



John "JL" Luther Barker

May 26, 1940 - December 18, 2025

John Luther Barker Jr., affectionally known to many as J.L., passed away peacefully at the age of 85 at Wood Village while under the skillful care of the staff. Born on May 26, 1940, to the late John Luther Barker Sr. and Fannie Lou Sherlin Barker, he was preceded in death by his beloved sister Ruth Yvette Sample and surviving sister Mary Francis (Frankie) Gerald.

J.L. was married to Helen Heuer Barker for nearly 60 years, sharing a life built on love, devotion, and partnership. He was a proud father to two children: Raychelle (Tim) Flannagan and John Douglas Barker (Rel Ann). He was a devoted grandfather to Jacob and Sara Flannagan, Britton and Price Barker, each of whom held a special place in his heart. They proudly referred to him as Pop Pop.

J.L.'s career in food service for 19 years with Robert Orr Sysco earned the honor of Salesman of the year his first year. Throughout his career he gained respect and many lifelong friendships.

Twenty-five years ago, J.L. suffered a stroke and through tireless persistence he worked very hard to regain his strength. He drove himself to the track to walk every day and loved eating out at fast food daily. His determination and resilience were inspiration to all who knew him.

J.L. loved fishing and golfing, cherished time with his family, and found joy on trips to the Jetty in Fort Pierce, Florida, and scenic rides to Watts Bar.

J.L. will be remembered for his strength, perseverance, steady presence, and love for his family.

The family will receive friends Monday, December 22, 2025, from 5 till 7 p.m. at Kyker Funeral Home in Sweetwater.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **22**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kyker Funeral Homes
OUR SWEETWATER CHAPEL
PO Box 309, 113 W. North Street
Sweetwater, TN 37874
(423) 337-5033
julie@kyker.net
<https://www.kykerfuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall

JA

“ Jan purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of John "JL" Luther Barker.



Jan - December 21, 2025 at 09:44 AM

JB

“ Jason, Becky, Jacob, Cordie and Bill purchased the *Love's Journey* for the family of John "JL" Luther Barker.



Jason, Becky, Jacob, Cordie and Bill - December 20, 2025 at 02:41 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden* was purchased for the family of John "JL" Luther Barker.



December 20, 2025 at 02:28 PM

LC

“ Love, Phillip & Jill Caldwell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "JL" Luther Barker.

Love, Phillip & Jill Caldwell - December 20, 2025 at 02:28 PM

FS

“ Fairview S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "JL" Luther Barker.

Fairview S. - December 20, 2025 at 11:03 AM

DR

“ Helen I'm so sorry. He was an amazing man and a great friend to my daddy and mama and me. We love you both.



Diane Raulston - December 20, 2025 at 01:24 AM



“ Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of John "JL" Luther Barker.





December 19, 2025 at 11:08 PM

TT

“ Terry, and Eddie Thompson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "JL" Luther Barker.

Terry, and Eddie Thompson - December 19, 2025 at 11:08 PM

MC

“ love  you Helen and so sorry to hear about JL. praying for you and the family and will call soon 

mary chen-fung - December 19, 2025 at 10:02 PM

CL

My dear friend Helen...I'm so sorry for your loss of wonderful JL. You know I loved him and I love you dearly my friend. I have many fun & fond memories of our good times . I will see you one of these days soon I hope.

With my sympathy, love and hugs to you.

♥ Carol

Carol Roy Lewis - December 28, 2025 at 03:22 PM

BL

“ *So very sorry to hear about JL, please know we are thinking of you all during this time.*

Bob & Georgia Lamb

Bob & Georgia Lamb - December 19, 2025 at 08:54 PM

JA

I am so sorry. Prayers for you and your family.

Jamie Allison

Jamie Allison - December 20, 2025 at 11:18 AM