



## Samuel R. Burnett IV

December 13, 1931 - June 23, 2024

Samuel R. Burnett, IV passed away June 23, 2024, in Sylvania. He was born December 13, 1931, in Baltimore, MD to Samuel and Blanche Burnett, III. He graduated from Dundalk High School, where he was an active leader and athlete.

Sam joined the US Navy during the Korean War and served two years of active duty. He married Barbara Ann Beard in 1953 and moved to Bowling Green, OH where he attended Bowling Green State University studying elementary education and earning a Masters Degree from Indiana University in Administration. Upon graduation, he taught and served as principal in Van Wert, Perrysburg and Washington Local Schools in Lucas County until his retirement in 1988. While working with Washington Local Schools, he served as an active advocate for education with the local, state and national principals' associations. He was a Martha Holden Jennings Scholar. In 2024, Sam was awarded the first Samuel R. Burnett Lifetime Achievement Award by the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators for his contribution to education in Ohio.

After retirement, he served on the Board of Education. During his retirement years, he continued his dedication to children by working with several state and national groups devoted to helping children's causes. Sam continued his volunteer efforts in his senior years by advocating for many different senior

groups, including senior centers, Area Office on Aging, National Committee for the Preservation of Social Security and Medicare, Alliance for Retired Americans and, most recently with the Bowling Green State University Optimum Aging Institute.

His most recent passion was a group he helped organize to assist Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. He was a long-time member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, where he held many leadership and volunteer positions. He was a motivator and helped institute and organize several projects at the church and advocated enthusiastically for the city of Toledo. Sam had many varied interests including golf, traveling to as much of the world as he could, his extensive collection of Pinocchio memorabilia, scouting (earning the rank of Eagle Scout and receiving the Silver Beaver Award), and his beloved family of four children, six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Sam is survived by his wife of 71 years, Barbara; children, Diane (David) Langhals, Michael James Burnett, and Patti Dawson; grandchildren, Heather Dawson, Nicholas Dawson, Kevin (Ann) Burnett, Adam (Megan) Langhals, Matthew Dawson, Amanda Langhals; great-grandchildren, Benjamin Dawson, Braelynn Dawson, Brycen Dawson, Ella Burnett, Andrew Burnett, Charlotte Burnett, Margot Langhals, Millie Langhals, Braxston Parker and Bryce Parker; sister, Mary Hill; brother-in-law, Jerry Beard; sister-in-law, Madonna Beard; and many nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Samuel Rowe Burnett V; brother, Raymond Hill; sister, Patsy Carr; in-laws, Glenn and Dorothy Beard; sister-in-law, Patricia VonMaluski; brothers-in-law, Nicholas (Ben) Hill, James Beard and Eugene VonMaluski.

Friends and family may visit Ansberg-West Funeral Home, 3000 W. Sylvania, on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, from 2:00pm – 7:00pm. Memorial Service will be at 10:30am on Thursday, June 27, 2024, at Aldersgate United Methodist

Church, 4030 Douglas Rd. Interment will follow at Ottawa Hills Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Aldersgate Scholarship Fund or the Pat Miller Foundation Sam Burnett Award Fund (Eleanor Kahle Senior Center, 1315 Hillcrest Ave., Toledo, OH 43612).

# Cemetery Details

## Ottawa Hills Memorial Park

4210 Central Ave  
Toledo, OH 43606

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **26**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Ansberg-West Funeral Home  
3000 W. Sylvania Ave  
Toledo, OH 43613

## Memorial Service

JUN **27**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Aldersgate United Methodist  
4030 Douglas Rd  
Toledo, OH 43613

# Tribute Wall

ER

“ Sam was wonderful! He was the last principal at Lincolnshire in 1983-1984. He started a program with a school in Windsor, Ontario, that evolved into visits and a forever friend for me. He was kind, funny, and so enthusiastic about education. Because of him and teachers like him, I became a successful nurse and a physician. Every life I touch can be traced back to my Lincolnshire roots. Rest easy. Your legacy will continue through the children and their grandchildren you mentored.

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**Erin Rinto** - June 28, 2024 at 11:54 AM

TH

“ So sorry to hear about Mr. Burnett. He was such a sweet man. When I worked in the cafeteria at Hiawatha many years ago, I remember him telling us stories about the lunch ladies when he was a child. He was always supportive and kind to us. I know his family is proud to have had such an awesome man in their lives. He will be missed.

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**Theresa Holewinski** - June 26, 2024 at 11:32 AM

BR

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of Sam. My Mom, Jane Ritter, loved working for him. He was a great leader and a great man. He will be missed.

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**Bill Ritter** - June 26, 2024 at 09:48 AM



“ I have very fond memories of Mr. Burnett. He had a great sense of humor and would call me by a different name all the time. I will always remember the many laughs and giggles at his house while visiting with his daughter, Patti. I am so sorry to hear of his passing. My condolences to the family.

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**Karen Kasper** - June 25, 2024 at 10:57 PM

BG

“ My favorite among the many principals I had. He made me feel like I mattered. I never got to play a single school sport for a multitude of reasons but when I'd place at skating meets he'd have me bring my trophies in where they'd reside next to all of the others in the trophy cases for a period of time. He celebrated my accomplishments and I've never forgotten that. He celebrated me!

Rest in heavenly peace, Mr. Burnett.

You mattered in my life. You made me believe I mattered in this world.

I will never forget your kindness as long as I live. This is a deeply sad day in my life. 💙🙏

*Bonita (Carroll) Gaytan*

*Whitmer Class of 88*

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**Bonita Gaytan** - June 25, 2024 at 02:25 PM

TH

“ I will treasure my most recent visits and our conversations, he always had so much insight on many topics. He gave me books for my grand daughter, that will be treasured. Mr. Burnett always gave 2 dollar bills in his thank you notes, so special. I will remember your kindness, your intellect and most of all the love you gave and showed your family. He was a very special man!

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**Tammi Haigh** - June 24, 2024 at 06:46 PM

MM

*Mr Burnett was possibly one of the most influential educators that I ever had. Thanks to his selfless guidance and encouragement, I survived college and ultimately medical school. He was the motivator the helped me stay focused.*

*The world of education was fortunate to have had him as a leader and the world overall was better as a result of his presence*

*God Speed Mr Burnett*

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**Martin Maag** - June 25, 2024 at 01:18 PM

ET

*Sam was an advocate for seniors and just a great human. We did a lot of events together in the past 20 years, and I will always appreciate how he treated me, and everyone he met. He was such a personable guy, a staunch supporter of Social Security. He loved his family, and was always expanding his circle. My condolences to Sams family, this is a great loss to the community.*

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**erin thompson** - June 25, 2024 at 05:28 PM

PW

*Sorry to hear of Sam's passing. I went to McGregor elementary school where he was principle. I was best friends with his son Chip.*

*Remember Sam as very involved in his community. My best memory was as a young student at McGregor I got into some trouble and was sent to Principle Burnett's office. Two of us entered his office that was dark and quiet. We were nervous. Sam sat there quietly for about a minute raising tension in us. He began to talk in a stern tone. After about a two minute speech he again sat quiet. Then in a sudden move he slammed a large paddle on top of his desk. I think I jumped a foot! I never forgot that and the memory kept me out of trouble in school. I bet Sam had a good laugh watching us jump. Rest in peace Sam! Paul Wohlfarth*

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**Paul Wohlfarth** - June 26, 2024 at 09:19 AM



*I am soooo sorry to hear of Sam's passing. Thoughts and prayers go to the entire family. I loved the stories that he always shared with our family at Aldersgate. It was a pleasure to know him and serve with him. Barb and Heather you are getting a virtual hug from me. I want you to know that I am praying that God's loving and comforting arms are holding you tight as well. Until you see him again remember he is talking with God right now and will be watching over all of you! Rest in Peace Sam!! Cindy Amburgy (Mohr)*

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**Cindy Amburgy** - June 26, 2024 at 01:58 PM

JM

*On behalf of all Sam's friends at the Area Office on Aging, we had hoped to honor Sam in-person with a Positive Image of Aging Award for all his contributions to the Area Office on Aging, senior centers, and older adults today at 10 a.m. at our Annual Meeting at The Pinnacle in Maumee. We are proceeding with honoring Sam by bestowing this award upon him today posthumously. While Sam's Memorial Service is going on, over 150 community leaders will be celebrating Sam's accomplishments as we honor him at the Area Office on Aging's Annual Meeting. Sam always went out of his way to be supportive of me and the Area Office on Aging over the last 20 years since I've been at the Area Office on Aging. I very much value and appreciate all his support and friendship over the years. Thank you, Barb, for sharing Sam with us. We are praying for you during this difficult time.  
Justin Moor*

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**Justin Moor** - June 27, 2024 at 05:08 AM