



Bernie Tofel

June 20, 1941 - July 10, 2024

Bernie Tofel (83) had the most wonderful Homecoming with his family surrounding him with much love (7/10/24).

Bernie lived a good life. Two days before passing, he celebrated his 58th anniversary with his wife, Gerri. His most cherished moments were time spent with Gerri and their family. His heart was full when gathering with son, Scott (Traci), daughter, Kim (Greg), and grandchildren, Dylan, Bailey, and Madison. He was a devoted father and grandfather, never missing a sporting event. He enjoyed spending time at his cottage, taking out his pontoon and grilling on the deck. Bernie loved to cook and had several delicious recipes that were always requested by his family (Bernie Baked Beans, crispy chicken skin, and his sloppy joes).

Bernie was an avid Michigan Football fan with his dear friend, Pat Spielmacher. He admired his classmate from grade school and high school, Father Joe Fix from Ewart, and would enjoy Mass led by Father Joe on Sunday. Bernie held fond memories of running track and playing football at GR Catholic Central HS. He was a proud graduate of Aquinas College and had his career as an IT Specialist and Operations Manager. Bernie was a past member of the National Ski Patrol at Cannonsburg and US Navy. After retirement he spent winters in both Ft. Myers and Destin, Florida, where he golfed and enjoyed beers with fresh seafood.

He was loved tremendously by his family and will be greatly missed.

An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

MK

“ Was shocked to learn on Oct. 24th, 2024 that my brother had passed away in July. May he rest in peace.

Maureen Kreiser - November 19, 2024 at 08:39 PM



“ RIH Bernie. Bernie and I worked side by side at Nabco in Reed City. Went to Las Vegas with him and Gerri, many good memories of Bernie. I haven't been in touch with him in many years, but still had many good memories and he taught me a lot about Inventory control and barcoding. Jim Marklevitz

Jim Marklevitz - July 22, 2024 at 01:10 PM

ME

“ Bernie was on my bus driver team at PHV and I appreciated his sense of humor! My sympathies to your family! Marcy Emmelkamp

Marcy Emmelkamp - July 20, 2024 at 02:04 PM

EZ

“ Of our many gifted Catholic Central classmates with a great sense of humor, Bernie was the best. His memorable antics stayed with me all the years. I am sure he made many friends in the years after that. He was a truly remarkable classmate.

Ed Zyniewicz - July 19, 2024 at 10:15 PM

MD

“ Gerri-Scooter-Kim and kids- What a loss! Bernie could defuse any and all logic with simple solutions and logic in only his iconic humorous way- We had many fantastic memories as leaders at Cannonsburg on Ski Patrol. The memories of fun at Wells Lake and the many other wild and crazy adventures that were shared, He was really "one of a Kind" and a "one size fits all" as he worked hard and played hard. He was "the Burns"..He was loved and will be truly missed. God will truly enjoy the altar boy returning to his service.. May God Bless Him and thank you Gerradine ,Scott and Kim for sharing him.He will be missed by all that knew and loved him. My deepest sympathy .-Mike DeVriendt

Mike DeVriendt - July 19, 2024 at 09:03 AM

DD

Don and I reconnected with Bernie only recently, especially Don who went to Junior College with him. He had an addicting sense of humor when we went to a quick dinner with him and Ger. We were told he was a University of Michigan "fanatic". And attended a game when he could. Will miss your friendly smile and warm welcome. May God pour His blessings on you and your family. Hugs to you Geri.

Din and Cheryl Debri - July 19, 2024 at 10:33 AM

DL

Our sympathy to your family at the loss of your husband and father. Pine River track and St. Ignatius is where we connected with Bernie and he was an avid cheerleader at both places! Am sure he and Fr. Joe are laughing together...Bob and Donna Long

Donna Long - July 20, 2024 at 07:43 AM