



**IN MEMORY OF
Phillip C. Barnett
KJ7Z**

Phillip C. Barnett threw his final pitch on this earth Sunday March 25th 2012 at the age of 62. Phil was born February 1st 1950 the third of three sons of Melvin Barnett and Willie Estelle Malaney in Fort Worth, Texas. He moved to sunny beaches of southern California at the age of 2 where he learned to surf the waves and began his deep passion for the game of baseball. When Phil was playing little league baseball, he made the all star team 5 straight years, in the district tournament he pitched a no hitter , when he played baseball for Lakewood High School also pitched 2 no hitters and had many double strike out games and a 17 strike game , he was also hitting over 400. Pro scouts talking to him and visiting with his parents but he joined the army instead. There are a lot of people who can play baseball, but every few that can coach it the right way, Phil was one of the few. He entered the army in June 1958 and while stationed in Fort Lewis Washington as a Hercules Missile Specialist met his first wife Chelly Bates the mother of his two children Natalie and Wade. After the death of his father in 1970, she brought Phil to the Bitterroot Valley in which he called home for the next 42 years. He

and Chelly divorced in 1994 and he found love again and married Wilma Kampka in May 2001.

Phil retired from the US Forest and where he worked as a Sales Administrator, Law Enforcement Officer and was certified as an Advanced Log Scaler. He was an extra class ham operator and proudly carried the call sign KJ7Z, the "Big Nasty" He taught many classes on the art of Morris Code and spent many a weekend climbing his tower, administering a test, and helping fellow ham operators set up their ham station. His passion ran so deep he helped his daughter receive her license at the age of 8 and recently helped and insisted his brother Lew pass his General Class Exam. Many a weekend Phil was the voice of the local swap meet. He loved to gab with anyone and had many a joke to share and tale to tell.

"Bean the first three in head" was a favorite that Phil told new pitchers when they first stepped up to the mound. He helped in many different capacities with the Bitterroot Bucs, The Red Sox, local T-ball league thru American Legion and softball teams as well played on several softball teams including one with his colleagues of the Bitterroot National Forest. He umpired for several years as well. He never missed a World Series and if there was a game he was watching. His passion for coaching continues thru both of his children's interest in coaching local youth.

Phil is survived by his wife Wilma, daughter Natalie Hinthier and her husband Brian and their three sons Stone, Garrison and Marshall, his son Wade and his fiancé Vanessa, her children Logan and Jyllian and Wade's children Autumn and Drake, his brother Lewis Barnett of Stevensville and Clayton Barnett of Huntington Beach, California and many nieces and nephews.

Phil asked for no formal services. The family would like to honor Phil by spending the afternoon of Sunday May 20th doing what he enjoyed the most: laughter, a ball game, some sunshine to fly a kite with a few dogs and sodas. The Bitterroot Bucs vs. Red Sox rivalry game is dedicated in the memory of Phil. A picnic will begin at noon at the Buc's Field in Florence with a pre-game dedication at 1:00p. In lieu of flowers the family asks that a donation be made to the

**Bitterroot Bucs/ Phil Barnett Memorial Fund PO Box 1111
Florence, MT 59833. Anyone wishing to contact the family or share
a memory or photo can email his daughter Natalie at:
Breadcrumb91374@aol.com.**