

Quinn R. Barton, Jr.

May 29, 1928 – June 21, 2026

Quinn R. Barton Jr., a Jacksonville native and civic leader, died peacefully on June 21, 2026. Born May 29, 1928, to Margaret and Quinn Barton, the oldest of five children, he was 98 years old. Raised during the Great Depression, Quinn carried an abiding faith and sense of duty that guided him throughout his life.

To all who knew him, Quinn was extraordinarily kind, sharp, and well-mannered – a true gentleman. He loved people and formed lasting friendships across all generations.

He entered The Bolles School as a sophomore in 1943 – then a military academy whose entire student body stood poised for war – and flourished in every dimension of school life. Nicknamed “Genius” in his senior yearbook, Quinn graduated in 1946 as both the valedictorian and Honor Cadet, the school’s highest recognition at that time for all-around contribution and merit.

He arrived at Princeton in the fall of 1946, graduating in 1950 with an A.B. in Economics. Among his fondest Princeton memories was a brief, passing encounter with Albert Einstein. He continued his education at the University of Florida’s School of Law, earning his LL.B. in 1953.

Mindful of duty to country, he served in the US Army for two years in the Judge Advocate General Corps. Upon discharge, Quinn entered his family’s trucking business and served as the longtime President of Barton International, a network of dealerships that sold International Harvester products.

An intellectual, Quinn revered Shakespeare and could summon entire soliloquies on cue. He was a devoted student of British history, particularly the Tudor era and the sweep of royal succession – and equally at home in the lore of Norse Vikings. The sagas, honor codes, and seafaring legends fascinated him – as did the soaring drama of Wagnerian opera.

Throughout his life, he remained engaged and fulfilled by a variety of pursuits, often involving civic good and camaraderie. His leadership roles included President of the Florida Trucking Association, President of the Downtown Jacksonville Rotary Club, President of the River Club, President of the Friars, and Captain and King of Ye Mystic Revellers. Quinn was also a lifelong fan of the Florida Gators. In turn, he learned at a young age to stomach all disappointment or failure with enduring optimism.

Beyond his family, Quinn experienced his greatest joy in a lifetime devoted to The Bolles School. Serving as a trustee for thirty years, he chaired the Board in 1971 when the school made its historic conversion to a co-educational institution with the admission of young women. Later in life, he served his alma mater in a variety of administrative capacities, none more cherished than his final one as Historian/Archivist.

He simply loved Bolles and everybody associated with it, equally warm with students, faculty, and alumni. Rarely did he miss a theatrical or musical production. Perhaps his proudest Bolles moment came in 2018 when his four children – all Bolles graduates – arranged what is believed to be the only birthday party ever held in The Canteen, his 90th, with siblings, grandchildren, lifelong friends, and four Heads of School in attendance.

Quinn’s reverence for Bolles was second only to his love of family and the Lord. His four children were his greatest pride – he was a devoted father and role model who took genuine interest in everything they pursued, embracing their spouses and friends as his own. A lifelong parishioner of St. Matthew’s Church, he married Agnes Ellis there in 1963 and occupied the same third pew nearly every Sunday of his adult life.

The family wishes to thank his caregivers at Riverside Post Acute and Community Hospice & Palliative Care, as well as Petra Martinez, for their kindness and support.

Quinn was preceded in death by his father Quinn Barton, mother Margaret Barton, and brothers Donald and Thomas. He is survived by his brother James and sister Beverly Kolodinsky, his daughter Margaret Barton (Thomas Kimbrough), son Quinn Barton III (Lindsey), son Ellis Barton (Stacey), son David Barton (Susanna), and eight adoring grandchildren.

Quinn Barton lived as he loved – fully, faithfully, humbly, and with unfailing grace.

