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Wendell "Wendy" Lawrence



LAWRENCE

Wendell "Wendy"

With his wife, Barbara, and his son, Bret, at his bedside, Wendell "Wendy" Lawrence passed away on March 31, 2017 at Ebeid Hospice on the Flower Hospital campus as a result of advanced lymphoma. Wendy was born in Monclova, Ohio, to Sidney and Laura Mae Lawrence in 1926.

It would be difficult to find a person with a more interesting, more diverse, and rewarding life. Wendy graduated from Whitehouse High School where he starred in nearly every sport offered. He then went on to Michigan State University where he played second base on the varsity baseball team and was twice named to the Helms Foundation All American Baseball

Team. Upon graduation, he was drafted by the St. Louis Browns Major League team and assigned to one of their AAA teams. His playing career was cut short when he was called into service with the U.S. Air Force. Wendy had graduated from MSU as a 2nd Lieutenant as a result of his Reserved Officers Training (ROTC) while a student.

Wendy was in the Air Force for 25 years during which he flew over 200 missions in both Korea and Vietnam as a fighter jet pilot. Between the two wars he coached the baseball team at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He also coached the U.S. baseball team in the Pan Am Game in Brazil in 1963.

Upon his retirement from the Air Force as a Lieutenant

Colonel in 1973, he became baseball coach and head athletic trainer at Hillsdale College for two years. It was there where he met his wife to-be, Barbara Sammons.

Following Hillsdale, he worked as a program Director for the YMCA at both Monroe, Michigan and downtown Toledo for three years. Wendy followed that with a 10-year stint as Director of Cardiac Rehabilitation at the Medical College of Ohio before retiring. While in that position, he had both of his hips replaced at the same time - something very rare at the time. He told his doctor that he was fearful that if only one at a time was done, he would not want to go through the pain a second time.

Even in retirement, Wendy continued to work by shuttling people to and from Detroit Metro Airport.

Wendy was an avid golfer and bridge player, but his first love was his wife, Barbara, followed by his extended family, baseball, and MSU. Wendy especially loved the Detroit Tigers and the MSU football, basketball, and (of course) baseball teams.

Wendy is survived by his wife, Barbara, son Bret(Debbie) Lawrence, grandson, Wyatt Lawrence, as well as his sister, Dorothy Hiser, sister-in-law, Mary Lou Lawrence, and many loving nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Larry.

A celebration of Wendy's life will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 8, 2017 at Epworth United Methodist on Central Avenue where both Wendy and Barb were very active.

For those who wish, contributions can be made to Epworth Methodist or to a [charity of the donor's choice](#).

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