



## Francis J. Barnum

August 22, 1928 - September 14, 2018

A true Renaissance Man - a man of multi-disciplined greatness - is a rare man indeed.

When one such man passes through the door to eternity, the world grows dimmer, its beauty diminished, and we must wait for the Muses to anoint the next man of inspiration.

Francis J. "Barney" Barnum was such a man, and on Saturday, September 15, 2018, his 90 years of life concluded, and he passed away at his home in Wildwood, Florida.

Born August 22, 1928 in Cleveland, Ohio, Barney enlisted in the U.S. Army before beginning his storied career as a sculptor. He began designing toys for the Kenner Toy Company, including the first Star Wars action figures, "Mr. Potato Head", and the "Six Million Dollar Man". In later years, Barney received acclaim and fame, sculpting intricate, historically accurate Civil War figurines and battle scenes in pewter and bronze, attracting a devoted fanbase. He also sculpted creations for the world-famous Bradford Exchange Collectibles.

Never content to rest upon the laurels of his success, in later years Barney set aside sculpting to pursue the new artistic challenge of painting. Self-taught, Barney reveled in creating gorgeous, life-like acrylic landscapes of places he loved.

However, as soon as Barney mastered one discipline, it was time to master the next. Barney's interests evolved and expanded with each year, including gardening, cooking, baking, raising exotic fish, and fishing the ponds near his

home.

Barney leaves behind his dear wife Mary, with whom he shared beloved companionship, and their little dog, Lexie (to whom he was slavishly devoted). He was preceded in death by one son, but is survived by 3 sons, 2 stepsons, a stepdaughter, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, along with a multitude of other loved ones, kindred friends, and avid collectors of his art. His beloved wife Mary remembers Barney as "a friend to many, and loved by all who knew him."

While there will be no services held in Barney's honor, his memory, artistic genius, hearty laugh, and smiling eyes will be cherished by all who were blessed to be in his life.

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ I never got to get into contact with my grandpa as an adult which saddens me. I hadn't seen him since I was a kid. Bless him and I hope he is looking down in myself and children whom he never got to meet. Miss him dearly and may he rest peacefully. Loved his work and when I was a kid I would always look for the rabbits! Lol..gosh I can't believe my grandparents are gone. Much love and I'll see you guys again❤️❤️

jennifer barnum - November 03, 2023 at 06:52 AM

YE

Hi, I found this obituary through research after discovering the statues that were created by your grandpa. My maiden name is Barnum and I am a distant relative of P.T. Barnum. I was wondering if you know any family history that you could share as I am trying to put together a genealogy chart and maybe there is a connection here somehow. Thank you in advance. If you have any info or would like to contact me, my email address is ymariee@hotmail.com.

Yvette Edgington - July 04, 2024 at 07:25 PM

NM

“ Sadden to hear learn of Francis's death. I am a collector. While speaking with him I learned that he and I were veterans who had served with the 101st airborne. We had dinner together in Gettysburg one year.

Truly sorry,  
Nick Mihalic

Nicholas Mihalic - October 28, 2019 at 04:07 PM

FG

“ I am so sorry for the passing of Francis, my condolences to the Barnum's and Family. I know the pain of losing a love one in death. What brings me great comfort is Revelation 21:4- "And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away." Very soon death will be done away with and we will see our love ones again. I hope this verse comforts you as much as it dose me.

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**Franklin G** - September 21, 2018 at 05:10 PM

MM

“ Knowing you for over 30 years will never be enough. You were such an interesting guy, never ordinary and always exceptionally kind and good company. You and your Mary were tops! Rest In Peace, Fran. I'll miss you too!



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**Mary McCormack** - September 20, 2018 at 08:21 AM