship. His large personality and booming voice made you believe that you could accomplish anything. He had a unique coaching style that greatly influence me and i used that style when i started coaching. He was loud and always said at pep rallys that " I don't need no microphone!!" when he was asked to speak to the student body. Coach always encouraged us to "Boom Shakalaka" the other team and i can still remember him calling a time out during games and coming out onto the field to us and turning his hat around backwards and with that booming voice told us how we needed to "pick it up" which left the hair on your arms standing up. He would leave the our huddle and you knew it was time to get "busy". I truly admired Coach Barnes and he left a great impression on me during our times at Crittenden HS, not only as a coach but as a caring individual. He will truly be missed. Prayers for the family during this time.

Jeff Porter - August 15, 2020 at 07:45 AM

SJ

“ When interviewing for the job of Superintendent of Holly Area Schools, Mr. Barnes said "What you see is what you get." We liked what we say and the whole Holly area got so much from him. His contributions will live on past him.

Sue Julian

Susan Julian - August 15, 2020 at 07:27 AM

CW

“ Every email that I sent out to the membership and retirees as the MASA Executive Director over the past five years, Kent would be the first to respond with a nice return message. I would always smile at his emails and think about what a positive person he was. I am shocked that he has passed and very saddened by the news. May he Rest In Peace.

Chris Wigent - August 14, 2020 at 11:17 PM

CL

“ Kent Barnes was my third principal at Southwest Elementary School in Murray, Kentucky. He was a jolly man for sure. Always having fun with everyone .I remember one day he asked our little 4' 7" custodian if she wanted a raise. She answered sure and he picked her up and raised her up to his chest. She didn't know what to think. He was a good boss to work for. He would always tell us to do our best and toot your own horn. Prayers for Debbie and the family. Loved them.

Coleen Linn - August 14, 2020 at 10:10 PM

RM

“ *Ray & Lori McConnell lit a candle in memory of R. Kent Barnes*



Ray & Lori McConnell - August 14, 2020 at 09:42 PM

PP

“ *I'll never forget Mr. Barnes when I interviewed for my job as a Speech Pathologist. He was a gentle giant of a man. I saw him often in my buildings and he always remembered my name and cared so much about his teachers and students. I considered him such a treasure and a kind caring man who truly loved his calling as a teacher, friend, mentor. He will surely be missed.*
Pam L. Polan

Pam Polan - August 14, 2020 at 09:39 PM

CD

I was his secretary when he was principal at Crittenden County high school, in Marion Kentucky. I enjoyed working for him because he was always willing to listen to new ideas. He took his job seriously. My prayers go out to you Debbie and your family, he was a great man and I'm sure a wonderful husband and father. God bless. Carlin Davidson

Carlin Davidson - August 15, 2020 at 12:29 PM

BB

“ Many condolences to Debbie, and to Justin and Robin and their families. Kent spoke so often and so highly of all of you; I am certain that there are gaping holes in your hearts right now. Please know that it was a gift to share in the delight your husband/dad took in his daily work. I don't believe that anything made him happier than the energy and joy of children. I so enjoyed watching him interact with the students at Davisburg. He was a "salt of the earth" man -- never professing to know more than others about their positions, and always seeking to learn more about his community. Somewhere in heaven right now there is a booming bass voice and some awesome piano playing! Thank you for sharing him with all of us as he worked tirelessly to serve the staff and students of Holly.

Barbara Bloom - August 14, 2020 at 04:57 PM

MM

“ I worked as a Para Pro Sub in Holly schools and I always enjoyed when Mr. Barnes came in with a beautiful smile and a twinkle in his eyes and told us what a great job we were doing. After he retired and I saw him around town he was just as pleasant.

*He will surely be missed. My prayers go out to his Family.
Forever in our hearts.*

Blessings, Marian Minauro

Marian J. Minauro - August 14, 2020 at 01:59 PM

SR

“ That voice. That sense of humor. That humility. I treasured the many opportunities I had to work with Kent when I worked at Oakland Schools. He put Holly schools and students first and enjoyed his relationship with the greater Holly community as well. Kent was an outstanding educator, humanitarian, and gentleman. My sincere condolences to his family.

Shelley Yorke Rose - August 14, 2020 at 01:21 PM

JC

“ One day at the high school, Kent dropped in to say hi to me during class. His jaw dropped and stood in shock. The Village Police Chief was snoring in the Lazy Boy next to my desk. (He would seek refuge in “ his Comfy chair.” Without telling anyone.) The Holly Firemen were sitting on my sofa and couches studying in another corner preparing for their paramedic finals. And the students and I were going over a Geometry lesson on my smart board. Kent’s Kentucky drawl filled the room with:”John Church, I never know what to expect when I come into your room!” I loved the guy. What a boss!

John Church - August 14, 2020 at 01:06 PM

JT

“ The nicest man you would ever want to know and work for, always a smile on his face and a compliment to follow! We truly miss you Mr. Barnes, but you left a great impression , compassion for all of us to remember here in Holly!



Jill Tiltman - August 14, 2020 at 12:42 PM

MM

He was reading to Elementary students and 3 of us bus drivers were there with band students, he came out of the school gave us money to have McDonald's lunch on him. He said' he loved his bus drivers!' He was good to us drivers , always going to bat for us. While my son Jeff was his sons good friend. Jeff only had the nicest things to say about the Barnes family. Iam so sorry for your loss and may God Bless you and your family in these difficult times. Hugs to all.

Melissa Gribble Murphy - August 15, 2020 at 02:41 PM

DC

“ *Condolences to Kent's family and many, many friends. Kent was a special person who brightened the lives of Holly families with his upbeat, positive attitude. He showed up at every Holly game and school and community event, greeting everyone with a smile, hand shake and personal story. He will be greatly missed, and his many contributions to the Holly community will never be forgotten. May his family be comforted by their wonderful memories.* 🙏💜

Dori Courtney - August 14, 2020 at 11:12 AM

DB

“ *Our sincere condolences to Kent's family and friends. He became a true advocate of Holly schools and our community. He will be greatly missed!*



Dottie Bradsher - August 14, 2020 at 11:12 AM

ML

“ *Mike Lyons lit a candle in memory of R. Kent Barnes*



Mike Lyons - August 14, 2020 at 10:51 AM

LS

“ *Lori StClair lit a candle in memory of R. Kent Barnes*



Lori StClair - August 14, 2020 at 09:16 AM

GA

“ *Kent was one of the finest gentleman and man of God that I have ever had the pleasure to know. I am proud to have been a part of the group that brought Kent and his family to the Holly community to serve the school district as Superintendent. He instantly became a proud and trusted member of the Holly community. He will be greatly missed by many. May God comfort his family during this time of loss.*

Garry & Terry Adams

Garry Adams - August 14, 2020 at 08:36 AM

SB

“ *I had the honor of being hired by Mr. Barnes in 1998 as Finance Director when he was Superintendent in Greenup County. I enjoyed working with him & sharing many truck rides around the district. He was truly a great boss and friend!*

Scott Burchett - August 13, 2020 at 11:29 PM

KN

“ Kent was more than a great principal, he was a wonderful friend! I'll always remember his heartwarming personality and that jolly smile! Prayers to Debbie and the family. 🙏
My sincere condolences,
Kathy Cleaver Nelson



Kathy Cleaver Nelson - August 13, 2020 at 10:11 PM

GB

“ Prayers to the Family and Friends. Kent and I were good friends all the our school years. He told me he did not like lumpy potatoes when we were in the fourth grade, so every time we had mashed potatoes he always gave them to me. I think that is why he always called me Mr Potato Head. I am sorry to lose my good friend Kent. RIP my friend God bless. (George A. Blakeley)

George Blakeley - August 13, 2020 at 09:35 PM

PS

“ It is with great admiration and respect for Mr. Barnes that I offer my deepest condolences to the Barnes Family. For the many years that he served as Superintendent of Holly Area Schools, he showed such kindness and congeniality. As one of the music teachers under Mr. Barnes, I always appreciated his love of music. I remember with fondness when he would stop by the music room at Holly Elementary to say, "Hi" and would kindly play the piano for the kids. The students loved hearing his low bass voice sing a few notes as he left. Mr. Barnes's patriotism, values, love for God and country and his community will always be remembered. The community of Holly has lost a great hero. My thoughts and prayers for the family and the hope that they will find comfort, knowing that he is making music in heaven.

Pam Singer - August 13, 2020 at 04:40 PM

AZ

“ Prayers to the Barnes family. When ever I saw Mr. Barnes he always had a smile on his face. That’s just the kind of person he was, happy, friendly, and always had a positive attitude. He will be missed. Andra Zile, Holly Schools bus driver.

Andra Zile - August 13, 2020 at 04:35 PM

 Deirdre Dannecke

“ In my 30 years of education I was blessed to have worked under two wonderful superintendents. Mr. Kent Barnes was one of the two. Kent was many things....he had the voice of a radio announcer, the compassion for people and he loved our community. He would talk to anyone who wanted to talk to him, he was a diplomat that could calm any storm, and a grandfather who came to volunteer at Holly El where his grandchildren attended. But most of all Kent was always education focused. It was all about the kids and the staff who he supported, the wave at your door, and the kids' hugs as he walked down our halls. He was always approachable and there for whatever you needed. Mr. Barnes, Kent, you will be missed! My deepest sympathies for your wife, children, grandchildren and extended family!

Deirdre Dannecker - August 13, 2020 at 04:02 PM

RN

“ All sincerest condolences to Kent's family, and his extended family cultivated through his careful years of thoughtful friendship to all. A truly rare gift to mankind he was, and the world is a lesser place without him. With sorrow,

Rob Namowicz - August 13, 2020 at 03:04 PM

CZ

“ Kent was a positive, understanding leader, who wasn't afraid to sit down and share his feelings and thoughts and listen to the teachers of Holly, and what an amazing voice! Kent was great for Holly schools. Prayers to the family. From: Cheri Zorn, Holly High Teacher.

cheri zorn - August 13, 2020 at 03:03 PM

LC

“ Lisa Cunningham lit a candle in memory of R. Kent Barnes



Lisa Cunningham - August 13, 2020 at 02:57 PM

Jill Teffer

“ Mr. Barnes will always hold a dear place in the hearts of the Holly Area Schools community. It was always such a joy to see him show up at Patterson Elementary, and walk the building, saying hello to each and every person he encountered. He took time to get to know the teachers of our building. He did an amazing job of narrating "The Grinch" during our 2018 Holiday sing-a-long. You will be greatly missed Mr. Barnes.



Jill Teffer - August 13, 2020 at 02:44 PM

PS

“ *What a great man. thank you for sharing him with the village of Holly*

Penny Schettling - August 13, 2020 at 02:30 PM

VH

“ *Vera Hogan purchased the Cheeseboard Complete for the family of R. Kent Barnes.*



Vera Hogan - August 13, 2020 at 01:54 PM

WF

“ *Didn't know him on a personal basis. I've heard him play Piano at the First Baptist Church. Very talented man. Very humble.*

Wendy Fishback - August 13, 2020 at 01:48 PM

VH

“ *My sincere condolences to Debbie and Kent's family. He was one of a kind and will be sorely missed by me and all who had the pleasure of knowing him and calling him friend. It's funny the things you think of at times like this. I remember how much Kent loved his trucks. Every time we had lunch he had a new truck and I would say, "What happened, the other get dirty?" Then he would just laugh and say "Mmmhmmm." My thoughts and prayers are with you all!*

Vera Hogan - August 13, 2020 at 01:39 PM

BG

*I admired Kent to the top. A good and decent man of faith not just on Sunday but every day of the week! Not living in Holly I saw him most intermittently but he was always fun...always. Peace to his family and friends. I will say a prayer asking for that and thanking God that I had the extreme privilege of knowing Kent.
I also will miss him*

Bob Garner - August 14, 2020 at 12:38 PM

CB

*Sending our Condolences to Mr. Barnes family.
Chari and Terry
Beecher*

Chari Beecher - August 15, 2020 at 11:04 PM

GS

Kent exhibited a love for his work on earth – love of God & family, a sense of community second to none, and a never-ending zest for education and learning. He was a ‘people person’ and treated everyone with dignity and respect regardless of stature or position. We will never be able to give back to the Holly community to the extent Kent gave selflessly for so many years, both professionally and personally. Debbie & family – our family extends their heartfelt condolences at this difficult time.

Gregory & Louanne Snyder - August 16, 2020 at 03:22 PM