



Thomas Eugene Barber

July 31, 1925 - August 13, 2022

Thomas Eugene “Gene” Barber, 97, of Caldwell, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family. Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 pm Friday, August 19, 2022, at Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home Caldwell, TX. Funeral services will be held at 10 am Saturday, August 20, 2022, at the First Baptist Church Caldwell. Pastor Shane Dismuke will preside over services. Burial will follow at Caldwell Masonic Cemetery with Masonic services and Military Honors.

Gene was born on July 31, 1925 in Kosse, TX to parents Thomas Allen Barber and Frances Viola (Morgan) Barber. He was the eldest son, second of nine children born to this union. Gene attended school in Bremond, TX graduating in 1941 as the Senior Class President, High School Quarterback, and he also played in the school band.

His life will be remembered as one of service to God, his country, and his community. Gene was an example of someone of humble beginnings who was determined to make a difference. He was affectionately known as Pawpaw by his family. Living 97 years, he saw many changes in this world. His life was filled with many fascinating and varied experiences. He had a wealth of information on Caldwell, World War II, Law Enforcement, National History, and Music. Everyone enjoyed hearing his story telling as he recalled the people and events of his life.

Although too young, he convinced his parents to sign so he could join the military during World War II. In November 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy

and served on the Aircraft Carrier USS Corregidor and the USS Oglethorpe for 33 months. The Corregidor was engaged in four Major Battles of the South Pacific. He achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant and was Honorably Discharged in 1946. He continued his military service as a member of the Air Force Reserve Recovery Squadron stationed at Easterwood Air Force Base. In 1956, he was named Airman of the Year by the Continental Air Command. The Award recognized his qualities of leadership, military bearing, duty, character, loyalty and excellent participation in training activities.

Upon returning from the war, he married his high school Sweetheart R. Doris Butler, June 13, 1946. The family moved to Caldwell in 1950 where Gene had been offered a job as Assistant Manager at Harvey Motor Company. Their first Commitment was to join First Baptist Church Caldwell and become involved in its Ministry. They both taught Sunday School, Gene continuing until age 95. Gene sang in the choir and men's quartet. He was ordained a Deacon May 5, 1954, serving for 68 years.

Gene had several careers during his lifetime: he worked as a jet engine mechanic at Bryan Air Force Base, he had the State Farm Agency, he owned and operated a Sinclair Service Station. He joined the US Postal Service in 1957 and became active in the Rural mail Carrier's Association. He served as State Steward arbitrating many disputes and was elected State President of the Association.

He began his Law enforcement Career in 1974 serving as a reserve officer for the Caldwell Police Department. He became full time in 1986 and was appointed Sheriff in 1994. He served as Sheriff for 10 years. When he retired at the age of 80, he was the oldest working Sheriff in the State of Texas.

During his tenure he made training a priority by conducting the first Reserve Law Enforcement Officers Training School. Many who attended credit him with launching their Law Enforcement Careers even today. He also helped launch, the COPS program, the DARE program, and Crime Stoppers.

His community involvement continued by serving on the Caldwell School Board for 21 years, commander of the American Legion Post, #451, lifetime

member of the VWF Post 4458, member of the Chamber of Commerce, President of the Rotary Club of Caldwell, Board member of the Caldwell Cemetery Association, Caldwell Housing Authority, City Tax Equalization Board, and Brazos County Council of Governments.

He was a member of Warren Masonic Lodge #56 and Eastern Star Chapter 976 of Caldwell for more than 60 years. He served as secretary, Master and District Deputy of the Lodge and as Worthy Patron of the Eastern Star numerous times. He was proud to be a 33rd Degree Mason of the Scottish Rite, member of the York Rite and Ben Hur Shrine of Austin. He touched many lives as a dedicated and skilled teacher of the masonic tenets.

After his retirement and the passing of his loving wife "Dorsey", he had time to pursue his love of music. He had a vast collection of Bob Wills music and was quite a historian of his life. He became known as the singing Sheriff as he sang with bands in Milano, J Cody's in Bryan, and Karaoke at Chriesman. He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Doris; three brothers, Herschel, Aubrey, and Harold; three sisters, Thelma Adams, Maybeth Bishop-Young, and Joyce Greensage.

Gene is survived by his daughter, Jeanie Price and husband Johnny; his son, Dexter Barber and wife Linda; a brother, Royce Barber; a sister, Mary Spitzenberger; two sister-in-laws, Dolores Barber, and Doll Barber; grandchildren, Patty Lynn Vychopen and husband Joey, Johnny Price Jr. and wife Jennifer, Derek Barber and wife Laura, Landon Lupfer and wife Claire, and Jacob Lupfer and wife Josey; great grandchildren, Trey Vychopen and wife Amanda, Robert Vychopen and wife Taylor, Taylor Ofczarzak and husband Scott, Johnny Price III and wife Hannah, and Jake Barber; great-great grandchildren, Kyle, Ryan and Logan Vychopen, Jackson and Price Ofczarzak, Presley Lupfer, and Bradlie Vychopen; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Derek Barber, Scott Ofczarzak, Robert Vychopen, Trey Vychopen, Landon Lupfer, and Bubba Price. Honorary pallbearers will be the

J. D. Watson's Sunday School Class at the First Baptist Church Caldwell.

In lieu of flowers please send memorials in his name to Hospice Brazos Valley, 502 W. 26th St., Bryan, TX 77803; First Baptist Church of Caldwell, 300 S. Thomas St., Caldwell, TX 77836; or Warren Masonic Lodge #56, 213 W. Buck St., Caldwell, TX 77836.

Express condolences at phillipsandluckey.com.

Cemetery Details

Caldwell Masonic Cemetery

1411 W. Buck St.
Caldwell, TX

Previous Events

Public Visitation

AUG **19**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Caldwell
404 W. Buck St.
Caldwell, TX 77836
(979) 567-3232
phillipsandluckeyfh@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Funeral Service

AUG **20**. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church - Caldwell
300 S. Thomas
Caldwell, TX 77869

Tribute Wall



“ *Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Eugene Barber*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - August 18, 2022 at 06:18 PM

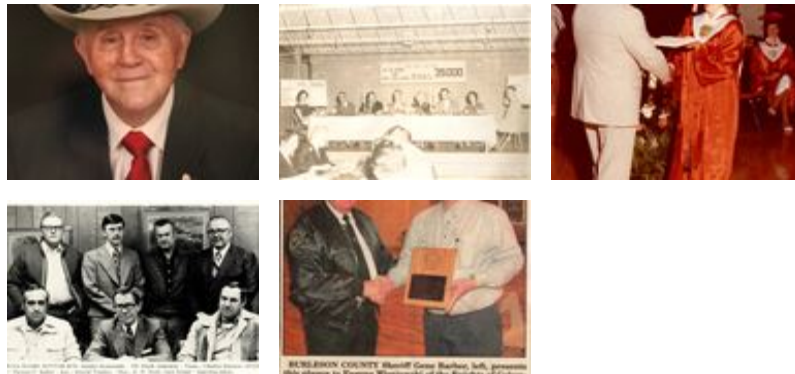


“ *Sheriff Barber was a good man. He was my FTO when I went to Caldwell PD. God be with the entire Barber Family. Sheriff with with his good buddy Chief Willie Kovar now what a pair.*

Lou Lourcey - August 18, 2022 at 06:50 PM



“ *130 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - August 18, 2022 at 06:05 PM

BG

“ I apologize for my error. The photo I posted of my Uncle Eugene singing a Bob Wills song at his birthday party was in 2021 when he turned 96

Bubba Greensage - August 18, 2022 at 12:53 PM

DS

“ May God grant you comfort in your time of loss.

Dorothy Swift - August 18, 2022 at 09:17 AM

NB

“ Numotion, Fort Worth Branch purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Thomas Eugene Barber.



Numotion, Fort Worth Branch - August 18, 2022 at 09:03 AM

BG

“ This is my Uncle Eugene singing a Bob Wills song at his 95th birthday party in 2020. He will always hold a special place in my heart. My wife Sharon and I want his family to know we love them.
Bubba Greensage



Bubba Greensage - August 17, 2022 at 07:52 PM

MF

“ My father Robert French, mother Dorothy French, aunt Mae Dell Schiller, and I Mark French, all knew him as a friend for many years. Although I have not seen him for years due to living in Houston and several cities such as LA and Vegas. I remember the stories he told at dad's auto supply store. They were endless, and we enjoyed them all. My condolences to the family of one of my families greatest friends.

Mark French - August 17, 2022 at 06:44 PM

MA

“ Jeanie, I am so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Mary Jo Altimore - August 17, 2022 at 06:25 PM