

HAROLD CLEMENT BAKER, JR.

SON OF HAROLD C BAKER SR. + HELEN ELIZABETH MANAHAN BAKER
FATHER OF VIVIAN ELISABETH BAKER + HAROLD CLEMENT BAKER III
BROTHER OF EDWARD THEODORE ("TED") BAKER

Harold was born at Staten Island Hospital on July 2nd, 1938, and died on November 24, 2005 at age 67. He attended PS 48 (Targee Street, Concord, Staten Island); PS 41 (New Dorp, Staten Island); New Dorp High School (New Dorp, Staten Island); and graduated from St. Peter's Episcopal School, Peekskill, NY in June 1957.

Harold was an acolyte at St. John's Episcopal Church (Rosebank, Staten Island) and sang in the Junior Choir. He took music lessons in trumpet at the Staten Island Music Center (Richmond Road, Concord) from 1952-1953, and from Ed Bischoff, a noted jazz musician, in 1954.

In 1955, he was enrolled at St. Peter's Episcopal School, where he earned varsity letters (the maroon and gold "SPS") in football and baseball. In his junior year (1955-1956) he roomed with Bill Murr, Jimmy Stroud (also from Staten Island), and Pete Danner. During the 1956-1957 academic year, he served as Inspector – with David Cascells as Prefect – in The Annex, the dormitory for the youngest SPS boys (7th and 8th grades). Harold sang in the Glee Club and The Octet, and was featured as a soloist on a few of the songs in the Glee Club repertoire. He was an accomplished baseball player and a "long ball" hitter, and an accomplished student with a penchant for Math.

Harold was accepted to the University of the South ("Sewanee") in Sewanee, Tennessee. He had no idea when he departed for college in the fall of 1957, exactly what the South would be like, despite having spent a summer period living with Aunt Gladys Baker Belser in Columbia, South Carolina in 1953. Sewanee was a college for young men, many of whom came from wealth and the dominant Southern culture of the period. Harold chose not to return to Sewanee for his sophomore year, and transferred to Wagner College on Staten Island, where he was active in Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, the college chorale: the Sinfonia was the first group in the United States to perform "The Little Drummer Boy" at Christmas season 1958.

During the summers of 1956 and 1957, Harold worked as an SPH (Seasonal Park Helper) for the New York City Department of Parks. Returning from work one day with his friend Jimmy Pauze, they noticed a house burning. Harold raced into the house, and carried out an elderly woman, saving her

life. On another occasion during a summer at home, Harold and neighborhood friend Frank Carelli decided to buy a wood boat, a ramshackle old thing, for which they paid \$75. They borrowed a small outboard motor from Uncle Bud (Edward G. Baker), and headed out for some "fishing" in Great Kills Harbor. On their return, the engine dislodged from the fine wood boat, and immediately sank. About thirty or forty feet away at this very moment, an elderly man fell off another boat, into the water. He could not swim, was foundering, and was drowning. Harold dove in – clothes and all – and saved the man. He seemed to have an innate instinct about saving people, as he would later do several more times in his life.

But, Harold's real passion was the Fire Department of New York (FDNY). We shared a bedroom in our parent's home throughout the years – except when at boarding school - , until the day Harold was married on September 9, 1960. The "Fire Dispatch Radio" that Harold had bought was our ever-present roommate, morning, noon, and night. There were an infinite number of occasions when Harold would jump out of bed – sometimes at 2 or 3 in the morning – get dressed in a jiffy, grab his bike from the garage, and be on his way to a fire: a house in Concord, or the marshes in South Beach; or a brush fire in Dongan Hills, Harold was the Fire Buff's "Fire Buff". In 1959, he joined the FDNY as a "Proby" (Probationary Fireman) . The term was later changed from "fireman" to "firefighter" to distinguish from "firemen" who stoked the steam engines on the railroads, and from "firemen" in other capacities). His starting salary was \$95 a week.

Harold and Vivian Midboe were married on September 9, 1960 at Messiah Luthern Church on Staten Island. They moved into an apartment on Parkinson Avenue in Grasmere, and in September 1961, Vivian Elisabeth Baker ("Lisa") was born. After moving to their own home on Edgegrove Avenue. Harold Clement Baker III was born in April 1964.

Harold served in the FDNY until his retirement in 1977, after which he was employed as a Safety Engineer at AT+T Bell Laboratories Lucent Technologies in Holmdel, NJ, from which he retired in 1997. Vivian and Harold had moved to 70 Tall Timber Road, Middletown, NJ in 1983.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- AAS / Applied Science / New York City Community College / 1971
- BS / Fire Science Administration / John Jay College of Criminal Justice / 1973
- MA / Safety / New York University / 1975
- Lieutenant / Fire Department, City of New York (FDNY) / Retired 1977

- Committeeman + Institutional Representative / Troop 8, Boy Scouts of America / Messiah Lutheran Church / Staten Island
- Medal of Honor / New York ASPCA / For rescue of 15 animals from a fire while a member of FDNY Squad 5, East Broadway, Manhattan
- Vail Award, AT+T / For rescue of a man from a garage fire
- Member / Uniformed Fire Officers Association, FDNY
- President / St. George Association, FDNY
- Member / National Fire Protection Association
- Member / Society of Fire Protection Engineers
- Member / Semiconductor Industry Association
- Adjunct Instructor / Fire Science Department / NYU Center for Safety. NYC
- Adjunct Instructor / Union County Technical School, Union County, NJ
- Adjunct Instructor / New Jersey City University, Jersey City, NJ
- Adjunct Instructor / Middlesex County College, NJ
- Adjunct Instructor / Brookdale Community College, NJ
- Member / Fire Science Advisory Committee / Brookdale Community College. NJ
- Member / Fire Science Advisory Committee / Middlesex County College, NJ
- Certified Instructor. Level II / Fire Safety
- Certified Instructor / General Safety Course; Smoke House Safety Course; and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Course / Rutgers University; and New Jersey Bureau of Fire Science of the NJ Department of Community Affairs
- Licensed ICS Fire Protection Inspector / NJ Uniformed Construction Code Enforcement Program
- Licensed NJ Fire Prevention Code Official
- Certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Vice President, Trustee, and Member / Beach Haven First Aid Squad (28 years)
- Captain, Lieutenant, and Member / Holmdel First Aid Squad (14 years)
- President, Vice President, Trustee, and Member / Old Village Fire Department, Middletown, NJ
- Instructor and Director / Middletown Township Fire Academy, Middletown, NJ
- Charter Member / NJ Fire Prevention Code Advisory Committee
- President and Member / NJ Citizen's Alliance Air Fire Safety

Harold C. Baker, Jr's. remains are interred in the Baker Family Plot at Fairview Cemetery, 1852 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY.