



Bruce Burleson Hart

April 19, 1940 - June 28, 2018

Bruce Burleson Hart, a man of integrity and service to others, died peacefully at the age of 78 on Thursday, June 28, 2018 in Charlotte. Bruce was born April 19, 1940 in Charlotte, the son of Max and Esther (Burleson) Hart. As a 12 year old boy, he met his life-long friend and future wife, Marilyn, on the 4th of July. They remained best friends through high school and participated together in many activities. Bruce played trombone in the band and was a talented member of the debate team. After graduating from Olivet High School, Bruce attended one year of Olivet College before transferring to Western Michigan University. Concurrently, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving summers in officer candidate school. He graduated from WMU in 1962 before serving 4 years active duty from 1962-1966 in Newport, Rhode Island. Bruce would remain in the Navy reserves until 1984, retiring after 22 years of service to his country.

Following his service in Rhode Island, Bruce moved to Washington D.C., where he earned his Juris Doctorate from George Washington University. During his second year, he was honored to be asked to be a member of the Law Review. He graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1969 before working briefly for the Internal Revenue Service. He moved to Dallas, TX, where he opened his own private law practice and taught law at Southern Methodist University. During this time, he served as a member of the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Bruce and Marilyn, despite decades living separate lives, both returned home to Charlotte within a few years of each other. They were married January 1, 2000 and lived a life of love, Christian Faith and community service. They were members of Lawrence Avenue United Methodist Church in Charlotte and volunteered for many local groups and helped countless people in many capacities. Bruce was active in the Gideons and Charlotte Rotary Club. He received the volunteerism award for Guiding Harbor in 2018 and served 20 years on the Board of InterVarsity Christian Club. He operated his own private practice law firm in Charlotte, using his expertise to help many in need and organize countless service organizations. Many will remember Bruce for his service to others, to his country, and to his Faith.

Bruce is survived by his loving wife, Marilyn; daughter, Alexandra Hart; brothers, Barry (Mary) Hart and Ben Hart; a niece; 2 nephews; and several great nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents.

Friends are encouraged to support Bruce's family at visitation and memorial services. Memorial services are Saturday, July 14, 1:00 PM at Lawrence Avenue United Methodist Church with Rev. Gary Wales officiating. Visitation is one hour prior to the service. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to John MacArthur's Ministry "Grace to You" PO Box 4000, Panorama City, CA 91412, or to the Lawrence Avenue United Methodist Church. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Bruce on his Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Events

JUL **Visitation** 12:00PM - 01:00PM

14

Lawrence Ave. United Methodist Church
210 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI, US, 48813

JUL **Memorial Service** 01:00PM

14

Lawrence Ave. United Methodist Church
210 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI, US, 48813

Comments



“ I have known Bruce for at least the last 10 years and I think closer to 15. When my husband Jim and I began to date and then married in 2014, Bruce took care of our legal paperwork our trust. Bruce and Jim both having retired from the Navy, had some great conversations. I didn't realize that Bruce had passed away until yesterday, as I live away from the area now. It was easy to talk with Bruce and his gentle mannerism was much appreciated. I will miss Bruce and his kind heart. It was easily known he had a Love for God as we did too. So the navy stories can continue in heaven, as Jim was already there waiting. To the family you have my deepest sympathy, may God bless you and help you through the difficult times. Hold onto the great memories. Prayers for all of you, Nina Devereaux

Nina Devereaux - September 05, 2018 at 05:51 PM



“ Met Bruce in Dallas. He and I were friends. Bruce is always an upbeat funny but sincere gentleman. He is a student of the law and of God's Word. I am sure Bruce is enjoying heaven because of his sole dependence on Christ alone. My deepest condolences to all the family.

Henry Morgan - August 03, 2018 at 03:03 PM



“ Bruce was a very special person- he served his community and his country with much love and kindness. We we're so proud to know him, work together with him and share good times with both he and Marilyn. Bob and I will truly miss this remarkable man. We also send our love to Marilyn
At this time

Bob and Chris Burns - July 13, 2018 at 04:32 PM



“ Rose Romanesque Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bruce Burleson Hart.



July 06, 2018 at 10:15 AM



“ I had the pleasure of meeting Bruce 5 year's ago at a locals in business meeting. He always greeted me with a smile and made me feel very welcome. Soon after he introduced me to his loving wife Marilyn. We had the pleasure of having them as neighbors across the street from the flower shop. I loved hearing Marilyn tell me stories about their lives from childhood until now. When Bruce was very ill I went to visit, he sat and told me their love story and the beautiful memories Marilyn and he had made together. My favorite story was about the picture of Marilyn as a 17 year old girl, she told me when her mother passed she told Bruce thank God now I can put that picture in the attic. He told me he said absolutely not! When he looked at her in her 70's he still saw that young woman. It brought tear's to my eyes to see the love they had for each other. What a rare gift. We should all strive to be the person that Bruce Hart was. This world would be a better place. I will miss you dearly.
Love, Tammy Bush

Tammy Bush - July 02, 2018 at 12:10 PM



“ Love, Steve and Gina Abbott purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Bruce Burleson Hart.



Love, Steve and Gina Abbott - July 02, 2018 at 07:57 AM



“ Bruv

Donna Allen - June 30, 2018 at 09:33 PM