



## Barry Richard Okin

November 22, 1939 - August 10, 2024

Barry Okin passed away peacefully in his home in the early morning of August 10, 2024, after battling lung cancer. Barry was born on November 22, 1939, in Brooklyn, New York to Alexander Okin and Shirley Rosenbaum Okin. Barry attended high school and college in New York City. He received a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from City College of New York and a master's in business administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Barry worked his entire career at Exxon Chemical Company, first as a chemical engineer and later as a business executive, primarily in Exxon's specialty chemicals business. He began his career with Exxon working at Exxon's Elizabeth, New Jersey plant and moved with Exxon to Houston, Texas in the early 1970's. Barry retired from Exxon after almost 40 years. He kept himself busy after retiring by doing consulting work and volunteering. He was an avid racquetball player and gave much of his time to serving on and chairing various condominium boards and committees. Barry also volunteered his time to Reading for the Blind and various other charities.

Barry is survived by his loving wife, Marjory (Marge) Pais Okin. Barry and Marge shared 61 wonderful years together. They spent much of their free time traveling the world. Marge often accompanied Barry on his business trips to the Far East, Europe and South America. Together, Barry and Marge visited six continents and hardly missed any corner of the world in their travels. In

later years when the pace of their travel had slowed, Barry and Marge spent their free time relaxing on the patio of their condominium in Galveston, Texas.

In addition to Marge, Barry is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Matthew Okin and Dora Klaff, his daughter and son-in-law, Shari Okin and Peter Harris, as well as his grandchildren, Andrew Okin, Benjamin Okin, Rebecca Klaff, Maxim Overdijk, and great grandchild, Mika.

The family would like to express its deep appreciation and gratitude to Barry's caregiver, Cynethia McKinney, for her exceptional care and compassion this past year. Barry loved her and all of the caregivers who assisted him. The family is forever grateful for their help and support.

Barry's family and friends will continue to celebrate his life and accomplishments for many years to come.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Barry's name to the American Cancer Society (<https://www.cancer.org/>) or to Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast (<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-gulf-coast>).

A memorial service will take place on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 1:00 pm at Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism (HCRJ), 801 Bering Drive, Houston, Texas 77057. The service will be livestreamed and can be viewed by visiting <https://hcrj.org/live-stream/>.

A shiva minyan will be held at the St. James Condominiums at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, August 14, 2024.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG **14**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism (HCRJ)

801 Bering Drive

Houston, TX 77057

<https://hcrj.org>

*The service will be livestreamed and can be viewed by visiting <https://hcrj.org/live-stream/>.*

# Tribute Wall

BE

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Barry Essig** - August 14, 2024 at 06:15 PM

DR

“ *Barry and I are cousins and my first recollection of our meeting was when Barry was about 5 or 6 and I was 10 or 11. He was tall for his age and I was short, so I didn't realize that there was a difference in our ages.*

*My first recollection of our meeting was when Barry, his parents and sister came to visit our family at our home in the suburbs.*

*At 10, I was already a basketball fanatic. My dad had built a basketball court for me in our driveway and Barry and I went out to the court and I taught him to shoot and dribble a basketball. It was the start of life long friendship.*

*About 10 or 20 years ago Barry reminded me of this meeting and told me*

*" you were my hero" - I will never forget that and knowing how successful*

*a life he created also made him a hero to me!.*

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**Donald Rosenbaum** - August 13, 2024 at 03:36 PM

RC

*My preteen and teen years were filled with my friendship with Barry and the group of six of us who lived within a block of each other; Barry, the other Barry; Norman, Eddie, Freddy and me.*

*Whether it was at Barney's where we could bowl or shoot pool or someone's house or apartment we were together what seems like every night when there was no school the next day.*

*Nothing can change the wonderful memories we had through those years and into the years future wife's came into the picture and as life is, we all started spreading out, whether to Canarsie or New Jersey or other places. We stayed in contact*

*I miss Barry and watching his mother do the Sunday times crossword and the great arguments we all had and could watch Barry's face get nice and red*

*Miss you Barry.*

*Wish we had more time*

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**richard creditor** - August 13, 2024 at 09:30 PM

BE

*I remember when we were young—six close friends growing up in Brooklyn, spending a lot of time together during our preteen and teenage years.*

*I remember Barry; even back then, he was the smartest of us all.*

*I remember the building where he lived, and even today, I can clearly picture his parents in my mind's eye.*

*I remember him being an usher at my wedding and, unfortunately, missing his because I was home with the flu.*

*I remember the times Barry, Marge, Linda, and I vacationed together—one trip being a Windjammer cruise in Camden, Maine, in 1966, when both Marge and Linda were pregnant and may not have known it.*

*I remember traveling from Brooklyn to New Jersey via the Verrazano Bridge after they relocated...our kids in tow...so long ago.*

*I remember how, during our years of employment and travel, we stayed in touch only infrequently.*

*I remember that in more recent years, we never failed to call each other on our birthdays.*

*I remember with sadness and tears the last time he called to tell me he would no longer continue his treatment. He mentioned that there weren't many people he had known for over 70 years, which seemed significant to him.*

*These are some of the things I remember. These are the things I shall not forget.*

*And yes...he was a "sweet" man*

*Barry Essig*

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**Barry Essig** - August 14, 2024 at 04:01 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Houston Jewish Funerals** - August 11, 2024 at 06:58 PM