



## Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee

January 24, 1957 - May 4, 2026

\*\*\*A SERVICE IN LOVING MEMORY FOR MR. DARWIN JOSEPH BARBEE WILL BE HELD 11:30 A.M., ON FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026, AT MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH. THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH WILL OPEN AT 11:00 A.M. FOR PUBLIC VIEWING.

\*\*\*ATTN: PLEASE SEE VISITATION & SERVICE TIME FOR LISTED BELOW

\*\*\*MASKS ARE OPTIONAL AT THE CHURCH. HAND SANITIZER WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE CHURCH UPON REQUEST.

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ATTENTION TO THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO VIEW SERVICES ONLINE FROM HOME, YOU HAVE (3) OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

1. Go to Mt. Zion Baptist Church's website at: [mtzionkalamazoo.org](http://mtzionkalamazoo.org)

-Or

2. Go to YouTube and type in [mtzionbaptistkalamazoo](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmtzionbaptistkalamazoo)

-Or

3. Go to Facebook, if you have a facebook account. after logging in, type in [Myzionbaptistkalamazoo](https://www.facebook.com/Myzionbaptistkalamazoo)

\*\*\*FOR THOSE THAT DO NOT USE THE INTERNET, YOU MAY LISTEN TO THE SERVICE ON YOUR PHONE BY CALLING: (269) 206-9635

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## The Obituary

Darwin Joseph Barbee, age 69, of Kalamazoo, passed away peacefully at home on May 4, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on January 24, 1957, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, to Joe Barbee and Helen Barbee.

Darwin accepted the Lord and was baptized on October 7, 1979, at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Kalamazoo. His faith remained an important part of his life and spiritual journey. Later in life, he became a devoted member of First Salem Baptist Church in Battle Creek, where he continued to nurture his relationship with God and fellowship with others.

He began working at the young age of ten, cutting grass at ISB Bank on the corner of North Burdick and Prouty Street. Throughout his life, he was known for his strong work ethic and dedication. Over the years, he worked for Spring Valley Park, Meijer, Plainwell Paper Company, and ultimately Burroughs Corporation, where he faithfully served for 20 years before retiring on May 20, 2022.

Darwin was a devoted family man who loved spending time with those closest to him. He enjoyed attending family reunions, graduations, open houses, and all occasions that brought loved ones together. He found joy in traveling on cruise ships, attending concerts, and creating special memories with his children and grandchildren at amusement parks.

A passionate sports fan, Darwin proudly supported the Detroit Pistons and the Detroit Lions and enjoyed attending games whenever possible. Above all, he loved cheering for the Michigan Wolverines, especially during victories over their rivals, the Michigan State Spartans and the Ohio State Buckeyes.

He was preceded in death by his father, Joe Barbee; sister, Sandra Barbee;

bonus father, Frank Brooks; maternal grandparents, William and Anna Mills; and paternal grandparents, Goodloe and Willie Barbee.

Darwin leaves behind a loving family who will cherish his memory forever: his daughters, Sharla Barbee and Simone Neily; sons, Darwin Barbee Sr. (Kristin), Tyren Barbee, and Quenton Kizer; mother, Helen Brooks; bonus mother, Chiquita Barbee; brother, Donald Barbee (Rubynell); sisters, Jackie Wallick (John), Vickie McDonald, Sonia Wilkerson, Claudia Barbee, and Eden Mabry (Dexter); and longtime companion, Juanita Garrett. He also leaves behind twelve grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, three aunts, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and dear friends

# Cemetery Details

## Riverside Cemetery

1015 Gull Rd  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048-1733  
(269) 337-8227

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing For Family & Friends

MAY 21. 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel  
521 Douglas Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

## Visitation For Family & Friends

MAY 22. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
120 Roberson Street  
kalamazoo, MI 49007-3557

## A Service in Loving Memory

MAY 22. 11:30 AM (ET)

Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
120 Roberson Street  
kalamazoo, MI 49007-3557



# Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



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Harper Funeral Home - May 20 at 10:14 AM

CB

“ It hurts 💔 to see our loved ones go and we also know that your not suffering in pain anymore you will be truly missed cousin Darwin & never forgotten 🕊️❤️



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Carmita Bell - May 25 at 09:15 AM

MM

“ To the Family our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Wishing you comfort, strength, and peace in the days ahead.



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Merry Sue Mitchell-Battles - May 24 at 02:02 PM

DD

“ *Deborah Drain lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee*



Deborah Drain - May 22 at 05:42 PM

KS

“ *KIMBERLY KIRK - SMITH lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee*



KIMBERLY KIRK - SMITH - May 22 at 11:35 AM

CE

“ *This blue candle is lit because Darwin knew my favorite color is blue.  
Thank you Darwin for our conversations and dropping by to chat.  
Rest in eternal peace.  
~ Mama Chichi  
~ Chiquita Elmore-Barbee*



Chiquita Elmore-Barbee - May 22 at 03:42 AM

TP

“ *Terrance Parker lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee*



Terrance Parker - May 21 at 09:35 PM

JN

“ *Janice (Steele) Nelson lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee*



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**Janice (Steele) Nelson** - May 21 at 06:11 PM

TK

“ *Sending my deepest and most heartfelt condolences during this incredibly difficult time.*

*Darwin was truly such a sweet, kind man, and I feel so grateful to have known him and shared in his warmth for as long as I did. He brought so much light into the lives of those around him, and he will be deeply missed. Keeping my cousin and The Barbee family in my thoughts and prayers. Rest in peace.*

*Lovingly,*

*Tameka King*

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**Tameka King** - May 21 at 05:21 PM

RG

“ *Robert Granville lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee*



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**Robert Granville** - May 21 at 03:36 PM

GK

“ *Gwen Kirk lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee*



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**Gwen Kirk** - May 21 at 01:47 PM

SB

“ *Shannan Clark - Bacon lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee*



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**Shannan Clark - Bacon** - May 21 at 09:46 AM

BE

“ *Bobby Edwards sent a virtual gift in memory of Darwin Barbee*



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**Bobby Edwards** - May 21 at 12:06 AM

CO

“ *Prayers going out to The Barbee, and Ozier Families. Sorry for your loss. God Bless, Cynthia Owens-White*



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**Cynthia Owens-White** - May 20 at 11:16 PM

CW

“ I send my love and condolences to the Barbee family, I pray that Yah will mend your broken hearts and give you laughter remembering all the good times you shared with Darwin. Rip Darwin ❤️

Carolyn Walker - May 20 at 06:32 PM

DD

“ Duke Dixon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



duke Dixon - May 20 at 05:59 PM

LB

“ My sincere Condolences Nd 🙏 prayers too the family, friends of Darwin Barbee. D! Is what I called him.  
I Thank God for you D, the stories, laughter We shared Nd road tripping too KC games,, I'm gonna miss you,,my friend,, (Rest N Paradise) ☐ 🙌



LB - May 19 at 09:48 PM

TC

“ Trudy Carr lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



Trudy Carr - May 19 at 03:46 PM

TT

“ Tyrone & Simone Tarver lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



Tyrone & Simone Tarver - May 19 at 02:34 PM

KB

“ Miss you Papa Darwin. Love KaNahvea Barbee



KANAHVEA BARBEE - May 19 at 11:42 AM

LB

“ My sincere Condolences Nd 🙏 prayers to the family Nd Friends of Darwin... D, I called him was a Good friend of mine, we shared talks, laugh abt them past days,,years. Road tripping to KC games,,Thank you D! For the Memories..I'm gonna miss you My Friend,, Ur flight to Paradise,,👍



LB - May 19 at 10:00 AM

CO

“ Cheryl Owens-Nebedum lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



Cheryl Owens-Nebedum - May 18 at 07:23 PM

GM

“ *Glenda Gail McKinley lit a candle in memory  
of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Glenda Gail McKinley** - May 18 at 06:03 PM

BB

“ *Condolences Family!*

*Booker Barbee  
Battle Creek, MI*

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**Booker Barbee** - May 18 at 05:53 PM

PR

“ *Phillip and Patricia Ragland  
Jackson, MI*



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**Patricia Ragland** - May 18 at 05:47 PM

DB

“ *Heartfelt Condolences and Prayers!*

*Dorothy Bazemore and Family  
McKinney, TX*



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**Dorothy Bazemore** - May 18 at 05:45 PM

PC

“ Phillip Barbee Studio City, CA lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



Phillip Barbee Studio City, CA - May 18 at 05:41 PM

PF

“ Phillip Barbee & Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



Phillip Barbee & Family - May 18 at 05:38 PM

PF

“ PJ Barbee & Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



PJ Barbee & Family - May 18 at 05:35 PM

SM

“ Sharon Miller lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



Sharon Miller - May 18 at 05:33 PM

BG

“ Beverly Green lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



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**Beverly Green** - May 18 at 02:23 PM

QW

“ Quona Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



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**Quona Walker** - May 18 at 02:09 PM

LP

“ My Condolences to the family and Prayers



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**Lorene Phillips** - May 18 at 10:46 AM

CB

“ I will miss my brother, he always told us when there is something is going on ,concert ,comedy show etc.

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**Claudia Barbee** - May 18 at 10:42 AM

BB

“ *My deepest sympathy to the Barbie/Mills family. May God comfort you all during this transition. Darwin will always be remembered in my heart. God bless his family and friends.*



Beverly Boyd - May 18 at 01:37 AM

KB

“ *Papa Darwin, I will miss you so much. Love KaNahvea*



Kanahvea Barbee - May 18 at 01:24 AM

JS

“ *Julia Denise Sheppard lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



Julia Denise Sheppard - May 17 at 09:26 PM

SB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Sharla Barbee - May 17 at 08:17 PM

WM

“ *Willie And Stephanie Moore lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Willie and Stephanie Moore** - May 17 at 07:16 PM

CG

“ *Our condolences to the family.*

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**Cordell/Brenda Gardner** - May 17 at 06:51 PM

SB

“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Sharla Barbee** - May 17 at 04:54 PM

SB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Sharla Barbee** - May 17 at 03:19 PM

SB

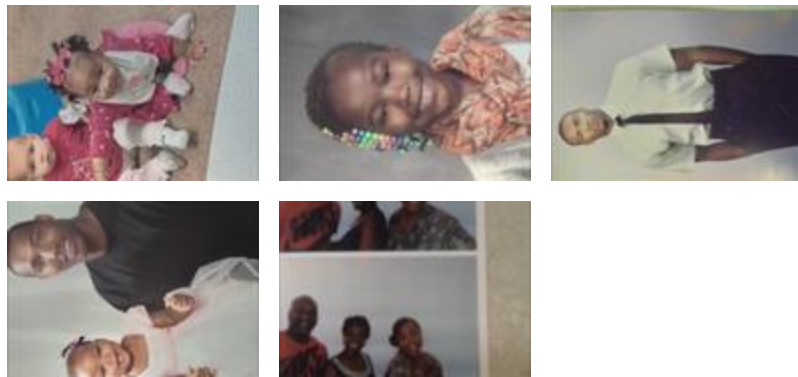
“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Sharla Barbee - May 17 at 03:13 PM

SB

“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Sharla Barbee - May 17 at 02:45 PM

SB

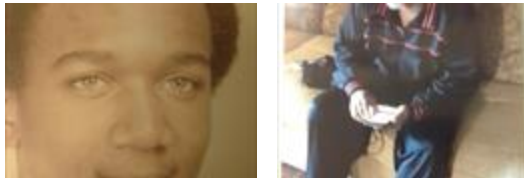
“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Sharla Barbee - May 17 at 11:45 AM

SB

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Sharla Barbee - May 17 at 10:23 AM

AS

“ Alma Snell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



Alma Snell - May 17 at 02:04 AM

OD

“ *Odie & Michelle Dancer lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee*



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**Odie & Michelle Dancer** - May 16 at 10:46 AM

SB

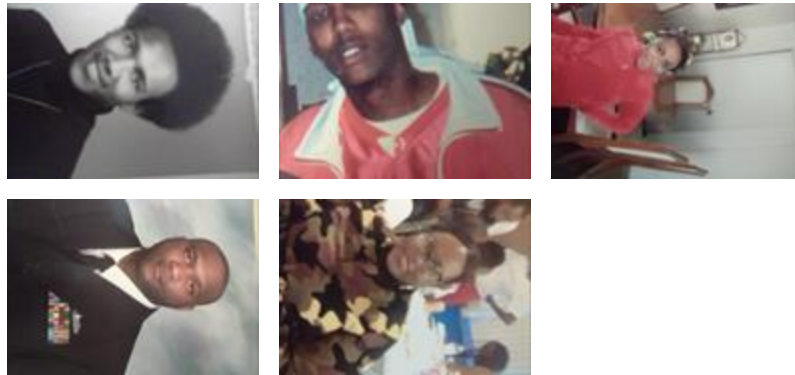
“ *30 files added to the tribute wall*

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**Sharla Barbee** - May 16 at 10:35 AM

SB

“ *30 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Sharla Barbee** - May 16 at 10:33 AM

LF

*I worked with Darwin for 23 years he was a good guy,enjoyed working with him r.i.p. my brother you've earned your wings*

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**Larry Fields** - May 16 at 03:32 PM

SB

“ *We had a beloved time at the blues festival. Missing my dad.* ”



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**Sharla Barbee** - May 16 at 09:56 AM

ML

“ *Malinda Ligon-Whitley lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee* ”



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**Malinda Ligon-Whitley** - May 16 at 09:32 AM

RC

“ *Raon Coleman lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee* ”



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**Raon Coleman** - May 16 at 01:45 AM

KM

“ *Kim Marshall lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee* ”



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**Kim Marshall** - May 16 at 12:28 AM

JM

“ *Joyce McDowell lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee*



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**Joyce McDowell** - May 15 at 11:56 PM

MM

“ *To The Family of Darwin Barbee:*

*Life blessed me not only with family, but also with the rare gift of having Darwin as both a cousin and a cherished friend. I deeply appreciate every memory we created together and everything Darwin contributed to my life. Darwin's presence enriched my days, and I will forever be grateful for the moments and experiences we shared.*



*Cousin,  
Michael McKinley*

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**Michael Mckinley** - May 15 at 12:38 PM

MD

“ *To the Barbee Family; May his memory be a lasting blessing and a source of comfort to you.*

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**MaryAnn Dallas** - May 15 at 12:37 PM

MD

“ *MaryAnn Dallas lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee*



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**MaryAnn Dallas** - May 15 at 12:33 PM

MM

“ *Life blessed me not only with family, but also with the rare gift of having Darwin Barbee as both a cousin and a cherished friend.*

*I deeply appreciate every memory we created together and everything Darwin contributed to my life. His presence enriched my days, and I will forever be grateful for the moments and experiences we shared.*

*Cousin,  
Michael McKinley*

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**Michael McKinley** - May 15 at 12:23 PM

LP

“ *Lakeysha Pratt lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Lakeysha Pratt** - May 15 at 09:04 AM

RW

“ *Rj & Anita Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Rj & Anita Wilkerson** - May 15 at 08:35 AM

RO

“ *Rickie Ozier lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Rickie ozier** - May 15 at 04:53 AM

JW

*Condolences to the Barbee family.*

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**Jacqueline K Williams** - May 15 at 05:37 PM

PG

“ *Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee*



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**Pauline Gardner** - May 14 at 08:19 PM

ES

“ *Ellen Spencer lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee*



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**Ellen Spencer** - May 14 at 06:35 PM

JT

“ *Joseph Turner lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee*



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**Joseph Turner** - May 14 at 03:38 PM

JP

“ *James & Barbara Phillips lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee*



---

**James & Barbara Phillips** - May 14 at 01:53 PM

JP

“ *James & Barbara Phillips lit a candle in memory of Darwin Barbee*



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**James & Barbara Phillips** - May 14 at 01:52 PM

DF

“ *God Bless and Keep The Family -Daniel Family  
- Lillie, Patricia, Teresa, Juanita, Mariah and  
Malika*



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**Daniel Family** - May 14 at 01:07 PM

KA

“ *Kathie Ozier & Family in Arkansas lit a candle  
in memory of Darwin Barbee*



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**Kathie Ozier & Family in Arkansas** - May 14 at 12:17 PM

VA

“ *Victor & Margo Anderson lit a candle in  
memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Victor & Margo Anderson** - May 14 at 11:58 AM

CM

“ *CMVINCENT sent a virtual gift in memory of  
Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**CMVINCENT** - May 14 at 09:59 AM

DZ

“ *Darlene Zackery lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Darlene Zackery** - May 13 at 11:08 PM

SB

“ *Sharla Barbee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Sharla Barbee** - May 13 at 09:23 PM

SB

“ *Death is an evitable. I would like to treasure the legacy of my dad. He was family oriented and loved all his children and grandchildren. He had an impact on my life to work hard. Prayers for the family & friends in this difficult time in need. Your daughter Sharla Barbee*

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**Sharla Barbee** - May 13 at 09:08 PM

GW

“ *Georgia Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Georgia Williams** - May 13 at 08:30 PM

JD

“ Jack Dunigan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



Jack Dunigan - May 13 at 04:02 PM

EF

“ Earline Fields And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



Earline Fields and family - May 13 at 10:53 AM

EF

“ My Condolences to Mrs Brooks and Family I will keep you all in my prayers God bless you all



Earline Fields and family - May 13 at 10:52 AM

EB

“ My brothers I didn't know I needed until I became an adult. Thank you, Darwin, for loving your 'lil sis. #Joe'sKids



Eden Barbee-Mabry - May 13 at 09:57 AM

EB

“ *Brother. Cousin.  
Darwin, you supported and loved us all.  
Thank you.*



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**Eden Barbee-Mabry** - May 13 at 09:54 AM

EB

“ *Brother that always had a smile and a laugh.  
We will miss you Brother.*



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**Eden Barbee-Mabry** - May 13 at 09:51 AM

VM

“ *Vicky Mills/jones lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**vicky mills/jones** - May 13 at 08:00 AM

TM

“ *My sincere condolences to the Barbee family.  
Love and praying for you.*

*Tamie Moran*



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**Tamie Moran** - May 13 at 01:23 AM

RC

“ *Ronnie & Donald Coleman lit a candle in  
memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Ronnie & Donald Coleman** - May 12 at 11:21 PM

JG

“ *Darwin was always cool, calm and respectful.  
Truly a good person. He will be missed.*



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**JoAnne & Renaford Owens Jr - Atlanta GA** - May 12 at 11:17 PM

JD

“ *Joann Dixon lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Joann Dixon** - May 12 at 11:11 PM

EG

“ *Edith Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Edith Gardner** - May 12 at 10:16 PM

JW

“ *Jeanetta Walker*



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**JW** - May 12 at 08:46 PM

TW

“ *Terri Lynn Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Terri Lynn Walker** - May 12 at 03:49 PM

GO

“ *Gordon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Gordon** - May 12 at 02:16 AM

CR

“ *Cassandra Roshauwn sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



Cassandra Roshauwn - May 11 at 11:02 PM

YR

“ *GOING TO MISS WISHING YOU HAPPY BIRTHDAY COUSIN AND YOU WISHING ME HAPPY BIRTHDAY BUT YOU REST NOW .I LOVE YOU SO MUCH .YVONNE*



Yvonne Heltzel Reese - May 11 at 11:00 PM

DF

“ *Dallas Boards And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



Dallas Boards and family - May 11 at 08:09 PM

DF

“ *My sincere condolences to the family praying 🙏 you're truly going to be missed 😭💔*

Dallas Boards and family - May 11 at 08:09 PM

DW

“ *David & Laverne Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**David & Laverne Walker** - May 11 at 06:16 PM

CS

“ *My condolences to the Barbee famiy.I pray God continues to comfort you.Cindy Phillips Smith*

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**Cynthia Smith** - May 11 at 03:47 PM

JH

“ *Jerry Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Jerry Harris** - May 11 at 03:29 PM

HC

“ *Hazel Coleman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Hazel Coleman** - May 11 at 02:50 PM

TB

“ Terry Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



Terry Buchanan - May 11 at 02:49 PM

CB

“ Claudia Barbee sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



Claudia Barbee - May 11 at 02:09 PM

FR

“ Frank & Ida Robinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



Frank & Ida Robinson - May 11 at 01:49 PM

AS

“ Sincerest condolences and prayers to the family



Alma Snell - May 11 at 12:39 PM

ES

“ *Ethel (Jones) Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Ethel (Jones) Smith** - May 11 at 12:30 PM

SO

“ *Sonia lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Sonia** - May 11 at 12:19 PM

HF

“ *Heady Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Heady Family** - May 11 at 11:34 AM

DB

“ *Donald % Ruby Barbee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee*



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**Donald % Ruby Barbee** - May 11 at 09:09 AM

RF

“ Rest peacefully in Paradise Darwin💔💔

Royetta Fry-Walker - May 11 at 08:50 AM

LG

“ Larry Gray And Karen Gray sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



Larry Gray and Karen Gray - May 11 at 07:43 AM

KF

“ We had some great time together throughout your journey. RIP till we meet again. My condolences to the family



Kevin Ford - May 11 at 07:17 AM

SA

“ Darwin my first love, went from, friends, to high school sweet hearts, to husband and wife, back to friends. Then to co-parents of our grown children. We laughed, we cried and we shared a good life. God has kept you through it all. And now he's done just what he said he would do.,prepare a place for you. Take your rest in freedom, love and peace in God's unfailing Love. To God Be The Glory! You will be missed. Love forever Sherry



Sherry Anderson - May 11 at 05:52 AM

JD

“ Jack Dunigan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



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**Jack Dunigan** - May 11 at 02:16 AM

JD

“ Jack Dunigan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



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**Jack Dunigan** - May 11 at 02:15 AM

SB

“ Sharon Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Darwin Joseph Barbee



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**Sharon Buchanan** - May 11 at 12:29 AM