



William "Bill" Barto

DEC 14, 1954 - OCT 30, 2025



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Hamlin & Hilbish
Funeral Directors

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William "Bill" Barto

DEC 14, 1954 - OCT 30, 2025

William "Bill" Barto December 14, 1954 – October 30, 2025

William D. "Bill" Barto, 70, of Tavares, Florida, passed away peacefully after suffering a brain aneurysm on October 30, 2025. Born on December 14, 1954, in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, Bill was the beloved son of Basil and Mary Barto, who preceded him in death.

Bill graduated from Delcastle Vo-Tech High School in Wilmington, Delaware. After high school, Bill joined Winward Racing as a crew member of their alcohol-fueled dragster team. He moved to Florida in the 1980s, where he built a life rooted in service, passion, and love.

In 2001 Bill was requested by the Lake County School Board to design and open East Ridge High School's Auto Collision Repair and Paint program. Students were captively drawn to him, not only for his innovative teaching style, but also for his compassion and desire to help others. Bill was well-loved and every year there were male and female students requesting to be a part of his world which was a dynamic, one-of-a-kind program.

As often as the case, Bill was regularly sought out by members of the school and community for his expert work. Through his reputation in the field, he was asked to paint and wrap the Earnhardt family's NASCAR M&M car among many other prestigious requests. Bill dedicated his career to teaching and sharing his deep knowledge and enthusiasm for all things automotive.

Sadly, due to health reasons, Bill retired in 2018, leaving behind a legacy of mentorship and inspiration. To this day his students remember him not only for his expertise but for his unwavering belief in "life, love, and legacy."

On June 27, 1999, Bill met the love of his life, Karen. Their bond grew stronger over the years, culminating in their marriage, ten years to the day later, on June 27, 2009, at the Garden Gate



Obituary

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Café in Mount Dora, Florida. Together, they built a beautiful life filled with joy, family, and community service. Bill was a natural volunteer and a man of many passions, especially when it came to cars! He will forever be known for his kindness, wisdom, and simple yet profound advice he often shared such as, "Be sure to keep those headlights clear, think about becoming an organ donor, and always look for ways to be of service."

Bill is survived by his loving wife, Karen; his beloved son, William "Allen"; grandchildren, Teagan and Gabby; sisters Laura (Mike Woodward) and Elizabeth "Betsy" Warner; niece Casey (Jose) Vazquez and their daughter Zoe; nephew David Warner; sister-in-law, Christine Stafford (Karen's sister) and nephew Derek Stafford; along with many beloved cousins. Bill also leaves behind his "children of the heart": Ryan (Ashley) and their children Malakai and Devlynn; Johanna (CJ) and their children Jason and Connor; Tommy; Erin and her children Aidan and Adilyn; Scott (Brittany) and their children Cooper and Jack; Letson (Laura); and his constant companion of 13+ years, Zhazi. He was also preceded in death by his cherished pets Cookie, Bandit, Nelson, and Booger.

Bill's funeral will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at Orange Avenue Church of Christ in Eustis, Florida. His visitation and viewing will begin at 12:30 PM, followed by the service at 1:30 PM. For those who would like to join, there will be a processional to Lakeside Memory Gardens, followed by a fellowship meal to which everyone is invited back to the church where we will celebrate knowing that Bill is in the loving arms of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Kind words, flowers, and/or donations to The Aneurysm and AVM Foundation (TAAF), a vascular brain research organization, will be lovingly accepted. Donations can be made on their website at <https://taafonline.org>.



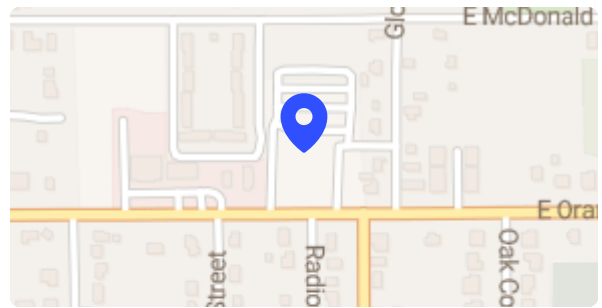
Events

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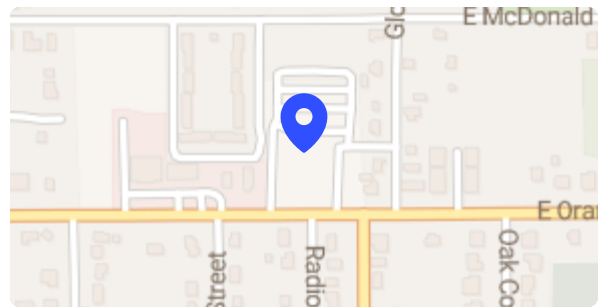
Visitation

- Saturday**, November 15, 2025
- 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM ET
- Orange Avenue Church of Christ**
1511 E. Orange Avenue, Eustis, FL FL 32726



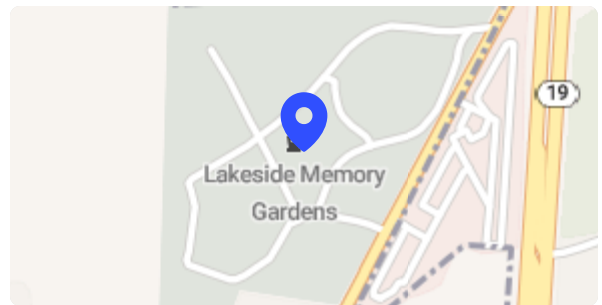
Funeral Service

- Saturday**, November 15, 2025
- 1:30 PM ET
- Orange Avenue Church of Christ**
1511 E. Orange Avenue, Eustis, FL FL 32726



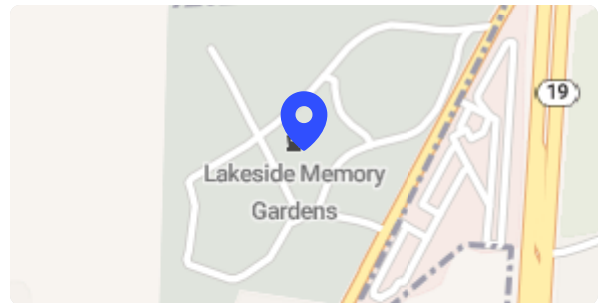
Processional

- Saturday**, November 15, 2025
- Lakeside Memory Gardens**
36601 County Road 19A, Eustis FL 32726



Cemetery Details

- Lakeside Memory Gardens**
36601 County Road 19A, Eustis FL 32726
- 352 357 4193**





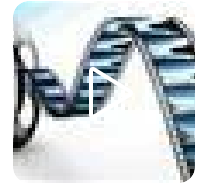
Tribute Wall

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Hamlin & Hilbish Funeral Directors shared a **Video**.



November 15 at 7:50 AM



Jessica Vejar posted:

Mr. Barto was a wonderful person. I first met him when I was in high school and he was teaching auto body. He was a great teacher and was always trying to do the most for his students. He was the first actual father figure I had in my life. He believed in my dreams of working in racing and was always supportive about them. He actually was the one who helped me choose colleges and sat down with me to fill out an application. I will be forever grateful for Mr. Barto.

November 15 at 9:11 AM



William Greenberg posted:

I have rarely met nicer people than Bill and Karen. In their union, each was more more fotunate than the other.Bill Greenberg

November 14 at 2:42 PM



Catherine S. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of William "Bill".



November 13 at 3:03 PM



Meagan And Dan sent a Lavender & White Sympathy Basket to the Barto family.



November 13 at 12:10 AM



Meagan And Dan planted a Memorial Tree in honor of William "Bill".



November 13 at 12:10 AM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Peaceful Wishes to the Barto family.



November 11 at 2:34 PM



Aldo Prelaz sent a Blue & White Sympathy Basket to the Barto family.



November 10 at 10:41 PM



Aldo Prelaz planted a Memorial Tree in honor of William "Bill".



November 10 at 10:41 PM



Casey & David sent a Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket to the Barto family.



November 9 at 1:52 PM



Vicki McCulloch posted:

It was a fairly brief meeting but LARGE in lasting impression! The occasion was SMHS reunion... Karen's . Really, eyes were drawn towards them because simply they were SO CUTE together! I thought to myself how lucky Karen was to have such a nice guy to share her life with. I continued to see snippets of their Florida life as shared on facebook and as always faith and family were central, .. and the love ! I am just sorry Vicki McCulloch

November 5 at 11:15 PM



Holly Montz posted:

He was an amazing man that could always put a smile on your face. He had such a big heart and will be missed by so many.

November 5 at 9:55 PM



Media

William "Bill" Barto
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Hamlin & Hilbish Funeral Directors shared a **Video**.

November 15 at 7:50 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William "Bill" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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