



## Mr. John G. Bannister

August 29, 1935 - December 29, 2020

John G. Bannister passed away on December 29, 2020, at home surrounded by family. John was a kind, humble gentleman and a loving husband, father, grandfather and brother. He was born on August 29, 1935 in Minden, Louisiana to the late Gilbert Hartford and Lucille Pounds Bannister.

John considered Portageville, Missouri home where he played on the Portageville High School football team until his senior year, when he moved to Memphis, Tennessee and graduated from Central High School. John earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Memphis State University (now University of Memphis). He was a teacher, principal, and university administrator. He served as Director of Financial Aid at Memphis State University, Iowa State University and retired from the University of South Carolina. John was the first director of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation and taught many classes for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators summer institute where he influenced many future financial aid administrators across the United States. He also served on the national board of the American College Testing program (ACT).

In his early years, John served in the National Guard and Army Reserve. During his time in Columbia, he served on the Spring Valley homeowners board as a member and officer. Additionally, he served on the finance committee for St. David's Episcopal church where he was a member and the finance committee for St. John Neumann Catholic church. He was a founding organizer of the University of South Carolina employee alumni group. John was a lifelong member of Sigma Chi Fraternity.

John was an avid sports fan and supporter of University of Memphis and University of South Carolina. Additionally, he loved racquetball, bridge, walking, traveling, but more than anything time with his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sarah Barnett Bannister and four daughters Lisa (Dick) Davis of Norfolk Virginia, Michelle (George) Kennedy and Beth Hawkins of

Columbia, and Susan (Len) Douglas of Mount Pleasant. Six grandchildren, Richard Davis, Sarah Davis, Logan Kennedy, Sarah Kennedy, Savannah H. Seybold (Chase) and Winnie Hawkins. Brother-in-law, Jerry Felts (Florence, AL) and brother-in-law and sister-in-law Jack and Pat Barnett (St. Augustine, FL).

He was preceded in death by his sisters Barbara (Babs) Felts and Clara Skelton.

A special thanks to Halycon Hospice and family and dear friends.

The funeral service for Mr. Bannister will be held at 2 o'clock, Saturday, January 2nd, at St. David's Episcopal Church, with The Reverend William M. "Scotty" Brock officiating. Burial will follow the service in Greenlawn Memorial Park. The family will receive friends prior to the service at the church beginning at 1 o'clock. Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, is assisting the family. Mask and social distancing are required. A livestream of the service will be available by visiting his tribute page at [ShivesFuneralHome.com](http://ShivesFuneralHome.com)

Memorials may be made to St. David's Episcopal Church, 605 Polo Road, Columbia, SC 29223.

# Events

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**JAN**   **Visitation**   01:00PM - 02:00PM

**2**

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St. David's Episcopal Church  
605 Polo Road, Columbia, SC, US, 29223

**JAN**   **Funeral Service**   02:00PM

**2**

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St. David's Episcopal Church  
605 Polo Road, Columbia, SC, US, 29223

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**Shives Funeral Home** - December 31, 2020 at 05:52 PM

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Shives Funeral Home** - December 30, 2020 at 08:40 PM

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“ Sarah, Lisa, Michelle, Beth & Susan, sending heartfelt sympathy to all of you from Ashley and myself. This wonderful man taught me many of my early professional work skills, I so vividly remember sitting in his office on the front of 1714 College St. and listening to his wisdom, so often "spot on". I smile each time I see a typewriter similar to the one he pecked away on with two fingers - what a blessing to work for him. There was a wonderful chemistry in our office and he is to be credited with leading much of it. He and each of you were wonderfully present to me and Ashley so many times and I remember your beautiful home filled with love and each of you with great fondness. Sending each of you a heartfelt hug and know how much I loved "Mr. B" and being connected to each of you. Lifting you in prayer!

**Denise Wellman** - January 07 at 09:52 AM

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Sarah and Family,

My deepest sympathy to you on John's passing. It was an enormous honor to know and work with John at USC. He was a scholar, a leader, and a man of great compassion. His contributions to our profession enhanced the lives and careers of countless colleagues. The Palmetto State is missing one of her finest, now, but his legacy of love, excellence, and fun-loving sportsmanship will carry on through all who knew him.

Dr. Ray Davis

Irmo, SC

USC 1983-2000

Ray Davis - January 05 at 07:48 PM

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I loved John Bannister--A great oak has fallen. He was a dear friend of about 50 years and one of the finest university administrators I have ever known. A wonderful friend, father, husband and professional who had such an impact on my life. All of us are on the same path as JB and will soon join him--we all must make sure we are ready for that transition. Life is precious and brief and eternity is a long time! Jim Carr.

Jim Carr - January 04 at 11:52 AM

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I had the privilege of working for John at Memphis State University from 1968 through 1971. (The connection came from a classmate in my first graduate course at MSU.....a gracious, classy lady named Sarah Bannister.) From John, I learned the importance of dignity, courteousness, and respect of others in working with people. After we both left MSU for financial aid positions in other areas (John in Nashville, Iowa, and Columbia and me in East Tennessee, Florida and Charlotte, there were numerous times when, faced with an administrative issue, I called him for advice. I continued to benefit from his friendship and professional expertise for many years. I am fortunate to have known John and Sarah for over 50 years. Although visits between Columbia and Charlotte have become infrequent in recent years, I will miss John.

Curtis Whalen

Curtis Whalen - January 02 at 09:12 PM

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“ The service for Uncle Johnny was lovely. I regret that I was unable to be there with you all! He was a very special man, husband and father as Michelle and Lisa so beautifully conveyed to all that attended and I watched virtually. We loved you,Johnny!! Pat Barnett

Pat Barnett - January 02 at 08:57 PM

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“ John was a real gentlemen and scholar, a true friend and colleague. He will be missed. Rest in peace.

Gary Luoma - January 01 at 10:46 AM

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“ i worked for john at MSU in the financial aid office in 1967-1969. John gave me my first job in higher education and i remember fondly a Christmas party that Sarah and John hosted at their house for the financial aid staff. John worked in the office in his shirt sleeves but when you were called into his office and he had his suit coat on, you knew it was going to be interesting in a constructive and thoughtful way. John was always kind to me and supportive of my decision to leave MSU and get my doctorate at UT. I shall be forever grateful for the confidence he had in me and for showing a young professional the "right way" to go about working in a college environment. My best wishes to Sarah and his daughters during this difficult time. Jack Brimm

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jack brimm - January 01 at 08:14 AM

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“ I had the pleasure of knowing and working with John for many years during my time as Agency Director for the SC Tuition Grants Commission. He was a great guy and had a wealth of knowledge about the student financial aid profession. I was honored to have him as a friend. My sympathies go out to Sarah and the family for their loss.  
Eddie Shannon, SC Independent Colleges & Universities

**Eddie Shannon** - January 01 at 07:18 AM

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“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. John G. Bannister.



December 31, 2020 at 01:10 PM

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“ I'm so sorry to hear this. What a wonderful man. I was his secretary when he became the first director of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation in Nashville. My condolences to Mrs. Bannister and his family. Glenda Greek

**Glenda Greek** - December 31, 2020 at 11:18 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. John G. Bannister.



December 31, 2020 at 10:36 AM