

Glen “Sparky” Wendell Barker was born on December 9, 1953, in Willmar, Minnesota, the son of Earl and Cynthia (Knott) Barker. He grew up in Atwater and graduated from Atwater High School in 1972. He attended the Willmar Vo-Tech Tool & Dye program and began working as a machinist in Minneapolis. On July 9, 1977, Sparky was united in marriage to Paula Jo Larson and they made their home in the Atwater community. He later worked with friends in the electrical trade and became a licensed electrician. He was employed for many years with Wagoner Electric in Litchfield. In 2004, Sparky co-founded with his two sons, Brandon and Tyler, Barker Electric, which they continue operating as a family business today.

Sparky was an active member of the Atwater United Methodist Church, where he served as an usher, trustee, and maintenance person. He enjoyed playing softball, hunting, fishing, gardening, and tinkering with lawn mowers, tractors, and anything else that was in the garage or shop. He truly enjoyed sharing the veggies from his garden with friends and family. He also enjoyed attending all his children and grandchildren’s activities and sporting events. Sparky was a die-hard Vikings fan and also enjoyed watching the Twins, and Gopher basketball and football, especially when accompanied by his wife and family.

He is survived by his loving wife, Paula; three children, Brandon (and Daniell) Barker, Lindsey Barker and Tyler Barker, all of Atwater; three grandchildren, Mackenzie (and Jayden), Braden (and Haley) and Connor (and Paige); and one great grandson, Waylen. Also surviving are three siblings, Karen “Sis” Willaby of Albert Lea, Shirley (and Dale) Hubert of St. Cloud and Fred (and Melinda) Barker of Grove City; two sisters-in-law, Mae Barker of Willmar and Mary Jane Barker of Grove City; and his father-in-law, Bruce Larson of Atwater, besides other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four siblings, Kenneth, Delbert, Eugene “Bumps” and Ruth; a brother-in-law, Alvin Willaby and his mother-in-law, Shirley Larson.

Celebrating the Life of



Glen “Sparky” Barker

1953 — 2026

*A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands at rest,
It broke our hearts to see you go,
God only takes the best.*

*They say that memories are golden,
Well maybe that is true,
But we never wanted memories,
We only wanted you.*

*Your life was love and labour,
Your love for your family true,
You did your best for all of us,
We will always remember you.*

*We sat beside your bedside,
Our hearts were crushed and sore,
We did our duty to the end,
'Til we could do no more.*

*In tears we watched you sinking,
We watched you fade away,
And though our hearts were breaking,
We knew you could not stay.*

*Our lips cannot speak how we loved you,
Our hearts cannot tell what to say,
But God only knows how we miss you,
In our home that is lonely today.*

In Loving Memory Of

Glen “Sparky” Barker

December 9, 1953

Willmar, Minnesota

August 23, 2026

St. Cloud, Minnesota

Celebration of Life Service

Saturday, August 29, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Atwater, Minnesota

Officiating

Pastor Christa Forsythe

Music

Pianist: Deb Mickle

The Kingery Family

Interment

Union Cemetery

Atwater, Minnesota

Peterson Brothers Funeral Home

Celebrating A Life Remembered