



Llyle J. Barker Jr.

July 28, 1932 - January 15, 2021

Barker, Llyle J. Jr., age 88, enthusiastically moved into eternal life with Jesus on January 15, 2021. Llyle was a faithful believer in God/Jesus, a dedicated husband, a loving father and grandfather, and friend to many who had the good fortune to know him.

He was a distinguished American soldier and academician. His life, family, and friends have always been considered wonderful blessings from God. Llyle was a member/teacher/ former Elder at the Worthington Christian Church, and a Bible scholar and teacher throughout life.

Llyle served a 30-year US Army active duty military career culminating as Chief of Army Public Affairs in the grade of Major General. As a soldier, Llyle served in a variety of Army command and military staff positions worldwide, seventeen of these years overseas. In Europe, he commanded the 2/28th Field Artillery Battalion and later the 210th Artillery and Missile Brigade consisting of seven artillery battalions. He served as a military public affairs officer at every level of the military.

After military retirement, Llyle joined the faculty of The Ohio State University School of Journalism, where he was a tenured associate professor and taught thousands of undergraduate and graduate public relations students, and was the academic advisor to many.

Throughout his careers, he was nationally recognized as a motivational speaker and

consultant on public relations, futurism, change communications, risk management, and crisis intervention. Llyle was a graduate of The Ohio State University (BScEduc), Shippensburg University (MScCommo), a special graduate program at the University of Wisconsin, and a graduate of the Army Command and Staff College and the Army War College. He was active in a variety of national and local veterans, civic and public relations organizations.

Llyle is survived by his wife/soulmate of 65 years, Maxine (Metcalf); two sons and daughters-in-law, Llyle III and Sue of Lincoln, Illinois, and Daryl and Kim of Reynoldsburg; two grandsons, Matthew (Sydney) and Kevin; and two granddaughters, Lydia (Derik) and Madalyn; sister-in-law Judy Metcalf of Westerville; nephews, Dick, Charles (Kay), and Jim (Helena) Doeble, and Terry and Todd (Kayla) Metcalf; many cousins, and friends. Burial will be at Union Cemetery.

Llyle said he was moving on to his special reward in Heaven, and those remaining on earth should seek more ways to serve their God and those around them.

In lieu of flowers, any contributions can be made to the Worthington Christian Church Development Fund (worthingtoncc.org)

A private ceremony will be held for immediate family.

Cemetery Details

Union Cemetery

3349 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, OH 43202
(614) 267-5471

Tribute Wall



“ *Llyle J. Barker Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM

AB

“ *The members of the Central Ohio Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America want to express their sincere condolences to the family and friends of General Barker.*

*Alexander Bettinger, Colonel USAF (Ret.)
Secretary*

A. Bettinger - January 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM

DH

“ *Lyle was always willing to help and support us in any ministry of which I was apart. After returning from the mission field, he called me and wanted to help in our re-entry. Such a mentor, friend, father-figure. Blessings to the family.*



Don Hooper - January 19, 2021 at 06:59 PM

RH

“ *I will always be grateful for the lessons Llyle taught in our Sunday morning class and for the way he and Maxine would open their home for our Bible study. What a blessing he was to our lives. Prayers are with Maxine and the family.*

Robin Hooper - January 19, 2021 at 06:57 PM

RB

“ *We enjoyed our church and small group lessons with General Barker. Blessings Randy and Nancy Board*

Randy Board - January 19, 2021 at 05:58 PM

SS

“ We will be forever thankful for our almost twenty-year friendship with Llyle and Maxine. During that time, they have blessed our lives in countless ways - from Llyle's teaching in the Good News Class at Worthington Christian Church, from the prayer chain they maintained so faithfully, from the many handwritten notes and cards, and from the beautiful example they set in their walk with Jesus. What blessed assurance that Llyle has heard those precious words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Chuck & Sara Speer

Sara Speer - January 19, 2021 at 09:07 AM

TS

“ Llyle helped guide me when I felt very lost at Ohio State. I was unsure of what to major in after not doing well in chemistry and econ classes. I took his PR 101 course and I was hooked. Here was someone really investing in me and others and was able to equip us with PR knowledge, skills and wisdom. And then he invited me to meet his PRSSA friends i.e students. God used him to steer me onto a path that has blessed me my entire life! Thank you Maxine and Barkers for sharing him with us! Todd Sedmak

Todd Sedmak - January 18, 2021 at 04:49 PM

PR

“ Our sympathy goes out to you, Maxine, and your family. I know how much you will all miss him! I always enjoyed talking with Lyle while waiting for you to come to the phone, Maxine. His righteous nature was evident even in that short amount of time. We know the Lord is walking with you.

Pat & Jim Rudolph - January 18, 2021 at 04:46 PM



“ *Major General Barker was how I knew him and addressed him when I was a young captain in my first assignment in the Pentagon. His mentorship guided me through the early years of my career, helped promote me to major and after I retired and co-founded the Army Public Affairs Association, MG Barker was one of the first to join as a life member. He was always eager to hear that the association was continuing to do what he was best at, mentoring. He was a great leader and friend. RIB*
Doug Coffey, Col, Ret.



Doug Coffey - January 18, 2021 at 04:00 PM

DS

“ *I first met Llyle in September 1985, two days after my Mother passed away from cancer. I was enrolled in his Introduction to Public Relations class that quarter. I was really concerned that I would have to drop my classes and return home.*

Llyle’s concern and compassion were truly comforting during the most challenging quarter of my collegiate career.

He was more than a professor to me and my classmates. Llyle was a source of encouragement and inspiration for all of us.

One of my favorite memories is when he accompanied us to Washington, D.C. for the national PRSSA conference. We had a few hours to spare in our schedule, so he dropped us at the Smithsonian. When he picked us up, he asked us what we did and saw. We asked him what he had done on the break. He nonchalantly mentioned that he had stopped and had a short visit with President Reagan!

Llyle was a great mentor and a friend. It was a privilege to have known him.

Dave Sweet, Ohio State J-School Class of ‘86

David Sweet - January 18, 2021 at 12:06 AM

KM

“ Llyle was so instrumental in so many lives in so many different ways. His compassion, calm demeanor and unyielding faithfulness stuck with me as his student and well into my career. I will cherish the personal note in his Christmas card this year. It is a privilege to have known him and his amazing family. God bless you all.

Kim Cole McBee - January 17, 2021 at 07:13 PM

TW

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Tracy Whited - January 17, 2021 at 06:39 PM



“ Llyle was that one special professor who stayed with you throughout your career, whether in person or in spirit. I was his student and PRSSA member in the late '80s. Llyle brought humanity, compassion and wisdom to every conversation and interaction with students. These values have been imprinted into how I approach my life both inside of and outside of the office. I hadn't realized how so much of my success can be attributed to Llyle. Upon reflection, it is clear that he helped shape me into the professional that I am today. Thank you, Llyle, rest in peace.

Lara Bradley Wyss, Class of '89

Lara Wyss - January 17, 2021 at 02:41 PM

AH

“ I had the pleasure of being part of the PRSSA group and student Board at OSU under the watchful eye of Lyle as our advisor. Being a Communication major, not a Journalism major, I felt at times like a misfit. At the time in 1986, both schools were separated. Lyle encouraged me to follow my gut. He said, “well does it FEEL right to you?” I told him it did and he said to “Go reach for the stars then!” He never judged us but solely pushed us to be the best we could be in all that we did. He was a man among the best of men! I'm the better for having him touch my life. Go Bucks thy faithful servant until we meet all once again!

Amy Jo (Jackson) Hernandez (Class of 87)

Amy Jo Hernandez - January 17, 2021 at 12:42 PM

ST

“ Llyle is one of the greatest people I have ever known. So blessed to have him in my life! Next to my parents, Llyle was the most influential person to launch my career and life journey as my mentor at The Ohio State University. He was so much more than our PR professor and PRSSA adviser. Llyle was the reason I joined the J-School. After learning about his military career, he guided me into and through Army ROTC. Llyle commissioned me as a Second Lieutenant by placing "his" original Butter Bars on my shoulders and said "May these turn into Stars." While I never reached the rank of General, I did achieve my goal of becoming an Army Public Affairs Officer and I would say that I did achieve "Stars" in my life and career. I would have never met my wonderful wife of 30 years if I wasn't in the Army and wouldn't have been as successful in my career if it wasn't for the foundation and support Llyle and the Army provided in my role as a PAO. I can never thank Llyle and his loving wife, Maxine, enough for their love and support! Rest in Peace Llyle. Such an accomplished life on earth impacting so many. Now, in heaven, cheering on the Buckeyes and continually watching over so many he guided!

STEPHEN TOMPOS - January 17, 2021 at 12:38 PM

ES

“ Llyle played a critical role in my life. He believed in me. He took me under his wing and mentored me at an important moment when I was struggling. Llyle steered me toward my first job which was the foundation of my career. He was always kind and had the most warming and wonderful laugh. I asked him "how do you keep your plants alive in your office?" His response, "why I just pour a little coffee on them from time to time," and then he looked at me and just started laughing. It was so warm and inviting. Another time I remember him telling me that in meetings you should remain calm and quiet. Listen to everything everyone has to say. Then at the end, having a full sense of the situation, speak up and give your opinion. I still remember that advice and try to employ it often. He told me once that if someone hasn't responded to an issue within two weeks, "then go ahead and put the matter into the 'circular file.'" "What's a 'circular file?'" I asked. "Why it's the garbage can of course!" How great is that. Llyle had no sense of pretense. He believed in me and showed me that I could believe in myself. I am at peace knowing that Llyle was such a strong Christian. In this crazy pandemic season where churches are shuttered and politics is a mess, Llyle is probably being called into a meeting with God. Heaven has never had better public relations advice!

Eric Smith - January 17, 2021 at 12:12 PM

KK

“ I shared this testimony of how Llyle influenced my faith life with his Ohio State community (including Daryl) yesterday. Because your husband, father, father-in-law, and grandfather was such an amazing person, I would like to share it with the whole family and hope it gives you comfort. 30+ years ago, when Llyle was first diagnosed with cancer, we had a very intense conversation on death. He assured me that he was not afraid, that the other side would be beautiful (absent of all pain), and that he will continue to be with us by looking deep in our hearts. Llyle vividly described heaven and was so confident in God’s plan for him. Even with everything he was going through, Llyle was the teacher and consoler to that 22-year-old girl looking for answers. Although I would have said I believed in God, this was the first time someone personalized the resurrection to me. I actually saw Jesus in Llyle’s eyes that day, and that was one of the most powerful moments in growing my faith. I never looked at the world the same way again. We were blessed to have Llyle for 30+ years after that conversation. For that, I am grateful.

Please know the entire Barker family is in my prayers. I love your dad (and your mom) as if they were second parents. Other than my actual parents, Llyle had the most impact in my life - I am very blessed.

Kathryn (Monda) Kuwabara

Kathryn (Monda) Kuwabara - January 17, 2021 at 11:11 AM

AH

I had the pleasure of being part of the PRSSA group and student Board at OSU under the watchful eye of Lyle as our advisor. Being a Communication major, not a Journalism major, I felt at times like a misfit. At the time in 1986, both schools were separated. Lyle encouraged me to follow my gut. He said, “well does it FEEL right to you?” I told him it did and he said to “Go reach for the stars then!” He never judged us but solely pushed us to be the best we could be in all that we did. He was a man among the best of men! I’m the better for having him touch my life. Go Bucks thy faithful servant until we meet all meet once again!

Amy Jo (Jackson) Hernandez (Class of 87)

Amy Jo Hernandez - January 17, 2021 at 12:38 PM

MZ

Llyle is one of the first people I met when I joined Worthington Christian Church in 1984..He helped me feel like I belonged and that they were glad to have me. Llyle was a good role model and teacher, consistently having kind and encouraging words to share. Even though I moved several times, we stayed in touch. I was very blessed to call him my friend. He has always held a special place in my heart.

Mary Zoeller

Mary Zoeller - January 19, 2021 at 09:58 AM