



Barrie Dickinson

August 13, 1938 - January 14, 2018

Barrie Dickinson, age 79, passed away on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at INOVA Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, VA.

He was born on August 13, 1938 to the late William and Lilly (Hogarth) Dickinson.

Barrie Dickinson, the son of an English Ship Builder and one of seven brothers, grew up in Barlby, Yorkshire, England. At the age of 15, on a school bus, Barrie met Beryl Coultish, then age 12. Little did young Barrie realize at the time that Beryl would later become his wife of 52 years. 12 Years later Barrie had a failed marriage proposal to Beryl as he decided proposing in a car after a few drinks was a good idea. Beryl disagreed. So a few months later Barrie stepped up his game and flew Beryl to Singapore where they were married.

At the age of 17, Barrie joined the Royal Air Force where he served for 25 years until his retirement. Immediately following his retirement from the Royal Air Force, Barrie joined the British Foreign Office where he served as a British Diplomat for another 25 years. During his two careers, Barrie and his wife

Beryl lived in many locations to include York, Ankara, Havana, Moscow, Beijing, Shape, Belgrade, Budapest, Lagos, Aden, Tel Aviv, Singapore, Tokyo, Dublin, Hong Kong, and Gutersloh among many others.

After 50 years of government service, Barrie and Beryl moved to Lexington, VA where they opened an English Bed & Breakfast, The Blacksmith Inn, which they ran for 8 years. Notably The Blacksmith Inn had over 50 reviews on Trip Advisor and every single review was 5 Stars. During this time, Barrie and Beryl naturalized and became proud U.S. Citizens. After 8 years Barrie and Beryl sold the Bed & Breakfast and moved to Haymarket, VA to be near their daughter,

Nicola. Immediately after moving to Haymarket, at over 70 years old, Barrie applied to be a Bus Attendant for the Prince William County School District. Barrie's final career was riding a special school bus as an attendant for Special Needs children. Even after being diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Barrie continued to work full time until just a couple of weeks prior to his death. He truly loved his work at PWCS and with these special children.

Predeceased by his parents; four brothers and one sister.

Survivors include his loving wife Beryl Dickinson of Broad Run, VA; one son: Nigel Alec Dickinson and wife Peggy Ioselli of Port St. Lucie, FL; one daughter: Nicola Margaret Dickinson and husband Mark Taylor of Broad Run, VA; two brothers; John and Martin; three grandchildren: Gabriella Margaret Dickinson, Liam Charles Dickinson and Aaron Dickinson; one step grandson: Clint Aaron Taylor.

A Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 10:00 AM at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA. The family will receive friends from 9:00 AM -10:00 AM. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: www.horsesforheroes.org

Condolences may be sent to: www.piercefh.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 20. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Service

JAN 20. 10:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

KD

“ *Barrie. A great guy, and one who Gloria, I, and many other people, will remember with affection and love, Gloria and I were lucky to spend a couple of years with him and Beryl in Hong Kong on his, and our, last posting before retirement. Memories of fun afternoons or evenings at the Happy Valley or Sha Tin racecourses - all arranged by Barrie, who loved his horse racing, come flooding back. If we had a lucky day we ended up at Harry Ramsden's where the fun continued ! We were there for his black tie 60th birthday party, held on the 1st floor of the British Consul General's Office, what a great night, again arranged by Barrie who loved to organise events for the people around him to enjoy. Then there were the trips to Macau where we ate piri-piri chicken at Fernando's and laughed for hours over the song, 'O Sole Mio', which we all took turns in singing. Barrie's laughter was infectious. He was good to be around both in and out of work. Barrie was gregarious and people loved his company. He was also trustworthy and dependable, a pleasure to work and socialise with. Goodbye Barrie, you will be missed.*

Keith and Gloria.



Keith & Gloria Davies - January 21, 2018 at 12:03 PM

CW

“ 4 files added to the album *Wilkie's*



chris wilkinson - January 20, 2018 at 11:20 AM

RI

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Rick - January 20, 2018 at 09:57 AM

RD

“ We first met *Barrie and Beryl* in Ankara in 1969. We immediately took to each other and the four of us became firm friends, partly because I was a Northerner too but more so because we shared the same rank and name - *Sergeant Dickinson!* We enjoyed each others company for 18 months until we returned to the UK.

However we continued to keep in touch and met up with each other throughout the years. When we were in Germany we visited *SHAPE* for *Nicola's* Christening and stayed with them in *Liege*. Also *Barrie and Beryl* visited us several times in *Rheindahlen*.

We continued our friendship over the years getting together in *Church Fenton* and *Barrie* came to *Norfolk* where I answered the door late one night to be greeted by *Barrie and Beryl*, *Barrie* saying "did you get my postcard?" (which arrived 3 days later!)

We went out to *Hong Kong* and had a great time with *Barrie and Beryl* and *Rick and Wendy* showing us the sights. We also took a day out from an *East Coast* tour to stay at the *Blacksmiths Inn*.

We have always kept in touch, mainly by telephone calls - *Barrie* always seemed to find a good deal with the phone company. We really enjoyed our visit to *Virginia* a couple of years ago, especially that day at the wine tasting!.

Barrie was a lifelong friend, we have laughed and joked with each other and it has been a privilege to know him. He was a great guy and we will miss him.

We are thinking of you all and will raise a glass in his memory at 3.30pm (UK time).

Love to *Beryl, Nicola, Mark and Nigel*
Hope to see you soon

Rick and Pat Dickinson

Rick & Pat Dickinson - January 20, 2018 at 09:44 AM

RW

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Rick and Wendy - January 20, 2018 at 06:04 AM

DE

“ *Barrie, the many times spent with you and your wonderful family have been some of my happiest, from Tel Aviv, to Hong Kong, to visiting you at the Blacksmith Inn, and meeting up at the Union Jack Club on your visits back to UK, to name but a few. Thank you for all those great times.*

It's lovely to see all the photos through the years, how many places you have travelled, and pics of Nicky and Nigel as little children! Not to mention all the friends you have met along the way, including my parents, Rick and Wendy – I particularly love the one of you, Beryl, Mum and Dad on our balcony in HK, I remember that so well!

We will all miss you, and are thinking of Beryl, Nicky and Nigel, wishing we could be there with them, and hoping we can all get together soon and toast a great man. Big thanks to Mark who has been a fantastic support and comfort to you at this terrible time.

You are in our hearts always.

*Lots of love,
Debs xx*

Deborah - January 20, 2018 at 05:38 AM

JR

“ WE ARE PLEASED TO BE NOTIFIED OF THE LOSS OF THIS TRUE GENTLEMAN. THANK YOU. WHEN IN ENGLAND YEARS AGO, I HAD AN UNBELIEVABLE EXPERIENCE IN YORKSHIRE...THUS, WHEN I AND MY HUSBAND WENT TO THE B AND B OUTSIDE LEXINGTON..I WAS IMMEDIATELY STARTLED AT THE DECOR THAT MENTIONED YORK AND THINGS RELATED. WE WENT TWICE OR 3 TIMES IN ORDER TO INTRODUCE FRIENDS TO THE MARVELOUS EXPERIENCE BARRIE AND BERYL PROVIDED. WE ARE STILL GRINNING ABOUT THE "MUSHY PEAS" ON THE MENU.

SURVIVORS CAN BE VERY PROUD TO BE LINKED IN ANY WAY TO THIS COUPLE, AND HOPE BERYL WILL BE SUSTAINED BY INCREDIBLE MEMORIES.

HAPPY TO HAVE BEEN ACQUAINTED, WE REMAIN,

JANNE AND TOM CHARLAND; CUSTOMERS OF THE B AND B.

JANNE ROBINSON - January 19, 2018 at 02:00 PM

“Barrie has been a dear friend for almost 50 years. We first met in Ankara Turkey when we both were in the RAF. He and Beryl were always very good to me and included me in their many trips outside Ankara. When Wendy and I met they were with us on our very first date – a memorable CENTO Valentine’s Day Ball in 1970. We will always be grateful for their close friendship, and most especially for hosting our wedding at their home in Ankara. I’ll never forget Barrie saving my bacon. I was being pressed to make a speech, for which I had not previously given a moment’s thought, when much to my relief Barrie called out "Let's cut the cackle and get on with the party" - or words to that effect. And we just got on with the fun. Our friendship continued ever since, even though we were posted to different parts of the world and often didn’t see one another for years.

But we always managed to keep in touch. Barrie and Beryl never forgot our wedding anniversary, and we always received a card from them wherever we were. We have very happy memories of those occasions when we did manage to get together: In Gloucester at the time of Chris and Ray’s wedding (followed by a day out at the races, when we were able to share Barrie’s favourite pastime). In Belgium, when Barrie was posted to Shape. In Vienna when they called on us for a few days on their way to a new job in Ankara in 1979. We enjoyed a family visit to them in Tel Aviv.

Eventually we were posted to the same place at the same time - Hong Kong, at the time of the Handover to China, which was quite dramatic for all of us. But it was also a place to enjoy and Barrie, being a great organiser and racing fan, arranged some very elegant visits to the races, with all the trimmings, both at Happy Valley and Sha Tin. We also had a very memorable trip to Macau, when Pat and Rick were out from Gloucester. Another highlight was the unforgettable Christmas lunch in 1996 on the terrace of Barrie and Beryl’s flat in Hong Kong, with Ray and Chris’s family and our family.

We were fortunate to have had more opportunities to meet up since retirement. In September 2012 we enjoyed a family visit to Barrie and Beryl at the Blacksmith Inn that they built and set up in the stunning Virginia countryside. Barrie never did things in half measures and the Inn was a great success, receiving wonderful reviews on Trip Advisor. And it was good to be with them at Nicola and Mark's house in Washington. We were also lucky to be able to join them during their visits to London and York over the past few years. Barrie never forgot his roots, and he enjoyed showing us his favourite Yorkshire places, as well as introducing us to the very special traditional Yorkshire fish and chips. It was really wonderful that Nicola and Mark were able to arrange his visit to York again in November, which sadly turned out to be his last.

Rest in Peace Barrie. You will be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with Beryl, Nigel and Nicola and all the family.

Rick and Wendy - January 19, 2018 at 01:32 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *A Story of a Lifetime*



Pierce Funeral Home - January 19, 2018 at 10:47 AM

RC

What a lovely, lovely tribute to Barrie which brings tears to your eyes as you watch and think about what a great guy he was. Thank you the Dickinson family for sharing this wonderful video with us - one to cherish for ever. Ray and Chris xx

Ray and Chris - January 19, 2018 at 01:52 PM

EN

Semoga perjalanan jasadmu ke tanah air tercinta Indonesia diberkahi kelancaran sampai pemakaman

Erik Nba - June 17, 2020 at 08:23 PM

RW

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Ray Wilkinson - January 19, 2018 at 10:14 AM

MW

“ *Barrie have just reminded my dad Ray that you were one of my god parents when I was christened in Germany and "thank you for calling me "Mart" all these years and thank you too for the stories and the great holiday in Hong Kong. Debbie says thank you for her first pint (Carlsberg) when 16 in the Jump Bar Hong Kong when you told my dad to chill!! Great to know you, rest in peace and lots of love Matt and Debs xx*

Matthew Wilkinson - January 19, 2018 at 07:14 AM

CW

“ *Barrie I could write a book alone of our time in Turkey where we first met (Jumbo Wilkinson indeed) and where we had so much fun and did so many stupid things! You kept a watchful eye from your apartment on Christine Taylor who lived opposite and whom I courted and married in 1972 after a whirlwind romance and one which we shared together with you and Beryl. Our strong bond and friendship was established there and lasted over 47 years. We have shared so many great times over the years with Beryl and Chris in lots of countries and thank you and Beryl from the bottom of our hearts for your hospitality, kindness, generosity and above all your true friendship.*

We have laughed over the years and clowned about and tried to out-do one another for decades with our stories and anecdote's (with Beryl and Chris getting rather bored having heard the stories a thousand times) – could I say it was a draw! We have seen Nigel grow up from an early age in Turkey and welcomed Nicola soon after her arrival in Belgium and when she was christened Chris became one of her god mothers. We were with you and Beryl in your car when you took a chance during martial law in Ankara and its night curfew - after receiving a drowning in Tom Debnams' bath/shower you decided to drive home in pyjamas bottoms, your vest and rather large slippers that were six sizes too big for you, happily singing and speeding through a police/military checkpoint – fortunately they were not alert but well armed and we made it through – think of the headlines in the Turkish press the next day if we had been caught! I could go on for hours.

Thank you for being the Barrie that you were, our dear friend – until we meet again, rest in peace and this time keep a watchful eye on Beryl, Nigel, Nicola and all the family.

Lots of Love Chris and Ray xx

Chris and Ray Wilkinson - January 19, 2018 at 04:37 AM