



## Joseph Shane Baker

April 29, 1968 - August 27, 2017

Joseph Shane Baker was born April 29, 1968, the youngest of John and Carrie Baker's 12 children and the only one born in a hospital. He grew up in the Mt. Jordon community five miles from Moro, Arkansas. In his work life, he was a lawyer for the state charged with making negligent dads pay to support their children. But to his family and friends he was the philosopher with the booming laugh, an aversion to matching clothes that could be called outfits and a partiality to cutoff sweat pants and T-shirts stretched out at the neck. Like most of the men in his family, Shane thought it was possible to find a quote from Lonesome Dove to fit any occasion. He loved boiled pork and wouldn't touch sliced tomatoes. And he didn't hesitate to make his preferences known before a planned visit with relatives. "I want boiled hog," he would say.

In his youth, he hunted in his dad's fields along Big Creek with Philip Best, the nephew who was more like his brother. From his dad, he learned, the value of honesty, how to build fences and tend animals and the importance of a neat barn. His brother Phil, 18 years his senior, taught him how to ride horses and possibly a few things their mother would rather he hadn't.

Along the way, he learned enough about carpentry to be willing to start a project on his own and he became skilled enough at cutting and installing trim that he occasionally volunteered his services.

For the past 15 years, Shane was husband to Leigh Ann (or Miss Leigh Ann as he called her) and Dad to Liz, 14, Joanie, 11, and Liam, 8. As the son of

older parents, he understood the value of time. As a teenager he sometimes talked about his fear and even anger that his older brothers and sisters would have more time with their parents than he would.

Not surprisingly, it was lack of time with his family that weighed heavily on him for the past year and a half. He was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2016. He died Sunday, August 27, 2017. He was 49 years old.

Shane graduated from Lee High School in Marianna, Arkansas, in 1986 and attended Lyon College in Batesville on a full scholarship. He graduated college in 1990 with bachelor's degrees in history and philosophy. At Lyon College he developed a devotion to the works of C.S. Lewis particularly "Mere Christianity" through which he found a deep understanding of the love of God for man, His creation.

He was offered fellowships in religion and philosophy at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia and Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut but turned them down to be closer to his aging dad and instead attended UALR Bowen School of Law. His first job out of law school was with the Marianne firm Daggett, Donovan, and Perry. He stayed there four years, from 1993 until 1997 before going to work for the state.

Shane was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, David and Mark, two brothers-in-law, Eddie Best and Ray Hendrix; sister-in-law, Pam Baker; nephew Marcus Loye Baker; and niece Carrie Hendrix Simpson. He is survived by his wife and children; sisters Betty Hendrix, Ida Best, Mary Hastings and husband Don, Joan McCoy and husband James, Naomi Huffer and husband Jack, Ruth Baker, and Paula Holcomb and husband Mike; brothers; John and wife Carole, Phil and wife Jackie, and nieces and nephews almost too numerous to count.

Services for Mr. Baker will be held at the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Forrest City, 10:00 A.M., Wednesday, with burial in Baker Family Cemetery in Moro. Visitation will be Tuesday evening, 6:00 till 7:30 P.M. With a Rosary at 7:30 P.M. At Stevens Funeral Home in Forrest City. Stevens Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. You may log on to [stevensfuneralhome.net](http://stevensfuneralhome.net) for the

on line registry.

# Cemetery Details

## Baker Family Cemetery

Moro, AR

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**AUG 29.** 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Stevens Funeral Home  
220 North Washington  
Forrest City, AR 72335  
(870) 633-5400  
info@stevensfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.stevensfuneralhome.net/>

## Rosary

**AUG 29.** 7:30 PM (CT)

Stevens Funeral Home  
220 North Washington  
Forrest City, AR 72335  
(870) 633-5400  
info@stevensfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.stevensfuneralhome.net/>

## Funeral Service

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AUG **30**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church  
621 S. Washington  
Forrest City, AR 72335

## Interment

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AUG **30** (CT)

Baker Family Cemetery  
Moro, AR

# Tribute Wall

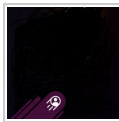


“ *Deborah Austin lit a candle in memory of Joseph Shane Baker*



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**Deborah Austin** - September 23, 2017 at 09:14 PM



*Many fond memories of Shane from our school days in Marianna. May you rest in peace. Prayers for your family.*

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**Deborah Austin** - September 23, 2017 at 09:15 PM

MW

“ *Melinda Stringer Warren lit a candle in memory of Joseph Shane Baker*



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**Melinda Stringer Warren** - August 30, 2017 at 04:31 PM

KS

“ *I knew Shane from my employment at as Attorney Supervisor for the northwest area of the state, the same position Shane held for the northeast area. Shane's stories, as well as insightful comments phrased from his perspective outside the practice of law always lightened the mood of all at meetings in Little Rock and at Continuing Legal Education programs. It was always clear that he loved his family, and how much pleasure he had in his children. He will be sorely missed by his family, his friends, and those with whom he worked.*

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**Keith Griffith, Fort Smith** - August 30, 2017 at 11:22 AM



“ *Purple Rose with Carnations and Lilies (Silk Cemetery Flowers) was purchased for the family of Joseph Shane Baker.*



August 29, 2017 at 08:06 PM



“ *Shirley Williams Thorn lit a candle in memory of Joseph Shane Baker*



**Shirley Williams Thorn** - August 29, 2017 at 07:55 PM



“ *My prayers are with your family during this time of sorrow. Shane will be missed.*  
*Diane Wells, Supervisor II, Pocahontas OCSE*



**Diane Wells** - August 29, 2017 at 06:34 PM



“ *Mary Qualls Knight lit a candle in memory of Joseph Shane Baker*



**Mary Qualls Knight** - August 29, 2017 at 02:35 PM

RK

“ *Rebecca Key lit a candle in memory of Joseph Shane Baker*



Rebecca Key - August 29, 2017 at 01:23 PM

BJ

“ *Bracklet Jones lit a candle in memory of Joseph Shane Baker*



Bracklet Jones - August 29, 2017 at 12:29 PM

LS

“ *Lisa Sellars lit a candle in memory of Joseph Shane Baker*



Lisa Sellars - August 29, 2017 at 12:28 PM

JD

“ *Julia Davis lit a candle in memory of Joseph Shane Baker*



Julia Davis - August 29, 2017 at 12:28 PM

SB

“ *Sadie Blackwell lit a candle in memory of Joseph Shane Baker*



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**sadie blackwell** - August 29, 2017 at 12:26 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph Shane Baker.*



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August 29, 2017 at 11:26 AM