



## John Allen Barnett-Stopper

June 3, 1947 - February 24, 2013

John Allen Barnett-Stopper, or as many colleagues knew him, Stopper, of Charlotte, MI, died Sunday, February 24, 2013. John was born June 3, 1947 in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, the son of Harold and Sarah Stopper. He began gigging professionally at age 14 for the local Fond du Lac Lodges. He attended and graduated from the L P Goodrich High School in Fond du Lac in 1965. He was a member of the Air Force Band from 1965-68. After he was discharged, he graduated from the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, graduated from Lakeland College in Engineering, and was a percussionist for the Milwaukee Symphony. John more recently performed in the Lansing Symphony Big Band. He was also involved in many aspects of Lansing musical performances. He was a member of the Lansing Chamber of Commerce. John was active in the Lansing Area Odyssey of the Mind and served as a judge for several years. In recent years, he appeared at many local venues with John Dale Smith and also the Don Sovey Quintet. John was a member of Unity of Greater Lansing. John was recently retired from Kendall Electric in Battle Creek. John is survived by his wife Carole; daughters Alison (Matt) Leonhardt of Manassas, VA and Jennifer (Kevin) Parsons of Ft. Myers, FL; and granddaughter, Elizabeth. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2013, at 12:00 p.m. at The Unity of Greater Lansing, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing Charter Township, MI with Rev. Kent Lederer officiating. Visitation will be held 2 hours prior to the service. Interment will be at a later date at Center Eaton Cemetery. If desired, contributions may

be made to the Unity of Greater Lansing. Family and friends can share stories and condolences in John's Book of Memories at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com).

Arrangements by Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Tribute Wall

RC

“ *I miss ya John.*

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**Rex Cowan** - March 13, 2013 at 04:12 PM

CR

“ *John gave our family and extended Ruhala Center family so much love, heart, and rhythm. We will, and do, miss him so. Much love to Carole with our deepest condolences.*

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**Celina, Mark, Jordan and Thomas Ruhala** - March 13, 2013 at 09:03 AM

PP

“ *We are so sorry to hear about John's death. He will be missed.*

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**Patricia Gabriel and Charlene Pahl** - March 04, 2013 at 04:16 PM

MG

“ *We send our loving sympathy to you Carole and to all of John's family. We and all your caring family are with you in spirit, as John's beautiful spirit lives on in each of you. May God's love continue to surround and support you.*

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**Maureen and Bruce Barnett, Connie Barnett, and Diane Barnett Gordon** - March 02, 2013 at 02:20 PM

AD

“ *Carole, Theresa and I are so sorry and sadden by John's passing. he was a wonderful and talented man. he will greatly be missed by all who loved and knew him.. our thought and prayers are with you and your family during thitalented*

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**Andy Densmore** - March 02, 2013 at 12:24 PM

RM

“ John introduced me to Wisconsin Brats and my Boston Acoustics. He also brought a lot of good music to my parish. I wish he were here now to diagnose my Sony Amplifier problem. My palate, my ears and my heart thank you, John. SDG/JSB

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**Richard McKenzie** - March 01, 2013 at 11:40 AM

UL

“ John, we miss you! What a wonderful light you were to all of us. Your spirit and joy and sense of humor made such an incredible difference for all of us! We see you now in the warm light and quiet peace that only Spirit can offer. Best wishes to you and our gratitude to you--for your friendship. We love you, we bless you, we appreciate you and we behold the light of Christ shining brightly in you...

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**Unity of Greater Lansing** - February 28, 2013 at 09:30 PM

BH

“ My condolences to Carol and the family for the loss of their wonderful husband and father. That charming personality, that wonderful beaming smile, not mention his great percussion will be missed. May his memory live on.

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**Bill Henson** - February 28, 2013 at 07:34 PM

JA

“ I am so sorry to hear this sad news. My heartfelt sympathies go to Carole and family. John was a consummate professional and beautiful soul. I will miss his smile, his musical talents and his witty sense of humor. I know his "beat" will go on in many hearts because of his generous spirit and the musical legacy he leaves us. I send prayers of comfort and ease.

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**Jane Aldrich** - February 28, 2013 at 06:55 PM

SW

“ John and I were in the Air Force band together. I have fond memories of that time with John. He was such a great musician, even back then, with eclectic tastes and very knowledgeable about a full range of musical styles. One of my memories is going to John's house to watch the pilot episode of the TV series "M\*A\*S\*H." Last year, John sent me a couple MP3 files of the band that were made at the time we were both there. I cherish those recordings now more than ever. One note: I think the dates of John's service in the obituary are incorrect. I enlisted in late 1969, and I was already in the band when John arrived. He couldn't have been discharged in 1968. Also, this was a time when the enlistment period (and to be in the band meant he, like me, had enlisted, I'm pretty sure) was for four years. My impression was that John came to Rantoul, to the 505th band, straight out of basic training. That would have put his service in the same period as mine, 1969-1973 or so. My condolences to John's wife and his children. What a wonderful person and exceptional human being. Sherman Wilcox Professor Department of Linguistics University of New Mexico

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**Sherman Wilcox** - February 28, 2013 at 12:13 PM

JZ

“ John was *THE* beat of Lansing Theatre for so many years, it will be hard to imagine a musical without him.

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**Jane and Mark Zussman** - February 28, 2013 at 09:17 AM

TH

“ Many condolences to Carole and family. The world has lost a kind and lovely man and a brilliant musician.

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**Tamara Hicks-Syron** - February 28, 2013 at 09:01 AM

JK

“ Carole, I am Jim Kasprzak, trumpet player musician who has known and played with John since the early 1990s in the Greater Lansing area. I last worked with John for the "Follies" show at Riverwalk Theater last June. I remember John first as a real gentleman in every sense of the word. He consistently was kind and respectful of others. As I got to know John, he always was interested in knowing what was going on in my life. In music performances, John was one of the most tasteful percussionists that I have played with over a very long time. John always had the right touch, knowing just what was needed in music, no matter if it was big band, small jazz ensemble, concert band, chamber orchestra, or pit band for shows. The other musicians could rely on John to do his part from behind his drum set. And, the results were magical. Carole, I know that I have met you several times over the years. Please know that my wife and I will keep John in our prayers. We also will pray that God bring you and your family peace. God Bless. Jim Kasprzak

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**Jim Kasprzak** - February 27, 2013 at 08:30 PM

PM

“ My sincere sympathies in the loss of John "Stopper". I remember him well from our high school days. My condolences to the entire family. Pat (Schuchardt) Miller, Goodrich Class of '65

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**Pat (Schuchardt) Miller** - February 27, 2013 at 11:21 AM

SG

“ John, your time with us has been so short. I'm so glad that we found each other again on Facebook and I was looking forward to our 50th Class Reunion. In school I always knew you were meant to entertain and now you will be doing so for a much larger audience. My prayers are with your Family and friends. Rest in peace my friend!!

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**Sharon Scholl Gilgenbach** - February 26, 2013 at 08:43 PM

NA

“ It is hard to believe you are gone John--we just started emailing each other last year. We were so close in grade school--Lincoln School by Taylor Park--you promised to come to the 50th and we could spend some time together and you wanted to know more about our effort to save our Taylor Park Pool. Now maybe you can help in a different way and our reunion will have to wait. God bless your family, my sympathy goes out to you all. Rest in Peace John, we will miss you. Nancy(Michalack)Smet

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**Nancy(Michalack)Smet** - February 26, 2013 at 08:37 PM

LP

“ I always thought of John as a freind, much as anyone who ever met him in high school. He had no animosities about anyone and treated everyone with kindness. I didn't know how much I missed him until I saw this. I know he will be deeply missed by his family. He was always one of the guys who made high school seem like fun. I am sorry that I never had a chance to see him again. My sympathy and best wishes to his family.

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**Leo Puddy** - February 26, 2013 at 08:14 PM

BF

“ Carole, My sympathy, prayers and heartfelt thoughts to you in the loss of your friend and husband.

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**Brynda Filkins** - February 26, 2013 at 07:39 PM

SS

“ John, I was so looking forward to seeing you at our 50th class reunion in 2015. I guess our reunion will have to wait for now. I do remember your wonderful sense of humor and beautiful smile. God speed, dear John. Rest in peace! Carole and family, you have my deepest sympathies!

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**Sharon Klein Steger** - February 26, 2013 at 07:30 PM