



## Dr. Dale Barbee

November 22, 1926 - February 29, 2012

Dr. Larry Dale Barbee from Sutton graduated to glory on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, at the Henderson Hospital in Henderson, NE. Doc was 85 years young.

Services honoring him will be 11:00 a.m., Monday, March 5, 2012, at Sutton Memorial Chapel in Sutton, NE with Rev. Martha Nordt officiating. Private family graveside services will be held at the Sutton Cemetery in Sutton, NE. There will be no visitation cremation has taken place.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be directed to the Arbor Day Foundation or the Sutton Historical Society.

Larry (a.k.a. Doc) Barbee was born on November 22, 1926 in Sutton, Nebraska to Dr. James Sheldon Barbee and Opal Pauline Foster Barbee. Doc graduated from Sutton High School, continued his studies at the University of Missouri, and then completed his formal education at Kansas State University with a doctorate degree in Veterinary Medicine. He returned to Sutton in 1955 and joined the Barbee Veterinary Clinic with his father and his brother Jim. Together the Barbee Veterinary Clinic received recognition for meritorious service to the 4-H. Larry provided large and small animal care for the next 42 years before retiring in 1997.

On June 12, 1955 he married his beloved wife Sallie May Matteson and they were blessed with 56 years together in marriage. This beautiful union created 5 children, 15 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

Larry was a faithful member of The Way Of Grace Fellowship Church. He also was a member of the Boy Scouts and the ROTC. In High School he was the Nebraska Golden Gloves Boxing Champ. Standing a little over 5' tall he proved it is not the size of the man in the fight but rather the size of the fight in the man. Larry was an assistant leader of the Sutton Rough Riders Saddle Club. He received an award from the FFA as an honorary Chapter Farmer. He was a life member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association, also an active member of both the Nebraska VMA Historical Committee and the Sutton Historical Society. He was also on the committee for the Civil War Memorial Monument located in the City Park in downtown Sutton.

The Arbor Day Foundation was one of Larry's favorite places to "shop" purchasing and planting many hundreds of various types of trees on the Barbee Hills Farm. He saw true value in planting and caring for the trees as they grew. Larry's consistent additions to the farm served to add beauty as well as to honor the Nebraska Pioneer Farm Award recognizing the family's ownership for over 100 years.

In the same large fashion as planting trees, Doc loved to garden and share his harvest with family and friends. He made remarkably tasty wine and he was well known by all above the age of 21 for sharing generously.

His passion for history reached beyond his service to the community with his avid love for reading. Doc loved Western novels especially when they were non-fiction. He would read through books almost as fast as we could supply them, becoming difficult to find new books he had not read.

Doc was a man of few words capturing a wonderful sense of humor. People listened whenever he talked because he only spoke when he had something important to say. His memory of details was exceptional; consequently, his storytelling abilities were unmatched often resulting with much laughter.

Laughter and joy were familiar friends to Larry. Many years a daily outlet for the happiness was the time he shared with his coffee and crossword puzzle groups. Rarely missing the weekday gatherings, true friendships were shared and enjoyed. Happiness followed Doc in life because he was happy person. If he was at work or coffee or in the hospital or rehabilitation he always managed to find the "funny". The Joy of our Lord resided comfortably in his heart, no doubt providing the great strength he exhibited up to and including his last days here in his earthly body.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father Dr. James and Opal Barbee, his infant brother Benne, and his older brother James Barbee.

Dr. Larry Barbee is survived by his sister Iris Barnett of Geneva, Nebraska. His wife Sallie of Sutton, Nebraska, and their children: Ben Barbee and wife Candy of Stapleton, Nebraska, Will Barbee and wife Kathleen of Dallas, Texas, Mary Ogren and husband Dick of Grant, Nebraska, April Lemkau and husband Rick of Sutton, Nebraska, Alan Barbee and wife Diane of Ayr, Nebraska, and finally his precious and treasured 15 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

# Tribute Wall

JN

“ Sallie-As a member of the State TeamMates Board, I would like to express my sympathies for your loss. Doc sounded like a wonderful man and I'm sure he will be missed my many. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you. Thank you for all you have done for TeamMates Mentoring Program.

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**John Northrop** - March 19, 2012 at 11:40 AM

CB

“ Dear Sallie and family,  
My deepest sympathy for your loss of Larry. Your nephew, Eric, shared the sad news with me. My prayers and thoughts with all of you. Dr. Larry was a giant!  
Warmest personal regards, Claire

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**Claire Bender** - March 12, 2012 at 04:35 PM

TG

“ Sallie, Will, April and the entire family,  
Our deepest sympathy to all of you for your loss. May God bless you with strength to carry you through this difficult time. Cherish all the memories. Our prayers are with you.

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**Ted & Shirley Griess** - March 05, 2012 at 07:39 PM

BR

“ good bye my uncle larry ..you were one of my heroes..i remember when you bid the highest to get me at the slave auction...s club..when i thought no body was gonna buy me..you rose to thee occasion..and would not be denied...that day you stood 7ft. tall in mine eyes and became as allways ..one of my heroes..

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**bruce ramsey** - March 05, 2012 at 01:49 PM

KU

“ *Sallie and family:*

*We were so sorry to hear that Larry had passed away. We so appreciated the call from Will. Please accept our condolences. I am so sorry that we will not be able to be with you on Monday, but please know that our hearts and prayers are with you and your family.*

*With Love,  
Keith & Maralee*

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**Keith & Maralee Udell** - March 04, 2012 at 09:33 PM

SP

“ *Will, Kathleen, and Family -- I've loved hearing the beautiful stories about your dad since I first met you. No doubt, he and your mom were your inspiration for you to be the wonderful man you are. Until I saw his picture, I didn't realize how much you look like him. That's a good thing. Although I never met him, I feel like I did, and my favorite stories are the "early morning coffee group", and of course, his love for animals. You, Will, have inherited that love of animals, and have shared your knowledge and your dad's knowledge with all of us who have pets that we adore, when we want to be assured that we are caring for them in the proper manner. I only wish I could have met your dad in person, but I do feel like I knew him through your stories and from reading these lovely tributes in his memory. Please give my love to everyone, and God bless all of you.*

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**Susan, Leon, and Danni Holman, Katy and Bill Pyle** - March 03, 2012 at 05:54 PM

CB

“ Hi Grandma. Words cannot express how sorry i am for your/our loss. I know its hard but he's in a better place now. He's in a place where he can plant all the trees he wants, and make all the wine he pleases. He can do what he wants and give all THE looks he wants. He may even greet each of us one day with it. :) We all love and miss him but remember its not goodbye its just cya later. I love you and you are in my prayers.

Love your granddaughter,  
Courtney

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**Courtney Barbee** - March 03, 2012 at 10:10 AM

MA

“ April,  
We were saddened to see that your dad has passed away. Having worked with you at the bank with my dad's accounts, I understand your loss. Growing up on our farm, your dad served us as veterrarian for many years. When I was younger, a twister came through our yard, but Dad and my brother John had left to get medicine from the Clinic for a sick calf which spared our vehicle as the building it had been in was collapsed by the twister. Just a memory of your dad's help.

We will have you in our thoughts and prayers. May the Lord give you good memories and comfort in the days ahead.

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**Mary(Roemmich) Arbuck** - March 03, 2012 at 09:27 AM

KB

“ Dear Sally & Family,  
We are so sorry to learn of Larry's death. Our sympathy goes out to all of you during this difficult time.

What a big hole Larry's death will leave in your family. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Kenny & Helen Brandt** - March 03, 2012 at 07:47 AM

BB

“ Hey grandma, I am so sorry for your or rather our loss. What can I even say. I know he is in a better place now but it's that bittersweetness of loss but with promise of a better future or rather forever. Grandpa is in heaven looking at us waiting for us to join in eternal happiness. I am so glad that I had the opportunity to come during Christmas. To be able to see him one last time really meant a lot to me and I am so glad that I got to see you both. As we grow older things keep changing and visits are regrettably far in between as the busy life of college takes toll but I just want you to know that I love you and miss you and wish I could be there for the services honoring Grandpa for the great man he was. I hope to come see you soon but in the mean time I will keep you and the family in my prayers as I always do.

Love you always,

Your grandson Brennan.

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**Brennan Barbee** - March 01, 2012 at 07:53 PM