



153

Bennington - Dudley Moore Baker, 83, died in Bennington on July 2, 2015. As a practicing orthopedic surgeon for more than 30 years, Dudley touched the lives of thousands of people.

He was born in Brattleboro on November 15, 1931, the son of James and Beatrice (Massey) Baker. He grew up in Dummerston and took great pride in being a 7th generation Vermonter. As a young man, Dudley worked on the family farm and helped at the family store. He attended the Choate School, Williams College, and the University of Vermont Medical School where he met his future wife Geraldine (Gerry) Feyrer. He and Gerry were married in 1955 and enjoyed 54 years of marriage until her death in 2009. Dudley did his training in orthopedic surgery at Boston Children's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital and served several years as a Lieutenant Commander on the orthopedic staff of the U.S. Naval Hospital in San Diego. He moved to Bennington in 1964 and had a successful orthopedic practice there for 32 years.

Dudley was active in the Bennington community. In the 1960s and 70s, he revived the Mount Anthony chapter of the Jaycees and was elected as a Town Selectman. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Bennington Museum for twenty years, assisting with fundraising and shepherding the Museum through two executive director searches. In 1984, he received the General Stark Society Award for his outstanding service to the Museum.

Dudley had a wide range of interests and a big circle of friends. He and Gerry loved playing golf at the Taconic Golf Club in Williamstown. He was an especially proud Williams College alumnus and treasured his lifelong friendships with fellow alums. Dudley enjoyed working in his garden and took great delight in hosting a rhododendron party in his backyard each spring. An avid reader with a curious mind, one could often find him in his reading chair with a stack of newspapers, medical journals, history books, and biographies. After his retirement, he audited history classes at Williams College and wrote over a dozen opinion columns that were published in local newspapers. His wit, dry humor, and storytelling prowess will be remembered dearly by all who knew him.

Dudley is survived by his brothers, Stephen Baker of Brattleboro, VT and Dennis Baker and his sister-in-law Deborah Baker of Dummerston, VT; his children, Christopher Baker, Sr. and his wife, Josephine of Ipswich, MA, David Baker of Alexandria, VA, Catherine Baker and her husband, Richard Feldman of Seattle, WA, Michael Baker of Waipahu, HI, and Stephanie Baker and her husband, Cameron Bowie of London, UK; and five grandchildren, Christopher Baker, Jr. of Denver, CO, William Baker of Boston, MA, Anna Feldman of Seattle, WA, Zaki Said and Anisa Said of London, UK as well as a niece and four nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made in Dudley's name to the Bennington Museum, 75 Main Street, Bennington, VT 05201.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Saint Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Brattleboro, VT on Friday, July 24th at 11:00 a.m. with Fr. William Sheehan, former Pastor of St. Michael's Parish, celebrant. Committal Rites and burial with full military honors will follow in the Baker family lot in St. Michael's Parish Cemetery.