



Ralph Edward Banter

March 29, 1941 - February 15, 2020

Ralph Edward Banter, age 78, of LaFontaine, passed away on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Visitation will be from 2 – 8 p.m. Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, Indiana. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, February 20, 2020 at Bailey-Love Mortuary with Pastor Harold Smith officiating. There will be one hour of visitation prior to the service. Burial will be in Gardens of Memory in Huntington County.

Preferred memorials are to Banquo Christian Church or Cancer Services for Huntington County, in care of Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, Indiana, 46750.

Ralph was born on March 29, 1941 in Milo, Huntington County, Indiana, the son of Ora and Hilda (Chenoweth) Banter. He graduated from Jefferson Township High School in Huntington County in 1961 and then continued his studies as a machinist under the direction of Walter Elliott in Ossian. He married Margaret Moorman on September 10, 1961 in Banquo. Ralph was employed at Ossian Paper Co., Byrd Lumber, and Eagle Lumber in Marion before owning his own businesses Banter Machine and Banter Bros. Tractor Pulling. He was a member of NTPA WPI, having served as Vice President for many years and having won many titles and championships. He also served

as Director and Treasurer of Indiana Pullers Inc. After retirement he rebuilt antique vehicles and was a member of the Differentials Car Club. His most important membership was with Banquo Christian Church, where he served as a deacon and trustee.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Margaret Banter of LaFontaine, a daughter, Sherry (Terry) Knight of Van Buren, and brothers Ira Banter of Van Buren, David (Jorita) Banter of Huntington, and Michael (Judy) Banter of Marion. Also surviving are grandchildren Kristen (Brent) Freiburger of Fairbanks, Alaska, Shannon (Brian) Eddie of Montclair, Virginia, Megan (Ben) Whitaker of Wabash, Erin (Arjun) Bhalla of Fishers, and Matthew Knight of Van Buren, great grandchildren Aydan LaFond, Kyen Freiburger, Theodore Eddie, Elijah Eddie, Thomas Eddie, Lela Eddie, Maci Whitaker, Natalie Whitaker, and Benjamin Whitaker, and nieces Kim Banter of Huntington, Heather (Rich) Holmes of Indianapolis, and Heidi (Aaron) Bleich of Carmel. He is preceded in death by his parents, a nephew, Steve Banter, and a sister-in-law, Martha Banter.

Cemetery Details

Gardens of Memory

11201 S. Marion Road 35
Marion, IN 46952

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **19**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary
35 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750
(260) 356-1710
wecare@baileylove.com
<https://www.baileylove.com>

Visitation

FEB **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary
35 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750
(260) 356-1710
wecare@baileylove.com
<https://www.baileylove.com>

Service

FEB 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary
35 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750
(260) 356-1710
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Tribute Wall



“ *Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Ralph Edward Banter*



Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary - February 18, 2020 at 08:11 PM

KM

We are sad to hear about your loss and want to let you know that we are praying for all of you.

Kimberly Miller - February 20, 2020 at 12:36 PM

NA

“ *It's Natalie grandma you know me I don't know grandpa's famous. You and him were perfect together.*

natalie - May 11, 2024 at 11:56 PM

RI

“ *So sorry to learn of Ralph's passing. May God give you Family peace and comfort in your time of grief. Love Ruthann Irvin*

Ruthann Irvin - February 24, 2020 at 01:37 PM

SC

“ Sharon and Mike Christianer purchased the Garden Accent - A heart of gold stopped beating... for the family of Ralph Edward Banter.



Sharon and Mike Christianer - February 20, 2020 at 04:28 PM

WW

“ Ralph you made a full pull!!! See you at the finish line! Woody & Valerie

Woody Woodward - February 20, 2020 at 12:18 PM

RB

“ Sorry for your loss. I remember going to the tractor pulls with Casey Jervis, watching and cheering the team on. Meeting the other pullers was always a lot of fun. Every one tried to explain the jargon of the sport.

Robert Benner - February 20, 2020 at 12:09 PM

DC

“ What a great Christian man and Margie. There are so many memories and fun times shared with this man. I can still hear his laugh. We are only a phone call away Margie. Family please remember what a great man he was (legend). We definitely share in the celebration of a life well lived. Sincerely, Darlene and Wayne Creech

Darlene Creech - February 20, 2020 at 08:07 AM

AS

“ *What a legend, I new Ralph and Margie through the Banquo church. My prayer are with you. Tony Schmid, Banquo, IN*

anthony schmid - February 19, 2020 at 11:20 PM

DT

“ *My condolences to his family and friends.*

Dave Trisler

Dave Trisler - February 19, 2020 at 02:16 PM

BW

“ *You have my condolences and are in my thoughts at this difficult time.*

Barry Wehr

Barry Wehr - February 19, 2020 at 09:10 AM

NN

Margie I know what you and sherry are going through. My heart and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Nancy Newhouse

Nancy newhouse - February 20, 2020 at 10:41 AM

BL

“ 30 files added to the album Life Tributes



Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary - February 18, 2020 at 08:12 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ralph Edward Banter.



February 18, 2020 at 05:57 PM

ML

“ Mike Hoff----Buck Motorsports Park, Lancaster,Pa. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ralph Edward Banter.



Mike Hoff----Buck Motorsports Park, Lancaster,Pa. - February 18, 2020 at 03:49 PM

DS

“ *Dave & Arlene Archer - Kathy & Justin Schalitz purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Ralph Edward Banter.*



Dave & Arlene Archer - Kathy & Justin Schalitz - February 18, 2020 at 10:01 AM

BO

“ *My Dad, Ozzie, and Ralph were good friends and I know they always had a good time. There will be a party in heaven with those 2. You will be missed Ralph. Beth Ostermeyer*

Beth Ostermeyer - February 18, 2020 at 09:15 AM

CF

Thinking of you at this difficult time, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Barbara Fager

Carol Fetter - February 18, 2020 at 05:41 PM

LB

“ *Lester Berry lit a candle in memory of Ralph Edward Banter*



Lester Berry - February 17, 2020 at 09:24 PM



“ I still remember coming to your house in Banquo with my dad when I was a young boy, and we would jump on the homemade sled as Ralph would drive by on his latest invention. And going to Preble and cheering Ralph and Dave on as they would pull it out the end as the crowd went crazy. Taking the 32 Ford to Fort Recovery a couple years ago and walking thru the pits with the Legend. I have been so blessed to know Ralph all these years and be able to hang out with Ralph in the shop...to call him my friend. He will always live on in my heart. My prayers are with you Margie and the Banter family during this difficult time. Jim Stinson

Jim Stinson - February 17, 2020 at 08:35 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ralph Edward Banter.



February 17, 2020 at 07:30 PM



“ Margie, Praying for you and your family at this time of Ralph's homegoing. May the Lord give you peace and comfort as you grieve knowing the hope we have in Jesus Christ our Lord. I will miss talking to him at family get togethers.
Our love and prayers,
Earl & Cheryl Cecil

Earl & Cheryl Cecil - February 17, 2020 at 07:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ralph Edward Banter.*



February 17, 2020 at 05:19 PM



“ *To Margie, Sherry and family.
We are sorry to hear of Ralph's passing. We always considered him and you guys friends. We stayed with you guys once and Ralph stayed with us once and we always seemed to get along good. I sat on the executive board with him and I don't ever remember disagreeing too much and had the same values. We have intended to come back that way and see people but haven't made it yet. I kept thinking I need to call him but never got around to it. Let that be a lesson to me.*

*Our condolences to you and the rest of the family
Ronnie and Linda Reed*

Ronnie Reed - February 17, 2020 at 04:47 PM



“ *Armand, Lisa & Derek Francart purchased the Meat & Cheese Sympathy Gift Crate for the family of Ralph Edward Banter.*



Armand, Lisa & Derek Francart - February 17, 2020 at 04:43 PM

WN

“ *My Heartfelt Condolence and Prayers to Margie, Sherry, and the Banter Family.*

May God give you the comfort and peace that you seek and may the soul of Ralph rest in peace. Wonderful neighbor, cousin, and NTPA Tractor Pullers Legend....God Bless.

Photo about 1975, with Farmfest sticker, that was in Minn..

Wilma J Van Ness-[Jervis]-Marion - February 17, 2020 at 03:30 PM

WR

“ *Dear Marg and family,*

RUTH and I send our condolences, Ralph was very instrumental in my enjoyment and success with tractor pulling. I happened to come across a competition NTPA event in Kinzers PA, (circa 1973), it was there I met this guy in shorts working on his tractor. Ralph was very kind and informative, sharing his knowledge of the sport.

Rest In Peace

Wayne and Ruth ROSS....Concord, NH

Wayne Ross - February 17, 2020 at 12:48 PM

CK

“ *Charles and Freda; Stan and Cindy; Randy and Katie purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Ralph Edward Banter.*



Charles and Freda; Stan and Cindy; Randy and Katie -
February 16, 2020 at 09:13 PM

JJ

“ Prayers for you and the family 🙏

Joe Hart Jr - February 16, 2020 at 09:03 AM

RR

“ So sad, one of the best in the business. My God bless him and may he rip 🙏🙏🙏 To all the family
Randy Raso

Randy Raso - February 15, 2020 at 08:22 PM

NS

“ Ralph was our neighbor. When we moved in I was building our garage. Without being asked Ralph showed up at my house with his hammer and helped put on the rafters, sheeting, and felt. His help will not be forgotten whenever we look at our garage he is and will continue to be remembered as long as we live here. God knew I needed the help and He sent Ralph.

Nathan and Constance Suddarth - February 15, 2020 at 08:11 PM

ES

“ Ralph was the best Modified Tractor Builder in the Sport of Pulling. Walking through the pits at a pull you would see this guy walking around in shorts cowboy boots with a rag hanging out of one pocket and a squirt bottle out of the other and you would swear who's that screwball. But there goes one of the Greatest minds in Modified Tractor Pulling!!!! I always admired Ralph and Dave and cheered for them to many pulls. Ralph will be Dearly Missed!!!!!!! Thoughts and Prayers to the Whole Family!!!!!!! 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

Ed Sass - February 15, 2020 at 04:14 PM

BR

Thanks world lost a great pulling man and will missed sympathy goes to the entire family

Brian - February 15, 2020 at 10:09 PM



“ *A Full Life was purchased for the family of Ralph Edward Banter.*



February 15, 2020 at 01:09 PM

TM

“ *Praying for all you guys, Lots of great memories,*

Todd McDonald - February 15, 2020 at 12:04 PM

CB

“ *He is not gone he is only away ! R.I.P. my friend ! sandman*

carl j bilski - February 15, 2020 at 11:59 AM

EC

“ *Dear Margie & family,
May the Lord give you peace and comfort as you grieve yet knowing the hope we have in Jesus Christ our Lord. Good memories of time talking with Ralph at family gatherings. Also Ralph sharing our time together at St. Joe hospital when you had brain surgery. That was a special time in Ralph turning his life over to Christ. Can't wait to see him in heaven.*

*Our love and prayers,
Earl & Cheryl Cecil*

Earl & Cheryl Cecil - February 15, 2020 at 11:37 AM

BN

Condolences to Margie an Family

Ralph was truly one of a kind. True mechanical genius and more importantly a good person. Spent many great moments with Ralph and have many good memories and stories. Will keep you and family in our prayers.

Bill & Carol Noland

Bill Noland - February 18, 2020 at 09:30 AM