



## Norton Baker

February 6, 1935 - July 10, 2023

William Norton Baker, beloved husband of Jane Minkley Baker, loving father to Richard and Elizabeth, cherished grandfather to Lauren, Ryan and Baxter, passed away on July 10 in Lubbock, Texas. Family and friends are invited to share his committal service at Lockney Memorial Cemetery in Lockney, Texas on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 10:00 AM. A celebration of life service will be held on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 2:00 PM at First United Methodist Church in Lubbock, Texas. A visitation will be held at Sanders Funeral Home on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Norton was born February 6, 1935, in Plainview, Texas to Wanda Stinebaugh Baker and William Dorsey Baker. Graduating from Lockney High School in 1953, Norton enjoyed serving as class president and kept the class engaged for many years. He attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas where he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and graduated in 1956 earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. While attending SMU School of Law, he met and married Joan Jacobs. After earning his J.D. at SMU, Norton served in the United States Army at Ford Leonard Wood, Missouri and Fort Ord in Monterey, California. After his Army service, he returned to Dallas, Texas working as a tax researcher at Peat, Marwick & Mitchell and welcoming his son, Richard in November. In 1961, Norton received his CPA license and was called back to service in the U.S. Army stationed in Fort Polk, Louisiana. Following his second service, he retired from

the U.S. Army as a Captain, JAGC.

Norton, Joan and Richard moved from Dallas to Lubbock in 1961. Joining Edward R. Smith at his law firm in August 1962, Norton and Edward began practicing as the firm, Smith and Baker Attorneys at Law, specializing in estate planning, probate and tax law. In October 1963, the family welcomed Elizabeth to the family and they moved to their longtime home on 20th Street.

Actively involved in the Lubbock community, Norton took special interest in banking and education. He served as a director at Security National Bank, Lubbock National Bank and Plains Capital Bank. As a dedicated member and chairman of the board of All Saints Episcopal School of Lubbock, he led them to completion of their first permanent building. In addition, Norton served on the board of Methodist Hospital in Lubbock; member and chairman of the Board of Trustees at McMurry University in Abilene; member of the board of Carillon, Inc; chairman of the J.T. and Margaret Talkington Foundation; member and chairman of the Children's Home of Lubbock Foundation until resigning in May 2022. Norton retired from Baker, Brown & Thompson law firm in 2019.

Norton was a devoted member of First United Methodist Church, enjoying weekly Sunday school classes, Disciple Class and Sunday morning services. Formerly a member of First Presbyterian Church, he served as elder and deacon.

In 1997, Norton met Jane Minkley and they married in March 1998. Sharing their love and passion for travel, they explored the world together. Always planning the next adventure, Norton loved travelling with Jane, his children, and grandchildren; sharing annual trips to Carmel, California and treating them to educational trips across the USA and Europe, including visiting most of the Presidential Libraries. Sharing time with friends via travel was important

to Norton; he annually visited a monastery in Vermont and travelled to Israel with a group led by Saint George's College. A devoted fan of Texas Tech Red Raiders men's and women's basketball, he cheered the Lady Raiders as they captured the NCAA National Women's Championship in 1993.

Norton had a true heart for helping others. He was a source of wisdom and will be remembered for his devotion to his family, friends and clients. One of Norton's greatest sources of pride were his children and grandchildren, encouraging their hard work and education. Family time was of the utmost importance to Norton; he made every effort to attend all three grandchildren's events and celebrate their accomplishments. When business or doctor appointments brought him to Dallas, he reserved time to share with his loved ones. He cherished time spent with his family and friends over material belongings. He loved to read, spending time each day reading the newspaper, spiritual, self-improvement and biographical books. Like his mother, he loved playing bridge. Norton was a servant of his God and humankind; he remained a positive man even when struggling through illness.

On a small handwritten note, date unknown, Norton listed his goals for life: Keep up with the times and change for it; work on your spiritual life, health, friendships and relationships; be a listener; anything you do to build up yourself is love; to build up the other person is gain; humility is good; pride and ego get you in trouble.

The family wishes to thank the caregivers from Cornerstone Caregiving in Lubbock, the caregivers from Hospice of Lubbock and the staff at Carillon House.

Norton is survived in death by his wife, Jane; his son Richard and wife Debby; his daughter Elizabeth Baker Perry-Miller; Joan Baker, mother of Richard and

Elizabeth; three grandchildren, Lauren Baker Cook and husband Dillon, Ryan Baker and Baxter Baker Perry-Miller all of Dallas; two stepsons, Mark Minkley of New York City and David Minkley of Lubbock; his brother, Dorsey Lynn and sister-in-law, Charlyne of Lubbock; two nieces, Stacey Baker of Oakland, California and Kari Baker Steinhaus and husband, Chuck of Lubbock and their children, Paul, Mariah, Joshua, and James.

Memorial gifts may be sent to Children's Home of Lubbock, P.O. Box 2824, Lubbock, TX 79408; First United Methodist Church, 1401 Broadway, Lubbock, TX 79401; South Plains Food Bank, 5605 M.L.K. Blvd., Lubbock, TX 79404; Lubbock Meals on Wheels, 2304 34th Street, Lubbock, TX 79411; and Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, 601 Avenue K, Lubbock, TX 79401.

# Cemetery Details

## Lockney Memorial Park

Lockney, TX 79241

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 12. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sanders Funeral Home  
1420 Main Street  
Lubbock, TX 79401  
(806) 763-6433  
director@sandersfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.sandersfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ Sanders Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Norton Baker



Sanders Funeral Home - July 10, 2023 at 07:47 PM

JB

Thanks. joan

Josn Bsker - July 24, 2023 at 11:24 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Norton Baker.



July 13, 2023 at 02:30 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Norton Baker.



July 11, 2023 at 01:56 PM

RV

“ *Ralph Miller, Mike & Tammy Valentine purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Norton Baker.*



---

**Ralph Miller, Mike & Tammy Valentine** - July 11, 2023 at 01:52 PM

FC

“ *Dear Jane you and your family are in my prayers...Sending love everyone from Italy*



---

**Fontana Cristina** - July 11, 2023 at 11:51 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Norton Baker.*



---

July 11, 2023 at 09:58 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Norton Baker.*



---

July 11, 2023 at 08:53 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Norton Baker.*



---

July 11, 2023 at 08:49 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Norton Baker.

---

July 11, 2023 at 08:49 AM



“ *Norton was a true gentleman. I was extremely moved by the handwritten note that signified who he was. Always humble; always kind; always inquisitive.*

*Our family had the privilege of living across the street from the Baker family in Lubbock. My father cherished his walks with Norton, talking about their lives and family.*

*I have never known a more decent, honorable man than Norton Baker. He lived an incredible life and created a wonderful family. What a role model!*

*Please know that all of the Blumrosen family will forever be grateful for our time together and that we are thinking of the entire Baker family at this time.*

*Sending love,*

*Dean Blumrosen*

---

**Dean Blumrosen** - July 11, 2023 at 08:20 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Norton Baker.



July 11, 2023 at 02:09 AM



“ 60 files added to the album Life Tributes



Sanders Funeral Home - July 10, 2023 at 07:42 PM