



Barney Michael Pitchford

September 10, 1939 - March 7, 2026

Barney Michael Pitchford, 86, brother, nephew, uncle, cousin, and friend died at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at Hawthorne Inn of Jerseyville. Born September 10, 1939, in Sesser, Illinois, he was the son of Clyde and Marie (Thomas) Pitchford.

Mike (Barney) was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a member of the North Alton Southern Baptist Church. Mike held many jobs during his lifetime, and he loved talking about them. He retired as a pipefitter after many long years working at Shell Refinery.

On June 5, 1965, he married Margaret Ann Barrow. She was the love of his life and the two were devoted to each other. Margaret died on March 21, 2023. Mike is survived by one sister, Gladys Hindelang, of Edwardsville, nephews Jeff, Craig, and Brian Hindelang, nieces, Julie Burgess, Linda (Jim) Allen, Charlotte (Clint) Hill, several great nieces and nephews, aunts, Dorothy Hazelwonder and Leona Hawkins, and several cousins. Besides his parents and wife, Mike was preceded in death by brothers Clyde Earl and Kenneth Ray Pitchford.

Mike (Barney) was a storyteller extraordinaire. His specialty was telling tall tales in which he was the main character. People will remember him as a talker who loved to share jokes and riddles and regale those he met with all kinds of trivia. Mike never met a stranger. He enjoyed reading, memorizing scripture, and making crafts (whittling monkeys from peach pits, creating Jacob's ladders, crafting beaded reindeer, etc.). Mike was generous – with his

time, with his talents, with his possessions, and with the candy he carried in his pocket to distribute to others. Mike loved animals, especially dogs. He also loved people, and he and Margaret helped many during their lifetime together. Those who knew Mike (Barney) will never forget him – he certainly left an impression. Those who knew him well, will miss him, not so much for the many stories he repeatedly told, but because we knew his big heart and his positive outlook when it came to people; especially to the people he loved. Visitation will be from 9:00 a.m. until the funeral service at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 14, 2026 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. Burial will be at Valhalla Memorial Park in Godfrey. Reverends Steven Helfrich and Sonny Renken will officiate. Memorials may be made to North Alton Southern Baptist Church or the 5A's animal shelter. Additional information and online guest book may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Valhalla Memorial Park

2308 W. Delmar Ave.
Godfrey, IL 62035

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 14. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home Inc
2409 State Street
Alton, IL 62002
(618) 466-5544
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral

MAR 14. 10:30 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

MM

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. I worked at the mall for many years and would see Mike and Margaret often. They were so kind and thoughtful. Mike always had candy and a joke for everyone. May his memory be a blessing and his kindness a legacy. My condolences to his family.

Mindy Misuraca - March 26 at 09:36 AM

DP

“ Oh the stories he could tell! We will miss those fishing stories and the many other shenanigan stories he told. I am so glad we got to see him when we were back there in the fall.

Cousin Deborah Ponder

Deborah Ponder - March 13 at 04:28 PM

LF

“ Leona Hawkins and all of the family purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Barney Michael Pitchford.



Leona Hawkins and all of the family - March 13 at 04:21 PM

LF

“ Linda Allen and Charlotte Hill families purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Barney Michael Pitchford.



Linda Allen and Charlotte Hill families - March 11 at 04:40 PM

GK

“ *Barney worked for me at the refinery and after his assignment and a short story from him, he proceeded to go do the work. I enjoyed his presence and he always greeted me with a smile.*

Gary Klucker - March 10 at 11:08 PM

JF

“ *Gladys, so sorry for the loss of your brother. 🥹. Prayers for comfort and peace. 🙏🕊️❤️*

Jill Fowler-Trudell



Jill Fowler-Trudell - March 10 at 07:27 PM

JT

“ *He was one of the funniest men I’ve met. Every time he got up he said: “Yaba Daba Don’t.”. One day he told me why he didn’t say: “Yaba Daba Doo.”. He told if he did say that, he’d be Fred Flintstone and he is not Fred Flintstone. (His words not mine.) Another time before leaving his room, he told me: “When you are going down the river we call life, I want you to remember me as the thorn in your rear.”. He said that with a big smile on his face and he was also laughing. I was laughing with him. He will never be a thorn in my rear... However, he is a legend that I will always remember.*

Jeremiah Turner - March 10 at 07:23 PM