

*Celebrating* THE *Life* OF  
**Laird Barber**

**MAY 13, 1930 – JUNE 23, 2024**

**Psalm 121**

*I will lift up my eyes to the hills –  
From whence comes my help?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
Who made heaven and earth.*

*He will not allow your foot to be moved;  
He who keeps you will not slumber.  
Behold, he who keeps Israel  
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.*

*The Lord is your keeper;  
The Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day,  
Nor the moon by night.*

*The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;  
He shall preserve your soul.  
The Lord shall preserve your going out  
and your coming in  
From this time forth, and even forevermore.*

**Services At:**

Federated Church - Morris, Minnesota  
Friday - July 12, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.

**Officiating Clergy:**

Reverend Matthew Orendorff

**Pianist:**

Angela Nybakke

**Soloist:**

Ken Hodgson

**Honorary Urnbearers:**

Robinson Abbott, C. Frederick Farrell Jr., Robert Guerseny  
James Gremmels, John Q. Imholte  
Dwight Purdy, W. Donald Spring

**Military Honors:**

Morris American Legion, VFW, and AmVets

**Interment:**

Summit Cemetery  
Morris, Minnesota

**Laird Barber** was born on May 13, 1930 to Katharine and Laird H. Barber in Greenwich, Connecticut. He attended school in Riverside, Connecticut, as well as at Deerfield Academy in Deerfield, Massachusetts, where he graduated in 1948. Laird received his B.A. from Williams College in Williamstown, MA, graduating in 1952. Laird served in the United States Army from 1953 to 1955, spending his service in Korea. Laird earned his M.A. in English from the University of Michigan in 1956, and later obtained a Ph.D. in English Language and Literature in 1962.

On January 23, 1960, Laird was united in marriage to Dorothy K. Barber. The couple moved to Grinnell, Iowa in 1961, where Laird began teaching English and Humanities at Grinnell College. Laird and Dorothy moved to Morris in 1964, where Laird began teaching at the University of Minnesota Morris. There he taught English, Literature, Humanities, and English Composition from 1964 to 1994, with some part-time service thereafter. At UMM, Laird also served as Coordinator of English, along with also serving in many committees in the Humanities Division, on the All-University Consultation Committee, and serving on the Senate Judicial Committee. Laird's faith was also very important to him, and he was a Warden of Christ Episcopal Church in Benson.

Laird and Dorothy loved to travel together, anywhere and everywhere. Together they visited Turkey, Greece, and Indonesia. After Dorothy passed away, Laird continued to travel and got to see polar bears in Canada.

Laird passed away at his home in Alexandria on Sunday, June 23, 2024. He was 94 years old.

Laird is survived by his son: "Jake" Laird H. Barber and partner Nikki Kissner of St. Joseph, MN; and grandchildren: Duncan VanDemark, Elizabeth H. Lawlor, Barbara H. Maropas, and Katherine B. Hanson. He was preceded in death by his wife: Dorothy Barber; daughter: Joani VanDemark; his parents and sister: Frances Dorrance.

I N L O V I N G  
*Memory*



Guestbook QR Code



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**Pedersen**  
Funeral & Cremation Service

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