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December 5, 2019

Ms. Gaye Walker
Via email

Re: Commissioner James Barker

Gaye,

Thank you for reaching out to me reference your dad. He is one of my heroes. In fact, he was my host at the very first Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce breakfast, he also introduced me into Rotary and he was a mentor when I joined him on the Coral Gables Commission in 1991.

It was bittersweet for me when I had the opportunity to eulogize Jim at his memorial service as it brought back so many happy memories, but, I realized I had lost a good friend.

Jim was a true servant of the people, always looking out for those that needed help. Especially, the "kids". Who knows how many lives were affected by his compassion, surely more than we will ever know.

I support your effort to remember Jim through some form of city acknowledgement, whatever it is and wherever it is, just make sure you capture that million dollar smile he had.

Best Wishes,

Chip Withers