



Emile D. "Red" Barnes

May 4, 1960 - March 1, 2025

Emile "Red" D. Barnes, III, passed away March 1, 2025.

He was the founder, owner and operator of Great Southern Demolition, Inc. for 29 years. He generously supported his community in many different ways. Red enjoyed life to its fullest. He loved playing the guitar with a local bluegrass band for several years. He loved seeing the country on cross-country road trips, riding his motorcycle in 49 states. He loved all sports and often could be found at baseball or football fields. Red's favorite team was the Alabama Crimson Tide. Red enjoyed a lifelong connection with nature. He was happiest camping, fishing and hunting.

Red cherished time spent with his family. Survivors are his wife, Michele Barnes; daughter, Emile Barnes (Colin Ireland); sons by marriage, Greg Jacobs (Lauren) and Matt Jacobs (Jasmine Hodgert); brother, Mike Barnes (Robin); sister, Bridget Wammark (Ken); brother, Patrick Burke (Neil); niece, Brittany Muse (Chris); grand-nephew, Bentley Muse; and his grandchildren, Jason, Katie Beth, and Baby Grace. He will be lovingly remembered by his grandchildren as "PopPop".

There are no formal services planned; however, the family encourages thoughts and memories to be shared on Family Funeral Home's website (www.familyfhc.com). In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (www.stjude.org).

Skip and Trey Young, along with Paula and Kimberly, are assisting the family with arrangements. 850-926-5919

Tribute Wall

DJ

“ Red & I became good friends after meeting on our many Harley rides and eventually using his business on one of my projects; Red wanted to go out to Strugis with a couple of other friends so ask me to lead them out there since I had already been a couple of times & knew the country roads out there and attraction's worth seeing. It was a pleasure taking Red to all the attractions & enjoying them with his humor.

True friends like Red are the ones you feel fortunate to have met and my thoughts are with his extended family during this trying time.
Dallas Johnson

Dallas Johnson - March 09, 2025 at 05:37 PM

MR

“ Red was a very, very good friend of ours. The Lindeman family will truly miss you, your smile and your endless laughter.

Love, Mike and Mary Rogers

Mary Rogers - March 07, 2025 at 07:27 AM

NW

“ Michelle and family.....My heart breaks for your loss. Ricky and I think of Red and you quite often and so enjoyed the time we got to spend together. Red was such a good man and true friend to Ricky personally and thru their work projects. I will always remember you and me sitting on the couch at the Barn singing, laughing and cutting up, while these guys were practicing their country music for my "so-called" niece's wedding. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. We love you! Nancy & Ricky Wisham

Nancy Wisham - March 05, 2025 at 04:14 PM

FW

“ *Frank W. Wi4 lit a candle in memory of Emile
D. "Red" Barnes*



Frank W. Wi4 - March 05, 2025 at 01:03 PM

“ Red,

You were the soul of our RiverTrip—twenty plus years of hauling gear and boats to the river, fishing all day, eating like kings, and telling lies like only fishermen can. We’d put in at Woodlake Landing and camped on one of the high bluffs a few miles North of the boat ramp. We fished Syfrett Creek, Womack Creek, Alligator, and sometimes the Big River. Little Bill Stevens, who left us a few years ago, would sometimes take his bass boat up to Hitchcock Lake or down river to the boat club.

We’ll never forget when Lance forgot what we called our bush hooks and named them “TommyKnockers” in a late-night haze, or how you were the biggest fan of our homemade poker game—“Two Card, You Get What You Got,” courtesy of the Riverman. You’d play your hand with a grin as wide as the Ochlocknee, always ready to deal in another round.

It wasn’t just the fishing, the games, or even your knack for demolition work that made you stand out. It was the kindness and generosity you poured into every trip and every friendship, the way you lit up the riverbank and turned ordinary moments into memories we’ll carry forever. We’ll miss the sound of your laugh echoing off the water, but we’ll keep it alive in our stories—especially when we set our “TommyKnockers” or deal that next hand of cards.

Rest easy, dear friend.

You’ll forever be part of these adventures, guiding us downstream in spirit. We’ll always be “five men, one river, living off the land—sort of,” but there’ll never be another like you, Red.

From “Five Men, One River” team





Cookie - March 05, 2025 at 09:15 AM

AR

“ I’m Lauren’s little sister & Greg’s sister in law. I remember working as a hostess when I was 17 years old at IWC, Red came into the restaurant to discuss some demo plans. When he came in I immediately recognized him and made small talk with Red. After awhile he looked over at me several times with a confused look on his face. He finally got the courage to say to me “you know you look exactly like my daughter in law!” I laughed and said “well I been waiting to see how long it would take you to recognize me!” Red came in for a big embrace and a laugh. I love hearing from Jason & Katie Beth about their times with their PopPop and I will forever remember the warm embracing personality that radiated from Red.

Anna Renfroe - March 04, 2025 at 10:26 PM

RH

“ Red was a great friend always had a smile on his face always fun to be around he will be truly missed on the mountain

Richard Hall - March 04, 2025 at 06:15 PM

LJ

“Pop Pop was the most kind, generous man. He would do anything for anyone, especially his grandbabies. We will miss your smile, your laugh, karaoke nights, homemade ice cream, back porch hangouts, side by side rides and so much more. We love you dearly.



Lauren Jacobs - March 04, 2025 at 10:28 AM