



## Barry Franklin Durham

August 20, 1951 - August 17, 2025

Barry Franklin Durham, 73, of Pelham, NC passed away on Sunday, August 17, 2025.

Born in Danville, VA on August 20, 1951, a son of the late Jerry Franklin Durham and Gladys Phelps Lance.

Barry worked as a mechanic and was an avid racer. He was a member of Ferry Road Friends Church.

Survivors include a daughter, Courtney D. Powell (Brandon), a son, Barry Jordan "B.J." Durham (Julia), a step-son, Chris Earles (Christel), a sister, Janice Durham, two brothers, Jeff Lance, Craig Lance, and ten grandchildren, Casey, Chyler, Brayden, Sarah, Kaiden, Josie, Madilyn, Caleigh, Camden, and Collin.

He was predeceased by a nephew, Michael Riddle, Jr.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel with the Rev. Jimmy Davis officiating.

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel is serving the Durham family.



# Previous Events

## Celebration Of Life

AUG **23**. 1:00 PM (Est)

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel

5858 Riverside Drive

Danville, VA 24541

(434) 793-5511

[info@wrenn-yeatts.com](mailto:info@wrenn-yeatts.com)

<https://www.wrenn-yeatts.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Barry was a joy to chat with at our VDCA races. Always looked forward to our visits! Rest in peace dear friend.* ”

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**Christine Nettleship** - August 23, 2025 at 04:38 PM

“ I was introduced to Barry in 1983 at Road and Track Imports, his repair shop in Danville. He had raced and maintained FFs in Indiana, worked late into the night to finish jobs, traveled to Sports Car Club of America events to crew for my hillclimb and time trial competitions. He taught me how to drive faster by braking later, dumping the clutch at the startline of hillclimbs and when my car was running horribly at Charlotte Motor Speedway, I called him on a payphone and he correctly diagnosed the problem as a loose carburetor jet. When my tow vehicle would break down and he was not with me, he always tried to help by phone. When I first worked with Barry, I tried to save him money (seriously) by telling him that I got along for 26 years with an adjustable wrench and if he relied on one, he'd save a lot of money on all of his expensive snap on wrenches. My first race car did not come with a reverse gear. It was annoying, especially at hillclimbs to ask for strangers or crew to push me backwards into my pit. When Barry installed my reverse gear late one night, and I was able to go backwards on my own, I yelled at the top of my lungs with joy. He then scared me that night by testing the other gears by driving my racecar down Elizabeth Street in total darkness without a light. When he returned, we got a good laugh when he shared that a drunk on the nearby golf course stumbled onto the street and was wide eyed terrified, probably thinking he hallucinating. On my birthday in 1988, he was co-driving my car and totaled my Lotus formula ford on turn twelve at Road Atlanta when he drifted off the road when the CV axle broke throwing the car into the guardrail. Three corners were torn off and they put a tent over him and cut him out of the car with the jaws of life and he was transported to the ER. Luckily, we had just put in new seatbelts and seat padding before that event. He was not injured but real sore and slept in the back of my van all the way home. He purchased my next Elden Formula Ford race car as he always made good on his promises. He was an excellent race car driver who competed in his Crossle formula ford (I only beat him twice) and before I met him he successfully raced a two liter Ford Capri sedan in regional races. We stayed in touch when I moved to Gainesville, FL in 1989 and raced together many times. One of my

*last racing goals was to beat a ten minute lap time on the former German Gran Prix track called the Nurburgring. A former Triad Sports Car Club member, Mike Landreth, told me he got a ten minute lap there. He worked for Lorillard Tobacco and traveled to Germany to fix cigarette machines and would race commercial rental sedans and turn them in with no brakes and worn out tires. For the last three summers, I tried to take Barry to Nurburgring to drive the track. Each year, he was too ill to go and two years ago, I had already purchased his airline ticket when he called me to tell me his pacemaker defibrillator shocked his heart and he had to cancel. It was bittersweet when on August 8 of this year, I finally got a lap of 9:33 with a caution included. Janice, his sister, was so amazing in her caring for Barry as his health declined over the last few years I felt honored to be beside him in hospice last Sunday when he took his last breath. I witnessed Barry become a devout Christian and awesome grandfather and I will miss him dearly. Heaven has a new resident. God Bless Barry.*

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**Paul Crouch** - August 23, 2025 at 10:52 AM

CD

*I love this, Paul. Thank you for honoring him with these words. He would love it. -Courtney*

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**Courtney Durham** - August 23, 2025 at 11:52 AM

RE

*My name Rob Escue. I started hanging around Road and Track Imports in the 1990s. I really didn't know much about cars but Barry took me under his wing and showed me so much. He was an amazing teacher and a dear friend. I bought a triumph spitfire he had on the lot that needed work. Barry took that gearbox apart on the bench in at least one hundred pieces, fixed it and assembled it perfectly. This man was an amazing talent at fixing imports and also driving a race car. Anytime someone would pick up an adjustable wrench he would say put that Crouch wrench down and get the proper wrench. I'm really going to miss him and his crazy sense of humor. Courtney and B.J. Your father was a great man.*

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**Rob Escue** - August 23, 2025 at 12:32 PM

JD

*Thank you for your kind words.*

**Janice Durham** - September 26, 2025 at 08:17 PM

RL

*I knew Barry but that story was about a Life well Lived . I also knew Paul Crouch. RIP Barry .*

**Ricky L. Lamona** - January 30 at 08:58 PM

RA

“ *A fine man , trustworthy , You could leave a vehicle with him and he would fix what was broken and fix it right. If it was something that needed doing while he was into it he would go ahead and take care of it. He spent my money like it was his. If he said it was fixed, it was fixed. Rare traits .I miss his spirit !*

**Ralph** - August 23, 2025 at 10:20 AM

JD

*Thank you for your kind words*

**Janice Durham** - September 26, 2025 at 08:18 PM

DD

“ *Debbie Durham lit a candle in memory of Barry Franklin Durham*



**Debbie Durham** - August 22, 2025 at 12:11 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Barry Franklin Durham.



August 21, 2025 at 06:58 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Barry Franklin Durham.

August 21, 2025 at 06:58 AM



“ I met Barry in high school at G.W. I always thought he was so good looking. I actually had a crush on him. He was always happy it seemed and loved life. He was a find man as we grew older. I was so sorry to learn of his passing. It's not easy losing a brother. Or father, uncle, cousin, friend. Barry won't be soon forgotten. I m sorry for all our loss in his passing. He was a wonderful man.

**Alexis Adams** - August 20, 2025 at 09:40 PM



Thank you my friend

**Janice Durham** - September 26, 2025 at 08:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Barry Franklin Durham.

August 20, 2025 at 07:50 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Barry Franklin Durham.*



August 20, 2025 at 07:50 PM



“ *126 files added to the album LifeTributes*



**Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes** - August 20, 2025 at 10:45 AM



“ *Always enjoyed being in Barry's company at family gatherings. Always good for a laugh, a joke and to make you smile. Rest in Peace cousin. Allen*

**Allen** - August 20, 2025 at 09:50 AM

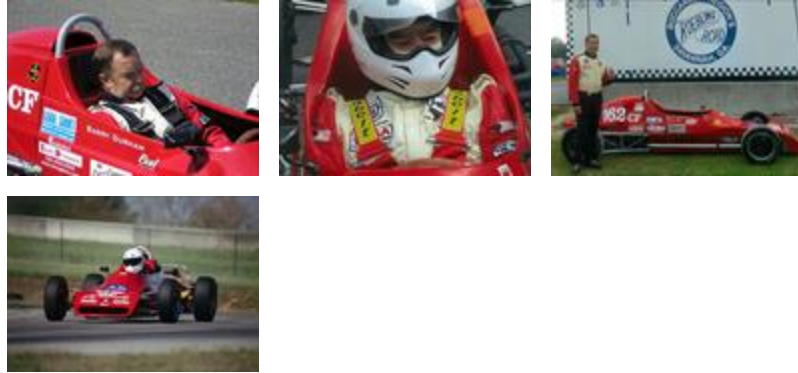


“ *I have fond memories of the time spent with Barry watching softball games. He was always thoughtful and kind and willing to help others.  
I am so sorry for this loss for your family.*

**debbie mckinney** - August 20, 2025 at 09:38 AM



“ One of the finest human beings to occupy this planet for far too brief a time.



Forest Dalton - August 20, 2025 at 08:46 AM

MC

“ At GW, rode motorcycles, and went to SCCA races together.

Michael Comer - August 20, 2025 at 08:17 AM



“ 19 files added to the album Life Tributes



Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes - August 20, 2025 at 07:16 AM

KN

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Barry was a kind and gentle soul. He will be missed. Sending hugs and prayers for you my friend and the family in this time of sadness. Love you



Kathy Nelson - August 19, 2025 at 08:25 PM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes - August 19, 2025 at 04:09 PM

LH

“ Lynn Hudgins lit a candle in memory of Barry Franklin Durham



Lynn Hudgins - August 19, 2025 at 03:13 PM

DD

“ So very sorry for your loss. RIP TILL WE MEET AGAIN.



Donald Dockery - August 19, 2025 at 02:10 PM

SA

“ I had the pleasure of working with and being friends with Barry. We had a lot in common , REST IN PEACE !!

Steven Anderson - August 19, 2025 at 10:13 AM