



## Chester Barry Buckley

June 22, 1936 - April 16, 2023

C. Barry Buckley, founding partner in what was to become one of the largest and most prestigious law firms in Chester County, PA, died Sunday, April 16, at his home near Chestertown, MD. He had Alzheimer's disease; he was 86.

Buckley founded West Chester-based Buckley, Brion, McGuire & Morris LLP, with partner Ronald C. Nagle in October of 1969. He was as passionate about the practice of law as he was mentoring the firm's younger associates. He served as the Chester County Bar Association Treasurer for more than 10 years and was its president in 1981.

As youths, Buckley and his younger brother were frequent recipients of their mother's exhortations about their duty to be tolerant and understanding of others, no matter one's appearance or circumstance. That advice and oversized helpings of patience and brains morphed into a kind of finesse that gave him a one-up with the girls and charmed teachers and family friends as well. Later in life, still an immensely likable guy, he grew into the person who could be counted on for help to navigate the toughest challenges, legal or otherwise.

Beyond a scrupulous attention to detail, an unwavering respect for the law and the ethical practice thereof, his demeanor and skill made him the go-to counsellor when a pro was needed to ameliorate the most tangled and

contested of situations. He had a gift for defusing hostilities and finding a path to resolution. He could wait you out.

These abundant “people skills” led to a '70's fling in Chester County Republican politics. To oust an incumbent state legislator who had lost favor with the machine, the party turned to this handsome young lawyer in his Jacob Reed's suits (by then married, two kids, Presbyterian Sunday School, all boxes checked) to run in the primary election. The only problem was that the incumbent held the City of Coatesville while the rest of the district, which spread to the north and east, contained mostly empty farm land and a few brown cows. He was GOP cannon fodder; the district eventually went Democrat.

Throughout adulthood and almost until his death, he was a yellow-pad-and-number-two-pencil kind of lawyer and businessman, creating penmanship that on the one hand appeared to be the artistry of a skilled calligrapher but on the other was astonishingly undecipherable.

Buckley was a decent athlete, played second base, captained the college swimming team, played tennis, carried an 8 handicap in golf, hurt himself many a Sunday playing flag football at the family compound in Charlestown Township.

He occasioned the Buckley duck blind on Lovely Cove outside Chestertown, but was never really sure if the brass end of a 12-gage cartridge pointed forward or backward when pressed into the magazine of a Browning humpback autoloader. Everyone wanted to gun with him anyway, and after many a shoot, he happily led the gang to an evening's entertainment at Chestertown's storied Village Tavern.

He enjoyed travel, the more rough-edged of the Caribbean islands and

leisurely bike rides through Kent County.

He remained active in his West Chester law practice until 2013 and spent his final years at Lovely Cove Farm where his parents settled in 1959.

Buckley was born in Philadelphia, the first son of J. Taylor and Kathryn B. Buckley. He was named for his maternal grandfather, Chester Barry, a Chester County country doctor and World War I hero. He grew up in Landsdowne, PA. He was a graduate of Williams College, The University of Virginia Law School and the London School of Economics.

He is survived by two sons, Barry K. (Jennifer) of St. Paul, MN, and Dekker M. (Maricarmen) of Rumson, NJ; a brother, J. Taylor Jr., of Sanibel, FL; four grandchildren, Lily, Jamie, Sebastian, and Nicole; and his longtime companion, Christine Petragnani.

Services will be held on Saturday, April 29 at 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chestertown. Interment will be held in St. Paul's Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Pauls Cemetery (Kent County)

7600 Sandy Bottom Road  
Chestertown, MD

# Previous Events

## Service

APR 29. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Kent  
7760 Sandy Bottom Road  
Chestertown, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Chester Barry Buckley*



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**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - April 26, 2023 at 11:06 AM



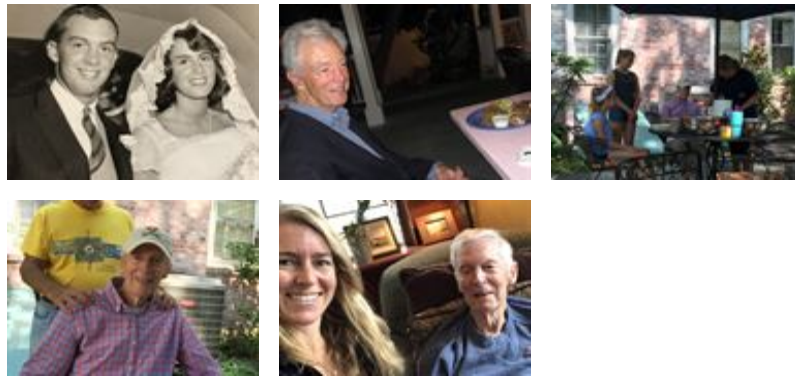
“ *Chester Barry Buckley*

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October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *40 files added to the album Life Tributes*

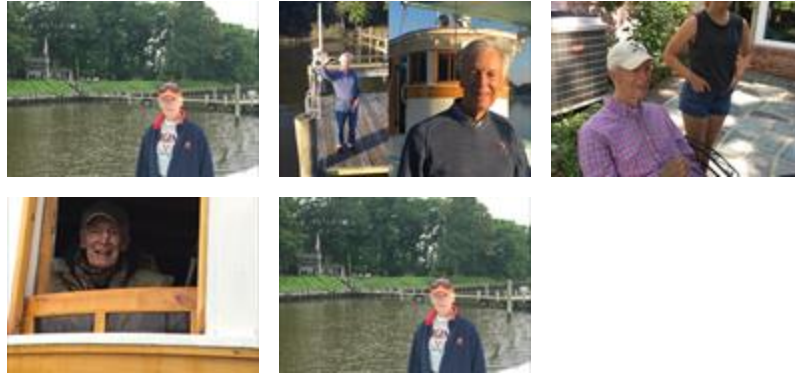


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**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - April 29, 2023 at 08:39 AM

JB

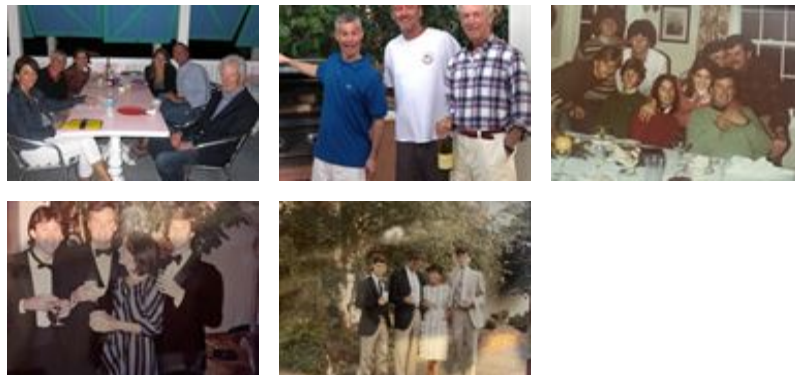
“ 30 files added to the tribute wall



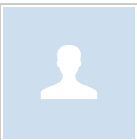
Jennifer & Barry Buckley - April 28, 2023 at 09:48 PM



“ 11 files added to the album Life Tributes



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - April 28, 2023 at 02:28 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Chester Barry Buckley.



April 28, 2023 at 11:44 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*

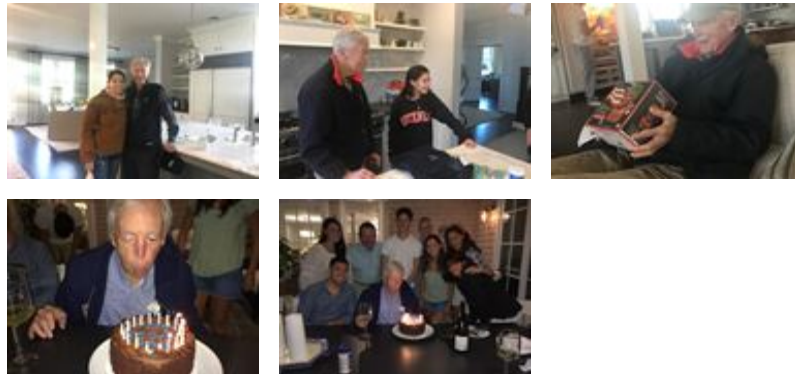


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Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - April 28, 2023 at 08:12 AM



“ 107 files added to the album *Life Tributes*

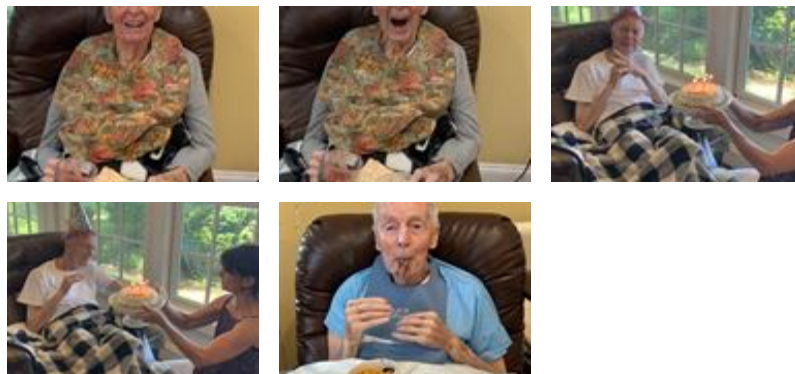


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Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - April 27, 2023 at 08:42 AM



“ 155 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - April 26, 2023 at 10:45 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Chester Barry Buckley.*



April 25, 2023 at 09:40 PM



“ *Barry and i started practicing law in Chester County at or about 1960 and continued for the same number of decades. I cannot recall any one of the many professional and social contacts I had with Barry when I was not left with respect and always a chuckle. R. lamar Kilgore, Esquire*

**r. lamar kilgore** - April 24, 2023 at 04:37 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Chester Barry Buckley.*



April 21, 2023 at 04:49 PM



“ *Denise L Buerck purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Chester Barry Buckley.*



**Denise L Buerck** - April 21, 2023 at 10:39 AM

SF

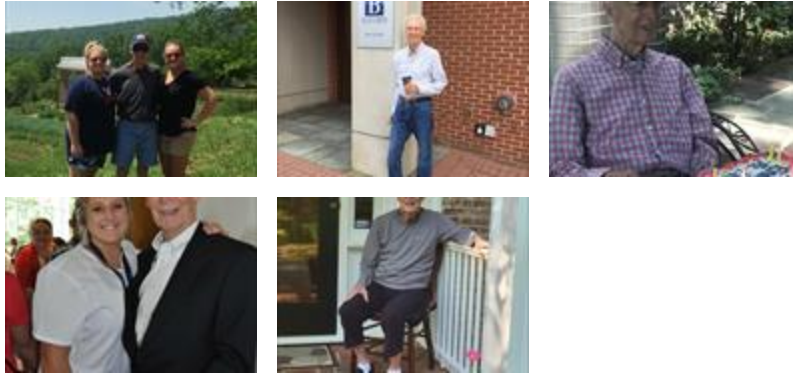
“ *Mr Barry was a incredible man He shared many stories with me , he will surely be missed thoughts and prayers to his family and Christine !*



shirley Foster - April 20, 2023 at 06:44 PM

MD

“ *What an incredible man Mr Barry was. He will be deeply missed* ❤️



Megan Dill - April 20, 2023 at 09:53 AM

LP

“ *Lee Phillips lit a candle in memory of Chester Barry Buckley*



Lee Phillips - April 20, 2023 at 09:18 AM

JS

“ *Jeanette Stubbs lit a candle in memory of Chester Barry Buckley*



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**Jeanette Stubbs** - April 19, 2023 at 10:34 AM

MM

“ *Barry was my colleague and then my dear friend. A wonderful lawyer but more importantly Barry was a smart, funny and kind man who made me want to be a better person. His sage advice was an invaluable treasure. My heart breaks knowing he is no longer with us.*

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**Melanie McAteer** - April 19, 2023 at 08:21 AM

DN

“ *Debbie Nickerson lit a candle in memory of Chester Barry Buckley*



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**Debbie Nickerson** - April 18, 2023 at 06:25 PM

DK

“ *I am heartbroken. Barry was a friend, mentor and role model. His demeanor was calm, reassuring and confident. I have tried for many years to emulate his approach to lawyering. Rest in Peace.*

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**Don Kohler** - April 18, 2023 at 05:12 PM

FD

“ Frankie And Jane Dill sent a virtual gift in memory of Chester Barry Buckley



Frankie and Jane Dill - April 18, 2023 at 04:18 PM

FD

Condolences to the Buckley Family. Every time we see Clint Eastwood o the big screen, we will be reminded of Mr. Barry, as they resembled one another.

Frankie and Jane Dill - April 18, 2023 at 04:29 PM

JD

My favorite story that Megan told was one day She and Mr. Barry were in the Acme. Mr. Barry wanted a beautiful bouquet of flower. They were in line to pay, the lady behind them said" That is a beautiful bouquet of flowers". He paid for it, and handed them to the Lady and said "These are for you". What a kind, gentle man.....,

Jane Dill - April 26, 2023 at 08:56 AM

SH

“ What a super man!! Made me laugh and at times cry. I enjoyed being your caregiver. You were a legacy to many of us and we will hold you dear in our hearts. ❤️ My deepest condolences to Dekker, Burry and family & brother Taylor.. Much Love Sharon ❤️

Sharon Hines - April 18, 2023 at 04:01 PM