



Hampton L. Baker

August 8, 1944 - March 24, 2019

Hampton L. Baker, 74, of Clinton, passed away Sunday, March 24, 2019 at Mercy-Clinton.

Per his request there will be no services or visitation. Snell-Zornig Funeral Homes & Crematory is assisting with arrangements.

Hampton Leslie Baker was born on August 8, 1944 in Kansas City, Missouri, the son of Irvin and Virginia (Rich) Baker. He was a 1962 graduate of Camanche High School and later Nebraska State University. He married Janice Holt in 1964. They were married for 20 years and had two wonderful children. He later married and divorced Mona Leab.

Hamp and his brother formed the Frontier Hospitality Group which owned and operated the Best Western Frontier and Country Inn and Suites in Clinton, the Best Western SteepleGate in Davenport, and the Best Western Midway in Dubuque. Many will remember Hamp from the famous Frontier Fish Frys.

Hamp was a sports enthusiast. He enjoyed his Thursday trips to Follets with friends, golfing, visiting the Clinton Humane Society bringing treats to the dogs, and spending time with his family.

Hamp will be remembered for his generosity, his sense of humor, his positive attitude, making people laugh, and his signature line, "It's the best day I've ever had."

Hamp is survived by his special friends, Grant and Jan Wilke of Clinton, son: Bart (Kara) Baker of Bettendorf, his daughter: Cassie (Michael) Benson of Carlton, Minnesota; five grandchildren: Hannah, Heather, Alex, Laurin, John and Alex; his brother: Bart (Denise) Baker of Bettendorf and two nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents and a nephew.

Hamp Baker would like everyone to know, "He has left the building."

Memorials can be made to the Clinton Humane Society.

Comments



“ Will miss the sparkle in his eyes and laugh...A good man, to say the least. And he really knew how to make a great Singapore Sling!!!

Mary Schneider - April 09, 2019 at 08:02 PM



“ Bart and Denise and Hamp's family. I was always happy to run into Hamp. He was larger than life and always brought a smile to your face. He will be missed by many. Most of all by his family, so sorry for your loss. M.Patrice Gokinvaux

Patrice Gokinvaux - March 28, 2019 at 06:31 PM



“ Linda & I would like to extend our condolences to the Baker family. We always enjoyed being with Hamp and getting his input on a great variety of topics. One of my special memories of Hamp was sharing our Wednesday's during the summer months going out of town to play golf. On our return trips Hamp was usually our "designated driver" and we would entertain him with our version of "Friends in Low Places". RIP Hampton.....we miss you!
Larry Barnes

Larry Barnes - March 28, 2019 at 02:57 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the Baker family. Hamp was one of the classiest guys ever. I feel honored to have known him.

Robyn Hardisty - March 28, 2019 at 03:23 AM



“ Stacy Millner Mattison lit a candle in memory of Hampton L. Baker



Stacy Millner Mattison - March 27, 2019 at 09:54 PM



“ Hamp always had a smile and his signature
Best day I ever had
My best wishes Bart and family
Much respect

Craig Norveisas - March 27, 2019 at 07:01 PM



“ Condolences to the Baker family. Please know you're in our thoughts and prayers. Today is not "the best day I've ever had" after learning of this sad news but it gives me comfort to know that he led a great life and many "best days"!

In sympathy,
Doug Weih & Family

Doug Weih - March 27, 2019 at 05:27 PM



“ Hi Bart,

So sorry for your loss. Please take care

Doug Hultquist

doug hultquist - March 27, 2019 at 04:52 PM



“ Hamp was a great neighbor for over 27 years. He would always wave with a smile on his face as he was coming and going. He would walk over and chat with Kevin while he was working on "the wall" and would offer his yard waste bin when he would see us working in the yard. We will miss his smile. Becky and Kevin Temperly

Becky J. Temperly - March 27, 2019 at 03:07 PM



“ Hamp I've known you most of my life. From knowing my parents, my daughter, and me you have always been so friendly and caring. I loved how my daughter told you about my surgery and you made sure you came to work to talk to me. I'll never forget you calling me kid,kiddo, or just Trac and your phrase I'm having the best day ever. You will be missed by everyone you have touched. Always, Tracy Holdgrafer Jones.

Tracy Jones - March 27, 2019 at 01:27 PM



“ Hamp you touched so many peoples lives and made them better. Thank you. You will be missed.

Karin Allen - March 27, 2019 at 06:07 AM



“ Hamp you will be missed. My prayers and thoughts are for the entire Baker family.



Landi - March 26, 2019 at 09:56 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to the Bakers. Hamp hired me back in the 80's where I continued to work for 25 years, and enjoyed it beyond words. Made some awesome memories and met a lot of people. It was never the same after Hamp moved to Florida but when he visited it was like nothing had changed. His obit certainly has his touch, words I remember so clearly. Even hear his voice. I know his health in later years was not the best but he never complained and for some reason I think he's still swinging the club and enjoying one more round. Love ya Hamp till we meet again RIP and thanks for the Memories. "Annie"
FYI HE was the very first one that called me that always made me feel special. My sympathy Bart and Cassie.....

Ann Hanson - March 26, 2019 at 08:50 PM



“ Hamp always had a way to put a smile on my face at the Frontier, He would always say when you asked him how he was " If I was any better I would have to be twins!!! " He truly cared about all the people around him. My sincere condolences to the Baker family at this very sad time....Christy Rixen





“ Hamp was my first boss starting when I was 14 and continuing through college at both the Frontier and Steeplegate. He was very kind, caring and fair. Best boss I've ever had. So sorry to hear of his passing. - Marla Hale Medendorp



Marla Hale Medendorp - March 26, 2019 at 06:47 PM



“ As an assistant at CCC, I always greeted him as Mr. Baker although he told me to call him Hamp. He made it clear he wanted his golf bag on a topless cart. At the beginning of every month he'd always give me a little cash and I always made sure he had a topless cart. Fairways and greens Hamp.

Michael Workman

Michael Workman - March 26, 2019 at 04:01 PM



“ Dennis & Deena Bryson lit a candle in memory of Hampton L. Baker



Dennis & Deena Bryson - March 26, 2019 at 01:48 PM



“ Hamp I'm sure going to miss you at our Thursday afternoon meeting at B&S. But I'll always think of you when I drink a cup of coffee from my Steeplegate mug, that you made, just for me, in your ceramics class. RIP good buddy

Craig Lorenzen

Craig Lorenzen - March 26, 2019 at 11:25 AM



“ The last line of Hamp's obituary is testament to his sense of humor and his ability not to take things too seriously. Once, when he was in the the hospital for an extended visit, I sent him a get well card. Fully aware of Hamp's dry wit, I selected a "Congratulations on the Birth of Your Child" card. I crossed out the wording and hand wrote "Get well soon", adding that I was sorry, but they were all out of get well cards. Six months later, I received a letter in the mail from Hamp thanking me for the thought. It was carefully printed on 4 pieces of toilet paper. Nothing more needed to be said.

Happy trails Hamp

Kurt Fier - March 26, 2019 at 11:18 AM



“ I was blessed to be able to work for Hamp and the Baker family for nearly 20 years - my first 'real' job. Hamp was a stickler for excellent customer service, and for recognizing that every position in the organization - no matter the 'rank' - was important to the success of us all. Hamp - you will be missed. You had a kind and generous spirit. Thank you for inspiring me, and shaping me into the employee/co-worker/manager that I am today!! You will never be forgotten!!

Anita Dalton - March 26, 2019 at 11:17 AM



“ Hamp was such a wonderful, kind and humorous person...we were blessed to know him and we always enjoyed his company...he will be missed Rick and Fran Wilke

Richard and Frances Wilke - March 26, 2019 at 10:15 AM



“ RIP Hamp! You will always be remembered for making sure I received oranges from Florida every January.

Barb Olsen - March 25, 2019 at 11:44 PM



“ Hamp we will miss you for those lunches at Wendys You always had a happy thought for everyone. We still have Gummer it will be a gift forever RIP good friend Always Ernie and Dee Anna



“ Miss you already Hamp, love ya

Tom Newbanks - March 25, 2019 at 08:22 PM



“ Nancy Scott Rathburn lit a candle in memory of Hampton L. Baker



Nancy Scott Rathburn - March 25, 2019 at 08:07 PM



“ From the Classes of 1962, Camanche & Clinton High School, we will miss you

Nancy - March 25, 2019 at 08:09 PM



“ We loved running into you for an unexpected breakfast date. You will be greatly missed.

Jeff & Petie

Jeff & Petra Wilke - March 25, 2019 at 06:44 PM



“ We love ya and will miss ya Hamper!

Sheila & Don.



Sheila & Don - March 25, 2019 at 06:20 PM



“ God bless Hamp.

LT

LT - March 26, 2019 at 11:06 AM



“ Some of my best memories of Clinton are the times spent at the Frontier enjoying the Friday and Saturday night fish. Hamp always greeted us with a smile and thank you for coming out. Rest in Peace Hamp!

Gary Montgomery - March 26, 2019 at 03:56 PM



“ I was so sad to hear this news about Hamp. A good friend for all my life. He will be sadly missed by everyone that knew him. My condolences to Bart, the family and to all friends that knew him. Rest in Peace my friend

Tom Bower - March 26, 2019 at 06:03 PM



“ Baker Family, So sorry for your loss. Siblings are always special. Remember the good times. Harvey Green, John Deere Classic

Harvey Green - March 28, 2019 at 10:22 AM



“ My sincere condolences to the Baker family!!! Clinton, Iowa will miss the SUNSHINE Hamp always brought with him wherever he went! I always admired his "choice" of positive characteristics! Missing him! Sharon Burggraaf

Sharon J Burggraaf - March 28, 2019 at 11:22 AM



“ Rest in Peace Hamp. Sorry for your loss Baker family. Ralph and Lucia Andresen

Ralph and Lucia Andresen - March 28, 2019 at 08:56 PM