



Bernard Alexander Nykanen

Bernard (Bernie) Alexander Nykanen, age 80, passed away Wednesday, April 19th, 2023. He was the beloved husband to Sidney G. Nykanen; father to Rae Middleton (Jeff) and April Houser; brother to Lee Myers; stepparent to Laura Blanchard (Pete), Renee Maxey, Elena Drayer (Paul), and Angelica Ulmer; and loving grandfather of Kendall, Eric, Jennifer, Cameron, Autumn, Gabriel, Hannah, Kylie, Charley, Canyon, Sophia, and Ella. He was preceded in death by his parents Bernard and Marjorie Nykanen; his siblings Eric Nykanen, David Nykanen, and Linda Pittman; and stepson Wendell Blanchard.

Bernie was born in Detroit, Michigan; he grew up in Birmingham, Michigan and later moved to Wilmington, NC. He was an expert HVAC engineer for over 40 years and was also a skilled handyman. Bernie was an active member at Wrightsville Beach United Methodist Church and Port City Community Church. Bernie loved the outdoors and being near the water both in Michigan and in North Carolina. The game of golf was another one of his specialties. Bernie was always inquisitive and passionate about all sorts of mechanical challenges. He will be missed by all who loved him.

In honor of Bernie's life and love for outdoor adventures, a Celebration of Life will take place on May 17th (1:00 pm) in Wilmington, NC at the fountain pond located in front of Port City Community Church. A small reception will follow the ceremony.

The family requests pictures of cherished memories with Bernie be sent to:

Tribute Wall

DG

“ I send my condolences to Sidney And any, and all family and friends of Bernie, who will dearly be missed

David Guenzel - May 17, 2023 at 07:53 PM

DP

“ Sydney, you are in my thoughts and prayers. ❤️🙏

Dorothy Paluck - May 03, 2023 at 07:14 PM

BK

“ Our deepest Sympathy to you Sidney and all the family. May Bernie be enfolded in the arms of our precious Lord, Jesus Christ. He was a good friend , always. generous and helping others through his conversation and mechanical gifts. Rest in peace. Bob & Ingrid K

Bob & Ingrid Koehler - April 29, 2023 at 11:13 AM

VS

“ I have been blessed by knowing Sydney and Bernie. May he rest in the loving arms of Jesus and my prayer is that Sydney will continue God's work in this world until they meet again

Vicky Snyder - April 28, 2023 at 03:28 PM

EY

“ Big hugs to Sidney and her lovely family. RIP Bernie.

Eugene Francis Young - April 26, 2023 at 07:56 PM

BF

“ You have our sympathy and we have happy memories of Bernie. He brought so much joy and many smiles to those around him. Loved his boat man cave. Can you float it to Ohio ? Bob and Loretta

Bob and Loretta Feichtner - April 25, 2023 at 05:52 PM

AJ

“ I really wish my side of the Nykanen family had been closer. I have been in NC over 30 years and didn't even know Bernie was in Wilmington. I recently got reacquainted with Rae and April and remembering fun play times as small children. I read about the mailbox at Wrightsville Beach and was filled with Joy for that memorial for all to carry on ♡ RIP Beloved Bernie

Amy Nykanen Jenkins - April 24, 2023 at 06:58 PM