



Bernard Allen Doxtader

February 28, 1955 - October 13, 2021

Bernard Allen Doxtader, 66 of Olivet and formerly Charlotte, died October 13, 2021. Bernard was a very caring and generous person, known for giving what little he had to help others in need. Born in Marshall, MI on February 28, 1955 to Floyd and Dorothy (Ripley) Doxtader, Bernie grew up in a large family and learned about sharing and caring for others from an early age. With an infectious kind of laugh and big bear hugs for his family, they hold those memories dear as they remember their brother. Some of the activities he enjoyed include bowling at CharLanes, dancing (he loved to dance at the Courthouse Square concerts), playing "Santa" at the Eagles in Charlotte and around town in Olivet, and fishing on the island in Eaton Rapids. On June 20, 1998, Bernard married Joanne Irene Reefman, and they enjoyed 23 years together. Bernard touched many lives with his kindness, and in his job delivering The County Journal newspaper around Charlotte, Vermontville, and Nashville. Bernard also worked at the Eaton Place restaurant for 15 years as a dishwasher. He was extremely proud of his work, and his bowling trophies and Special Olympics medals.

Bernard is survived by his siblings, Sandra Brown, Diana McConnell, Geraldine Doxtader, Josephine Carnell, Gordon Doxtader, and Katherine Doxtader; half-siblings, Donna Doxtader, Rachael Nichols, Sada Thorp, Tammi Rothchild, and Kenny Groux; and many beloved nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, Joanne; parents; brother, Stanley Doxtader;

brothers-in-law, Albert Carnell Jr. and Roger Miller; and sister-n-law, Martha Doxtader

Friends and family are encouraged to support Bernard's family by attending services or sharing memories on his tribute page at www.prayfuneral.com. Memorial Service will be Wednesday, November 10, 11:00 AM at West Carmel Congregational Church. Interment will follow at Riverside Cemetery in Albion, Michigan. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Christmas Kiddies in Charlotte. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery - Albion

1301 S. Superior St.
Albion, MI 49224

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **10**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

West Carmel Congregational Church
5016 Carlisle Hwy.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Memorial Service

NOV **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

West Carmel Congregational Church
5016 Carlisle Hwy.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall

DW

“ Oh so sad; somehow I missed this announcement. Such a sweet sweet man! A couple years ago he was in the kitchen wearing a Santa Hat and had his full greying beard grown and a young guest sitting with her family by where we were sitting spotted him and told her Mom "Look Santa Clause is Here" one of the waitresses heard her and went to tell him how excited the little girl was and he came out and talked to her for a few moments. I'm not sure which person was beaming more the little girl or Bernard!!!! A memory I'll always have the shear joy they shared made me tear up a little and a few people clapped as he told her bye and the rest of us Merry Christmas as he walked back into the kitchen.

Dotty Watson - December 27, 2021 at 11:08 AM

RH

“ To Bernie's family: I set out to come to the visitation today but my gps and a detour ended up with me not being able to get there My mom is in the hospital and so I only had a short window of time to try to make it there which, unfortunately didn't work out. I wanted to tell you all that Bernie was an inspiration to me. I was so grateful we met again not too long ago at the state Special Olympics at CMU. It was so great to see him and catch up and revisit shared memories that went all the way back to our kindergarten days! He was a very special guy. My condolences to you all. I will never forget him.

Robin Duffey Haggard - November 10, 2021 at 01:05 PM

DH

“ I got to know Bernie while working at the County Journal. Always enjoyed seeing his smile and cheerful greeting. A very nice person, regards Dave Hawkins

Dave Hawkins - November 09, 2021 at 07:25 PM

Lynae
Anne

“ *Bernie....what a sweet and wonderful person you were. You always gave the very best hugs and never failed to make me smile and laugh. I met you when I worked with Adult Handicap Program and you were one of many i have missed seeing every Tuesday over the years. I'm so very glad we ran into other again at the Eaton Place and I got one last Bernie hug and laugh. You shall be very missed my friend. Rest easy.*

Lynae Anne - November 05, 2021 at 11:04 PM

CB

“ *Chuck Brandon lit a candle in memory of Bernard Allen Doxtader*



Chuck Brandon - November 05, 2021 at 09:35 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bernard Allen Doxtader.*



November 02, 2021 at 12:39 PM

AB

“ What a precious man Bernie was whether he was cleaning tables at the Eaton Place or just out and about. Whenever he saw me he would say “Hi Amy”. I never told him that my first name was Ann but instead would just say “Well hello Bernie, how are you”? I remember when my father in law passed....he and his wife came to the funeral which was so thoughtful. He was so very sweet and said “I’m sorry, Amy”. I wish more people could be as kind as Bernie was. May he rest in heavenly peace!!

Ann “Amy” Britton

Ann Britton - November 02, 2021 at 12:30 PM

SR

Russ and I always loved running into sweet Bernie and have missed seeing him around town and at the Eaton Place. He always had a kind greeting and reminiced of our Eaton Rapids school days . Amy / Ann hit the nail on the head, if more people in the world were as kind as Bernie, what a wonderful world it would be. Prayers for all hus family and countless friends. Bernie never met a stranger ...right?

Shannon Rogers - November 03, 2021 at 01:30 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 02, 2021 at 12:01 PM

GT

My condolences to Bernies family. Sorry for the loss of a good person that had a huge heart and lots of love. I will miss my classmate Bernie at the class reunions and reminiscing about our childhood times together. Thanks for all the good smiles and laughs Bernie., you are gonna be missed.

Gail McGeachy Thompson - November 03, 2021 at 10:46 AM

EC

“ He was one of the best uncles you could every ask for no matter where ever he was he would say this isn't the event it's a family reunion and it made everyone laugh rip uncle Bernard until we meet again in the sky for are big family reunion give all the family up there hugs and kisses for me



Erick carnell - November 02, 2021 at 12:11 AM



“ 9 files added to the album Memories Album



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 01, 2021 at 04:18 PM

LC

Bernie will be dearly missed by his family & the many friends he had acquired over the years. He was a fixture at Eaton Place for many years where I am sure he made a lot of friends among the regular customers that came there. Rest in Peace now that you have been reunited with Joanne

Linda Cobb - November 02, 2021 at 02:17 PM

DC

Even if he didn't have a car, nothing stopped Bernard. I found him a few times on Battle Creek Rd. walking to work. If we were at the park, folks were always saying "Hi!" to him. He was always cheery.

If you went to visit him, he'd usually be watching his favorite sports teams. He may even be writing down their stats. He loved high school (remember that Eaton Rapids jacket?), college and national sports.

Most of all he was a University of Michigan fan. The only time I'd hear him groan, was if Michigan lost. Oh, and did he enjoy bowling!

Especially if he was bowling with family.

Bernard was always up 1st at our program getting coffee for himself & his sister Sandy. He loved that Java!

He loved nature and being outdoors. He was also a big Steven King fan. He was a voracious reader and a fixture at the local library. He was a good friend.

There wasn't a festival, parade, car or tractor show Bernie didn't know about or go to. My brother was autistic, but he always recognized Bernard out in the community.

The thing I loved most about Bernie was that he trimmed his hair short in the warm weather, then grew every thing out for Christmas.

He did this so that he could play Santa every year. He walked around program and passed out little pieces of paper to everyone. He hand wrote Merry Christmas! Luke 2: 11-12. I still have one of those pieces of paper.

God bless all the Doxstader's. Thank you for sharing Bernard with us.

Deb Carmichael

Deb Carmichael - November 03, 2021 at 09:02 PM

JF

Bernie was a much loved member of our library community. We were part of his day and he was a big part of ours. He knew all the names of the student desk clerks. Always checked the candy jar at the front desk, enjoyed playing computer games and facebook. If a day or two went by and he didn't come in, we worried about him. Then, there would be a Bernie-sighting and we would all rejoice. I still look for him, hoping to see him come in. It will be a long time before I can let go of that feeling. We all loved him and will miss him. Judy Fales, director of the Olivet College Burrage Library

Judy Fales - November 06, 2021 at 10:13 AM