



Ed Baker

September 30, 1949 - February 28, 2022

Given the circumstances of Ed's death and in consideration of the number of older folks and people with health conditions who will be in attendance, the family has requested that **individuals who are not vaccinated or who have potentially had recent exposure to COVID-19 attend the service through the livestream below. Individuals who are vaccinated and attend in-person are asked to wear a mask.**

Edwin Baker, born September 30, 1949, died on February 28, 2022, after suffering from COVID-19, despite being both vaccinated and boosted. A longtime resident of Plano, Texas, Ed grew up in Hartsdale, NY, the much beloved youngest son of the late Douglas A. Baker, and his wife, Clare. An artist and photographer, world traveler, car lover and collector, architectural aficionado, family historian, and old film fanatic, Ed was a generous and caring brother, friend, uncle, and "gruncle," always ready with the quick aside, who spent his life in the service of others. The son of an Edwardian who grew up in turn-of-the-century England, Ed went to Woodstock—then ended up helping in the medical tent. He moved south to attend Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana, from which he was graduated with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in business in 1972. A proud officer and active member of the Iota Theta Chapter of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity at Centenary, Ed was highly regarded for his support for both TKE and Centenary, as well as for his photography skills, ready humor, and outrageous, if sometimes bawdy, jokes.

After graduation, Ed began the outreach work he would continue for the rest of his life as the Executive Director of the Open Ear Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention hotline that served the Shreveport community. Seeking a larger platform from which to help others, Ed moved to the Dallas area in 1977 to work for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), where he remained until he retired in 2017. A skilled team leader and caring mentor, between 1977 and 2010, Ed helped organize the Jerry Lewis MDA Labor Day telethon, coordinating corporate sponsors, television station personnel, entertainers, and volunteers for annual broadcasts in Dallas and other major and minor cities across the United States. As the National Director of Organizational Partnerships at MDA, he collaborated with multiple institutions,

the most significant of which was the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) and Fireserve. He organized fundraisers and benefits, including Shamrocks Against Dystrophy. His work with the IAFF Fill the Boot Program raised as much as \$20 million in annual donations. Over his long career, Ed worked with many, many celebrities, politicians, corporate leaders, and scientists. Most important to him, however, were the close relationships he developed with people living with severe neuromuscular diseases and their families, many of whom became lifelong friends.

Ed loved old cars and was President of the Late Great Chevys Club. His most beloved possession was his prize-winning, meticulously restored 1966 yellow Impala convertible. Always ready to reach out to others, he gathered new friends during his many travels. It is said that if Ed passed you on the street, he would remember your name and likely send you a Christmas card. And those cards were legendary—each a hand-drawn and colored portrait of an interesting building or architectural site he had seen that year. He rode camels in North Africa and elephants in Asia, saw the Pyramids in Egypt, the Taj Mahal in India, the Eiffel tower in Paris, kissed the Blarney Stone in Ireland and rode the Trans-Siberian Railroad from Beijing to Moscow with his close friend and fraternity brother, Frank McKay. The walls of his home were covered with photographs of his travels and artwork he had collected from around the world.

A more caring individual never adopted Texas; Ed had a heart as big as the state he loved. He was preceded in death by his parents and older brother, Doug and is survived by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Alice and Joseph Scandura, sister-in-law, Dina Baker, seven nieces, one nephew, and 12 great nieces and nephews and many, many, many friends. During his final illness, he was supported by the unfailing and tireless efforts of his long-time friends Donnie Herrin and Romy Langenecker, who visited the hospital almost every day, worked with the medical teams, and delivered a daily email on Ed's condition to his 60 closest friends.

The family will receive friends during a visitation held on Friday evening, March 4, 2022 from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Turrentine Jackson Morrow Funeral Home, 2525 Central Expressway North, Allen, Texas 75013.

The funeral service will be held 4:00 p.m., Saturday, March 5, 2022 at Turrentine Jackson Morrow Funeral Chapel in Allen, Texas. Due to the number of older folks and people with health conditions who will attend the events, the family requests all who attend to please wear a mask and masks will be provided at the facility. For anyone who has had potential recent exposure to COVID-19 or has not been vaccinated, the family invites your attendance through the TJM livestream below.

The service will also be live streamed at [TJMfuneral.com](https://celebrationoflife.tv/blog/ed-baker) on Ed's obituary page by clicking on the following link: <https://celebrationoflife.tv/blog/ed-baker>. After the service, the recorded live stream will be available for viewing at the same link location. Following the funeral service, a reception will be held from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

Ed Baker's family thanks his many friends and acquaintances for their loving support over his lifetime. In lieu of flowers, we request you make a tax-deductible donation to The Edwin Baker Memorial Fund, a Charles Schwab charitable Donor-Advised Fund (DAF), which will be used to endow gifts to Centenary College, his Fraternity TKE, the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), the International Association of Fire Fighters, and other charities that were close to his heart. Appreciated stock, mutual funds, and other investments can also be donated.

Check donations should be made out to the Charles Schwab Charitable Fund and include the donor's name and address, with Fund # 6346-0432 written in the memo line and mailed to:

Charles Schwab Charitable Fund

(Fund # 6346-0432)

1958 Summit Park Drive, Suite 200

Orlando Florida 32810

Please send specific questions to his niece, Jules Catania (julescatania@me.com). She will respond as soon as possible.

Memorials

At my father's celebration of life in 2019, Ed said he'd probably known my dad longer than anyone in the room with the exception of my mother. He was my father's fraternity little brother and my parents' oldest and dearest friend. Rest In Peace, Ed - you will be greatly missed!

HEIDI BITTERWOLF, MARCH 11, 2022

What a devastating loss. Ed was a caring, compassionate man dedicated to helping others. He was not only a generous and devoted friend, he was a great humanitarian. He was a mensch, and he will be sorely missed.

FLORENCE AND ARNOLD LOVITZ, MARCH 6, 2022

We'll be seeing you Ed.

ROB N LINDA HALENKAMP, MARCH 5, 2022

Rest In Peace, Ed. You will be missed by all who knew you.

ROCKY MORRIS, MARCH 5, 2022

if i close my eyes, I see Ed laughing, in the courtyard of Jeanne's house on panama street. it had been a stressful day, but we decided to have an impromptu dinner, with Jani Jeanne, Joe, Ed and me. The food was delicious, the wine was welcomed, the light was golden...a perfect evening. This was the first time I really got to meet the real Ed. I wish I had more time to thank him for being the official photographer of our wedding(s). I wish my girls got to meet the real Ed like I did. On the bright side, I know we have an additional Guardian Angel, watching us, protecting us and helping us whenever we will need. Goodbye Ed...Far winds and Flowing seas.



AGNES VIALE, MARCH 5, 2022

Some of my fondest memories working with MDA always included Ed.

DONNA CHUMLEY, FORMER PRESIDENT OF DALLAS FIRE FIGHTER AUXILIARY, MARCH 5, 2022

Loving thoughts to you Aunt Alice, Uncle Joe and the entire family

LISA VOREL, MARCH 5, 2022

I will always remember Ed for his warm smile and his ability to connect with you on a personal level. You will be missed. Rest easy

ELIAS CATANIA, MARCH 5, 2022

Ed was the consummate organizer. He was the glue that held all of his TKE fraternity brothers and sisters together since we graduated. When my dear wife Mary was dying, Ed was there with emails, texts and phone calls to cheer her on. It was a wonderful gesture. When Mary passed in Nov 2020, it was agreed that we would have a Celebration Memorial in the Spring. It was a wonderful event and Ed was right there getting all our fraters organized to attend. He did this while very urgently facing heart surgery. We will all miss our dear friend and brother. Ed was a giver, never a taker and he will be missed and remembered. Pete

PETER PIGOTT, MARCH 5, 2022

Eddie was a dear friend for the 54 years I was lucky enough to have him in my life. He was a truly kind & generous soul who loved in spirit & in truth. Heaven is richer for having him & I look forward to seeing him again.

KERRY TRANUM , MARCH 4, 2022

As a distant cousin, the grandson of Ed's great uncle Charles Baker, I only met Ed in person a few times in my life, Nevertheless, Ed made me and everyone else in the Baker family proud beyond words. Ed did so much for so many. May God bless his magnificent lasting legacy.

DON BAKER, MARCH 4, 2022

Ed was blessed with a full life experience with friends and family whom loved him.

DENNIS & DONNA RANGEL, MARCH 4, 2022

I attended Centenary College with Eddie and got to see and visit with him at the last reunion. It was wonderful to see him again. I will always remember his

wit and charm.

BEVERLY HOLLIS, MARCH 4, 2022

Ed Baker was one of the most committed persons I've ever known in my life. I first met Ed through IAFF functions (MDA) and would then see him often at IAFF events across the country. He was always very quick-witted, always had a smile on his face and a belly laugh that matched none ever. I will miss our conversations about cars and life in general. The good spirit took him too damn quick, he had so much more life to live. I'm very sad over the loss of Ed, but I assure you he will never be forgotten. RIP good friend, we'll take it from here. Cheers!

MARK MUNGER, MARCH 4, 2022

I am so sorry for the loss of Ed, my heart is broken too. I will miss him so very much. He made me laugh and inspired me to be better and to try to be as good as he was. He cared deeply about people and his friends and always made time to stay in touch. He was a good human, generous, one of a kind, and a soul that touched many people's lives.

TRACEY GIANELLI, MARCH 4, 2022

I knew Ed in college and reconnected on FB years later. Ed will be missed by so many.

KAREN HICKS, MARCH 4, 2022

Great friend and brother in the bond.

BRUCE ALLEN, MARCH 4, 2022

Ed was such a caring and thoughtful guy. Every day working with him was a fun day. I'll always remember him and I can just hear him now telling one of his jokes. God just received one of the best! Rest In Peace my dear friend!

COY MORGAN, MARCH 3, 2022

We will miss Ed's constant upbeat and positive personality, he was never without a smile.

RON & VICKI ROMESBERG , MARCH 3, 2022

What a great man and fellow car guy. God be with you friend and you will be missed at the car shows but your presence will be there with us all. Our

Prayers to the family. God Bless All.

DON SILAFF, MARCH 3, 2022

We were so sorry to hear of Ed's passing. We recently spent time with Ed at our son's visitation and celebration of life just a few months ago. We have had a long standing relationship with Ed through his work with MDA. Ed took countless pictures of Brian and seemed to be front and center with his camera sharing his talent. We appreciate all he did for Brian and others through MDA. Ed will be missed by many! The Spann Family

KATHY SPANN, MARCH 3, 2022

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