



Richard Lee Barnes

NOV 16, 1939 - DEC 29, 2017



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Richard Barnes, born on November 16, 1939, passed away on December 29, 2017 from lung cancer. He was instrumental in passing Oklahoma's clean indoor air policy that eliminated smoke in the workplace in 2003. He continued his anti-tobacco mission by moving to San Francisco to join the Center for Tobacco Control, Research and Education, where he co-authored numerous articles on the dangers of tobacco, secondhand smoke and health hazards of cigarettes. He also mentored numerous postgraduates to research and expose the tobacco industry malfeasance. Prior to taking on big tobacco, Richard was an attorney working with such organizations as Texas Eastern Transmission; Haliburton; William Pipeline Co.; Kothe, Nichols and Wolfe; and Hall Estill. For many years he was a solo practitioner specializing in Labor Law. As an OU law student in 1964, he wrote a paper on "Free Press vs Fair Trial" which was quoted in a subsequent Supreme Court decision on that topic. Born in Bartlesville to Walter and Maude (Taylor) Barnes, Richard graduated from College High School in Bartlesville. Throughout his life he maintained a wide range of interests. He enjoyed domestic and international travel with his son David, exploring such places as Grand Canyon National Park, Yosemite National Park, the Caribbean, Belgium (where he and David narrowly missed the 2016 terrorist attacks), and a recent Danube River cruise. A theatre lover, Richard had season subscriptions to five theatre companies in San Francisco and routinely traveled to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival to see as many as five shows in four days. He was a long time member of La-Chaine-des-Rotisseurs, a society for gourmet "foodies." He is survived by his oldest son Jeff, daughter-in-law Kerry, granddaughters Madison and Bailey, his youngest son David, and his brother Gerald. His Memorial Service will be held January 8, 12:30 at Floral Haven, 6500 S 129th East Ave. in Tulsa, OK. In lieu of flowers, you are invited to make a donation to the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Lung Association.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Richard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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