



Bernard W. Wells Jr.

October 31, 1943 - October 3, 2025

Bernard William Wells, Jr. (known to family and friends as Barney) 81, of Ona, WV, passed away peacefully on October 3, 2025, surrounded by his family.

Barney was born on October 31, 1943 in Louisville, KY to the late Bernard Sr. and Dorothy (Bohr) Wells, on his mother's birthday, a fact which brought him great joy. Barney spent the early years of his life in Louisville, KY, and Oak Ridge, TN before his family settled into their loving home in Dunbar, WV. He graduated from Charleston Catholic where he played basketball, baseball, and enjoyed participating in his school's theater program. He attended West Virginia State to study business and play baseball. He lived in Louisville, KY before returning to WV to begin a 45+ year career with General Electric Company.

While Barney's kindness and sense of humor were a theme throughout his life and relationships, his family was always at the center of what was most important to him. He shared 46 years of a joyful and devoted partnership with his loving wife Jane. Barney was the proud and cherished father of 5 children, 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. He was an encouraging, thoughtful, and playful uncle, great uncle, sibling, in-law, and cousin.

Barney's Christian faith gave him strength in life and hope in death – a legacy of love that he passed on to his family and friends. In addition, Barney enjoyed

years of playing, watching, and coaching sports, which included many consecutive years spent on the softball field until he retired from playing at age 65. Barney was also skilled in the area of home improvement and enjoyed maintaining a warm and inviting home with Jane.

Barney is survived by his wife, Jane Wells; children: Keli Rueckert (Tim), Amy Womack (Barry), Barney Wells (Sherry), Jacob Parsons-Wells (Rachel), and Josh Wells (Kelsey); and siblings: Cathy Carr, Tim Wells, and Peggy Gallups.

In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his brother, Edward, and son, Adam.

A Celebration of Barney's life and Funeral Service will be 11:00am October 8, 2025 at Lewis Memorial Baptist Church, 1358 West Pea Ridge Road Huntington, WV 25705 with Dr. David Lemming officiating. Burial will follow in Cunningham Memorial Park St. Albans, WV.

Friends may visit the family an hour prior to the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made in Barney's name to: Hospice of Huntington 1101 Sixth Avenue Huntington, WV 25701 or Lewis Memorial Baptist Church.

Anyone wishing to leave the family an online memory may do so by visiting Barney's tribute page at: www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com.

Chapman Funeral Home 3941 Teays Valley Road Hurricane, WV 25526 is honored to serve the Wells family.

Cemetery Details

Cunningham Memorial Park

815 Cunningham Lane
Saint Albans, WV 25177

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Lewis Memorial Baptist Church
1358 West Pea Ridge Road
Huntington, WV 25705

Funeral Service

OCT 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Lewis Memorial Baptist Church
1358 West Pea Ridge Road
Huntington, WV 25705

Tribute Wall



“ *Uncle Barney...you were more than great to me...I am so sorry I didn't know...I thought of you as blood uncle and always understood you cared for me and hoped best for me, I too called him both Uncle and Coach...*

My prayers for Kelli, Amy and my sweet little Barney.

George Bossie III

George Bossie III - March 16 at 03:52 PM



“ *What great memories! Barney, you and I and your brother Tim won the Dunbar church league basketball championship numerous times. De Colores!*

Danny (Dan) Turley

Dan Turley - October 07, 2025 at 10:25 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Bernard W. Wells Jr..*



October 07, 2025 at 06:59 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bernard W. Wells Jr..*

October 07, 2025 at 06:59 AM

MB

“ *The Best Friend I ever had. The Wells Family was my second family in my youth. My heart and prayers go out to them. Commode Games, pick up basket ball, football games, dances singing Beachboy songs in the car. They don't come along any better than my Bud Barney.*

Michael Bain - October 06, 2025 at 11:30 AM

DA

“ *When I think about “Big Barney,” every memory brings a smile to my face. He was truly an exceptional person in every sense of the word —kind, genuine, and full of life. I had the deepest respect and admiration for him, and his presence will be deeply missed by all whose lives he touched.*

Denny Allen - October 06, 2025 at 09:34 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bernard W. Wells Jr..*



October 06, 2025 at 08:50 AM

KF

“ *Big smile always, best grin ever, softball, laughing, arms always full of the latest baby added to the family, “Oh, Janie” he would say and she would blush and wink back at him. Cannot be more thankful to have him as our Uncle B. He was the best.
Love, Brett, Kathie, Lilly, & RielyJack*

Katherine Faulknier - October 05, 2025 at 05:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bernard W. Wells Jr..*



October 05, 2025 at 03:28 PM



“ *Love and prayers to Mrs Keli and family*

Will Willis - October 05, 2025 at 11:51 AM



“ *Jane and family -*

I'm so sorry to hear about Uncle Barney. My heart goes out to you and the family. Sending you my love, prayers and peace as you remember and celebrate his life. He was truly a special man and will be missed! 🙏🏻🙏🏻🙏🏻

Michael Feldhaus - October 05, 2025 at 09:15 AM



I'm so sorry to hear of Barney s passing. He was a very nice and friendly Man. Prayers and Love to All of His Family. 🙏🏻❤️

Phoebe Womack - October 05, 2025 at 11:30 AM



He Will Certainly Be Missed.

Phoebe Womack - October 05, 2025 at 11:31 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Bernard W. Wells Jr..*



October 05, 2025 at 07:27 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bernard W. Wells Jr..

October 05, 2025 at 07:27 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bernard W. Wells Jr..*



October 05, 2025 at 01:25 AM



“ *Barney and I were friends all through our growing up years at CCHS. It pleases me to know that he had a good and full life. Rest in Peace, Barney.*

John Kozick - October 05, 2025 at 12:21 AM