Longtime Pittsburg attorney Louie Barney dead at 60
By The Morning Sun Staff

Louie Barney, 60, longtime Pittsburg attorney and a devoted supporter of the Pittsburg Police Department, died at 11:19 a.m. Saturday, May 17, 2003, at Mt. Carmel Regional Medical Center following a sudden illness.

He was born May 30, 1942 in Pittsburg, the son of Frank and Rose Pomatto Barney, and was a lifetime area resident. He attended area schools and graduated from the Weir High School in 1960. After receiving a bachelor of science from Pittsburg State University, he went on to attend the University of Kansas, then finished his law degree at Washburn University School of Law in 1973.

He was a practicing attorney for many years, and served as assistant county attorney for Crawford and Cherokee Counties. He was also a Pittsburg Municipal Court Prosecutor and legal advisor for the Pittsburg Police Department.

Ralph Shanks, retired Pittsburg police chief, had known and worked with Barney for many years.

"Louie used to call himself a frustrated cop," Shanks said of Barney.

He said that Barney had served an internship with the Crawford County Attorney's Office while in law school.

"I was a detective then, and worked on several things with him," he said.

Barney served as a Pittsburg volunteer police reservist for 20 years, until the program was discontinued.

"He was head of the Police Reserve when it was disbanded, and felt very strongly about it," Shanks said. "And some of the finest police officers we've had in this city came out of the reserve."

Bill Scott, retired Pittsburg Fire Department chief, noted that he had worked with Barney on several arson cases.

"Louie was always very interested in new investigative techniques, and kept himself very well informed about that," he said. "I hosted a Kansas State Fire Investigators meeting in Pittsburg a few years ago, and he was one of my speakers. I asked him to talk about laws concerning arson and evidence, and he did a very good job for us. Louie was always a professional, and always a gentleman."

"He was a very kind and caring person, and very dedicated," Shanks added. "He was really a super man."

Survivors include two uncles, an aunt and many cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 21, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church with Fr. Thomas Stroot as celebrant. Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery. Parish rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. today at Bath-Naylor Funeral Home, where the family will receive friends following the rosary. Friends may call after 3 p.m. today at the funeral home. Services and arrangements are under the direction of the Bath-Naylor Funeral Home, 522 S. Broadway, Pittsburg.

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