



Merle Dean Baxter

October 2, 1958 - December 31, 2015

Merle Dean Baxter was born Oct. 2, 1958 in Alva, Ok. to Johnny and Ruth (Lord) Baxter. Merle passed away suddenly at St. John's hospital in Tulsa, OK. He was cremated at his request and a private memorial will be held at a later date.

Merle attended Alva Public Schools and graduated from Alva High School with the class of 1976.

Merle loved music all his life and learned to play the guitar from his Daddy. He played many instruments well, but his favorite was the bass guitar. He played and sang with his family at the Alva Assembly of God Church, and he began playing professionally with local bands while he was still in high school.

Following high school graduation Merle moved to Tulsa and became a professional musician playing bass guitar with Jana Jae, "The First Lady of Country Fiddle". Soon Jana was contracted by Sam Walton to entertain at grand openings of both Walmart and Sam's Clubs all over the USA. One of Merle's favorite songs was "I've Been Everywhere" because he felt that after many years touring as a musician he had seen most of America. He also shared the stage with many stars of country music including Johnny Cash, Dwight Yoakam, Chet Atkins, and others. He continued to entertain with Jana Jae until his death and recently played with Jana for her induction into the Oklahoma Country Music Hall of Fame. They have many selections on YouTube, and Merle recently recorded one of his own original songs included on Jana's album Take Me Back to Tulsa. They just recorded two television

shows for Oklahoma Public Television. He was also employed at Goodwill Industries of Tulsa and loved his job there.

Merle married Sonya Ramirez in Alva, Ok. in 1981; they were blessed with two children, Clinton and Lauren. He later married Jackie Presser.

He was preceded in death by his wife Jackie on May 4, 2012, and his parents Johnny and Ruth Baxter.

He is survived by his son Clinton and his children Hugh and Henry of Tulsa, Ok., his daughter Lauren of Edmond, Ok., three brothers, Dan (Carolyn) of Lowell, Arkansas, Darrell (Sharon) of Birmingham, Ala., Mike (Julie) of Nashville, Tn., one sister, Beverly of Kansas City, Ks., a niece, nephews, cousins, and many life long friends.

The family requests donations be made to the Musician's Foundation (musiciansfoundation.org) or Sweet Relief (sweetrelief.org).

Tribute Wall



“ *Merle Dean Baxter*

January 30, 2023 at 03:38 AM



“ *Our sweet Merl. He played with our band Blue Pearl many times over the years. I know he missed Jackie terribly. Love ? you Buddy!*

Shirley Gunderson - January 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am sad to hear of Merle's passing. I was honored to work with him in Jana's band a number of times and he was always extremely kind to me. My sincere condolences to his family. What a wonderful musician.*

Jim Blair - January 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Losing a loved one is never easy. May your pain be eased by God's comforting promise of the time when we will never have to suffer such a loss again. John 6:40*

JA - January 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Merle Dean Baxter*

Steve Barrows - January 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sorry to hear about Merle went to school with him*

Steve Kramp - January 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *Merle and I played a 1000 gigs together and had many great times and memories. RIP my old friend.*

Little Danny Baker - January 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ *We enjoyed listening to Merle play for many years, he will be greatly missed.*

brenda english - January 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ *I'm sorry about your loss, Merle will be greatly missed.*

kenny gilbert - January 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ *He was a sweet guy.we talked about him and how much he missed his wife that passed.now they are back together in heaven*

Chris Levan - January 15, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ *Merle was a talented, unique, giving individual with a huge heart and a desire to do his very best. He is greatly missed, and is one of those great friends who cannot be replaced, but whose memory will live on in the music and friendships he made. Love and prayers to Clint, Lauren, and to his entire family!*

Jana Jae - January 15, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May your memories bring you comfort? Merle will be great missed.* ”

Libby - January 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM