



Bernie Bartholow

August 13, 1939 - January 30, 2018

Bernard J. “Bernie” Bartholow, age 78, of Muscatine, Iowa, formerly of Washington, Iowa, passed away on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, surrounded by his family.

A visitation will be held Thursday, February 1, 2018, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Muscatine, Iowa, and Friday, February 2, from 10:30 a.m. until noon at the Jones & Eden Funeral Home in Washington, Iowa. A celebration of life service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 3, 2018, at the First Presbyterian Church in Muscatine with Rev. Pam Saturnia officiating and will be followed by a light lunch and time of fellowship. A private burial will be held at Elm Grove Cemetery in Washington, Iowa. A memorial has been established for First Presbyterian Church Youth. Online condolences may be sent for Bernie’s family at www.jonesfh.com.

Bernie was born on August 13, 1939, in Washington, Iowa, the son of Charles and Helen (Hunt) Bartholow. He graduated from Washington High School in 1957, and remained close to classmates and their loved ones through their monthly lunches. He met Judith Ann “Judy” Hering, the love of his life, on August 6, 1959, at the Washington County Fair and proposed to her on her 17th birthday, October 30, 1959. They were united in marriage on June 26, 1960, at the Eicher Mennonite Church in Wayland, Iowa.

Bernie’s formal training was a correspondence course in drafting. His first job was at Clow Valve (Oskaloosa, IA) followed by Bournes (Ames, IA) as a tool and die maker, and ultimately he worked at HON (Muscatine, IA) as a Manufacturing Engineer for 30 plus years. He was an active Elder of First Presbyterian Church serving on committees such as Personnel, Buildings & Grounds, and Stewardship. He served on the Muscatine Community School Board from 1979-1982.

Bernie and Judy enjoyed many Labor Day weekends as a train conductor and support of the Midwest Central Railroad serving the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, as well as the October Ghost Train and the December North Pole Express. As a conductor, Bernie wanted to help children and their adults make a safe joyous memory of a lifetime.

He and Judy served for nearly 10 years as leadership of the Muscatine Band Boosters traveling to Mexico, Florida, St. Louis, and countless competitions.

Bernie was well known for his flamboyant handlebar mustache. He loved to share stories about his farming and trapping, and lessons learned from parents as a young boy. He enjoyed anything that his grandchildren participated in and spent hours attending games, concerts and plays to support them. He loved wood carving and woodworking, and briefly supported the family by doing residential remodeling projects and cabinetry construction. At the age of 26, he built a home in Ames, Iowa, which they completed in three years while Bernie worked at Bournes.

Bernie will be deeply missed by his son, Dr. Timothy Bartholow and Janice Bartholow of Madison, WI; daughter, Tammi Drawbaugh and husband Paul of Muscatine, IA; grandson, Matt Bartholow and wife Brenda of Bow, WA; grandson, Dan Bartholow and Kolette Knapstein of Milwaukee, WI; grandson, Kaleb Drawbaugh of Evanston, IL; granddaughter, Emma Drawbaugh of Muscatine, Iowa; and an expectant great grandchild (Matt and Brenda) in May 2018. Bernie is also survived by his sister, Bea Johnson of Washington, Iowa; as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Helen and Charles; an older brother, Chuck Bartholow; and his wife Judy, October 21, 2017. His work here was completed as he held Judy's hand, the love of his life, at her passing 101 days earlier.

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Cemetery

Elm Grove Cemetery

Washington, IA, 52353

Events

FEB Family Receiving Friends 04:00PM - 07:00PM

1

First Presbyterian Church
Muscatine, IA, US

FEB Family Receiving Friends 10:30AM - 12:00PM

2

Jones - Eden Funeral Home
116 East Main, Washington, IA, US, 52353

FEB Celebration of Life 10:30AM

3

First Presbyterian Church
Muscatine, IA, US

Comments



“ Our deepest sympathy to your family from Jack & Juanita Seward family. We have many memories of camping with your parents & grandparents Lyle & Fernie. We enjoyed seeing & visiting your dad in Mt Pleasant on the train each year. Jack & Juanita are failing in health so havent camped in 10 years.

Jim & Deb Seward - February 17, 2018 at 07:30 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about Bernie. We left Muscatine on January 29 and I just checked local obituaries. I spent much time with Bernie on a variety of projects. Bernie was always there to help me out with those machinery details I wasn't familiar with.
The most trivial thing I remember about Bernie is that when we traveled, the evening dinner consisted of a steak that was "passed through the flame, do not stop".

Best to all his family,
Bob Hayes

Bob Hayes - February 07, 2018 at 11:29 PM



“ I am so sorry for the loss of your father. He was such a kind and caring man. I always enjoyed visiting with both of your parents. I know that God will take care of them in their eternal home.

Laurie Noah - February 02, 2018 at 05:02 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bernie Bartholow.



February 02, 2018 at 03:58 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Bryan Fessler - February 01, 2018 at 10:14 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Bryan Fessler

Bran Fessler - February 01, 2018 at 10:10 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bernie Bartholow.



February 01, 2018 at 09:33 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Bernie Bartholow.



February 01, 2018 at 08:34 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bernie Bartholow.



February 01, 2018 at 03:20 PM



“ We are so sorry to read of Bernie’s passing. This was and is a wonderful, caring family. Our prayers go out to each of you and especially Tammi as we have fond memories of you too, Tammi.

John and Carol Carlson - February 01, 2018 at 12:50 PM



“ So sorry the loss of both your parents/grandparents in such a short span. We enjoyed having Bernie and Judy as neighbors in Washington. They were such kind folks and i was always so impressed with that mustache! May you keep the memories close to your heart and know they are happily holding hands once again!

Michelle Caldwell - February 01, 2018 at 11:04 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Bernie Bartholow.



February 01, 2018 at 11:02 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bernie Bartholow.



February 01, 2018 at 10:31 AM



“Good afternoon.” That is how Bernie always greeted us. We rented a house from Bernie and Judy. They were wonderful landlords. We are so sorry for your loss.
Dale & Lori Mullikin

Lori Mullikin - February 01, 2018 at 09:53 AM



“So sorry for your loss. My husband Charlie knew Bernie from work at HIN. He had a lot of respect for him. My Son Jeff & Charlie had the honor to do his tile work in his new home. Bernie was so proud of his place had to take me all thru it he was such a kind person.

Myrle Belknap - February 01, 2018 at 08:51 AM



“So sorry to hear of Bernie's passing. He was a good friend of my brother David Cook of Muscatine and my father George Cook of Oskaloosa (Clow). Sincerest sympathies.
Sam Cook, Milan, MO

Sam Cook - January 31, 2018 at 08:26 PM



“Bernie was a great man I've known Bernie since I first joined up with Midwest Central Railroad when you were having a hard time he'd always find a way to cheer you up he will be missed by many people but he's left a lasting impression on many till we meet again rest in peace Bernie

Wayne Pendell - January 31, 2018 at 07:43 PM