



## Barret P. Vance

September 28, 1958 - December 16, 2019

Barret Patrick Vance, 61, passed away after a short illness on Monday, December 16, 2019, at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor Hospital surrounded by his brothers and sisters. He was born September 28, 1958, in Dearborn, Michigan, son of the late Stuart E. Vance and Evelyn (Woolsey) Vance and is preceded in death by his brother, LCpl, William C. Vance, (KIA Vietnam). He worked at Lotus Engineering, Inc., testing powertrain, catalyst systems, and was engineering liaison to Lotus dealers in the U.S. Barret also worked at Ford Motor Company in the development of advance powertrain calibrations and prototype vehicles.

Barret was most proud of his community activity with the Yankee Air Museum, Ypsilanti, Michigan, a member since 1987. His involvement with maintenance of Four Major Historic Aircraft; Boeing B-17 "Flying Fortress", North American B-25 "Mitchell", Stinson V-77 (AT-19) "Reliant, and Douglas C-47 "Sky Train". He traveled as a crew member on the B-17 as engineer and mechanic throughout the Midwest to teach the historic significance of WWII and the men and women of the "Greatest Generation".

Barret is survived by his sisters; Ann Szajgecki (Vance) and Rick Szajgecki, Carol Yates (Vance) and Dr. Michael Yates. Brothers; Thomas Vance and Fran Vance, Robert Vance and Cherie Vance, Norbert Vance. Children; Derek Vance, Brittany Vance and Meghan Vance.

The family will gather with friends Thursday, January 16th 10:30 AM until the 11 AM Funeral Mass at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren

Road, Canton, MI 48187.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be given to: Yankee Air Museum, Registrar, 47884 D Street, Belleville, MI 48111-1126.

The family of Barret Patrick Vance wishes to extend our sincere thanks to the stroke team at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, Michigan. To share a memory, please use the share a memory tab on this web page.

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Family and Friends

JAN 16. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John Neumann Catholic Church  
44800 Warren Road  
Canton, MI 48187

## Funeral Mass

JAN 16. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. John Neumann Catholic Church  
44800 Warren Road  
Canton, MI 48187

# Tribute Wall



“ *Barret P. Vance*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Barret was an amazing friend and one of a few people I knew that was easy to talk and could bring you up when you were sad. He was also a lot of fun to hang out with. I will miss him dearly and I wish his family my heart felt wishes. I will always remember my visits to him and all the great times we had. Good by my friend.*

**Martha Avery** - April 07, 2020 at 11:07 PM



“ *I reconnected with Barry after so many years. We talked for months daily..we planned to get together here in Chicago or there. I didn't see a responce for a few days...and reached out to a fb friend. I'm so saddened. He made me laugh every night. I'll always love my gearhead. So sorry fir the family's loss. He's in paradise*

**Marisa gizzi cianfarani** - January 16, 2020 at 04:48 PM



“ *Barret will be dearly missed by many. I've flown many trips with Barret in the B-17. A truly talented crew member with great people skills. An honor to have him as a friend.*

*Gene Wedekemper  
Yankee Air Museum*

**Gene E Wedekemper** - January 15, 2020 at 09:43 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barret P. Vance.*



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January 14, 2020 at 12:25 PM



“ *Barry's dedication and talent will be very much missed in the aviation community. We shared some very good times together.*

*It was an honor to be associated with Barry and call him a friend.*

*G. Schwartz*

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**Grant Schwartz** - January 11, 2020 at 06:23 PM



“ *RIP my friend. I flew with Barry many times, great crewmember, great memories.*

*Ray Hunter, Yankee Air Museum*

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**Ray Hunter** - January 10, 2020 at 07:50 AM



“ *Norb, I am truly sorry for your loss. Paul Ruehl*

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**Paul. Ruehl** - January 09, 2020 at 04:34 PM



“ *Norb and family, we are so sorry for your loss. Walt and Jill Yakima*

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**walt Yakima** - January 08, 2020 at 07:51 PM

DD

“ When I moved across Allen Park from Ecorse Rd area to South Allen Park in 9th grade Barrett was my first friend in the neighborhood. I lived on Midway and we would spend many an hour talking on my front porch. Seriously hours-conversation was easy. That was during his "cane days". He was the first person I knew that had lost a brother in the Vietnam War. The war was distant to me as I didn't have any family involved. As it happens we lost touch after high school but I enjoyed seeing him at the 10 or 20th reunion-can't recall. A life lost so soon. Comfort to the family.

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**Diane W Drane** - January 08, 2020 at 06:53 PM

JS

*I met Barret at the Sidetrack Bar in Ypsilanti  
Barrett helped me out on a car project and once gave me a Bells Tap  
I had been wanting to touch base lately and put it off , wish I had not  
Condolences to Barret s Family  
RIP my friend*

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**jeff smith** - February 07, 2020 at 04:21 PM