



## Bennie Clark

November 5, 1942 - November 24, 2018

Bennie (Ben) Clark, age 76 passed away peacefully on Nov. 24, 2018. Ben was born to Irene and William Clark in Platteville, WI on November 5, 1942. He graduated from Lourdes High School, Rochester, MN in 1961. Ben then attended Winona State College he earned a bachelors in Elementary Education. He continued his studies and received a Master's in Education and one in Educational Administration. Ben was drafted in 1967 and served his country for 3 years. Following his tour of duty, he began his career as an Elementary School teacher in Rollingstone, MN. In 1980 Ben took as position as an Elementary School Principal in Adrian, MN. He also served as Principal in Le Sueur from 1982 – 1986 and Forest Lake, MN from 1987 -2007. He retired from education after 37 years of inspiring students, parents and teachers in making their elementary school experience extraordinary. Ben lived his life with drive and passion, whether it was his commitment to his students, his community, his love of sports, reading and most importantly, his family. Ben is survived by his loving wife Kathleen Bridget of 51 years, children Ben and Rachel, grandchildren Canton, Dacotah, Birch, Cree, River, Brooklyn and Aspen; his sisters Michael, Nancy and Kathleen. He is preceded in death by his father William, mother Irene, brother Patrick, and son Matthew. Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, Nov.29th at 11:00 a.m., Pax Christi Catholic Community, 12100 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, MN 55347. Visitation prior to service 9:45-11:00. Private interment Fort Snelling National Cemetery.



# Cemetery Details

## **Fort Snelling National Cemetery**

7601 34th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55450

# Tribute Wall

MR

“ *This is Mike Rivers from Winona. I just received news on Bennie. If you have some time, you can give me a call at 507-458-6262. Sorry to hear of his passing.*

---

**Michael Rivers** - July 29, 2020 at 01:36 PM

DL

“ *Mr. Clark was my elementary school principal in Forest Lake. He was fun, caring, kind and fair. May he rest in peace.*

---

**Dawn Lucas** - November 30, 2018 at 12:01 AM



“ *He was only my principal at Forest Lake Elementary for one year when I moved right before 6th grade, but he made a lasting impact on my life. It was a difficult time for me as there were so many changes going on in my life. He took the time to get to know me, to reach out to me, and to help me make positive changes in how I handled things. I went back to visit him a few times to share with him how much of a difference he made in my trajectory. I am so blessed to have crossed paths with him.  
I am so very sorry to hear of his passing and I am sending my deepest sympathies to all his loved ones.*

---

**Amber Westman** - November 28, 2018 at 03:54 PM

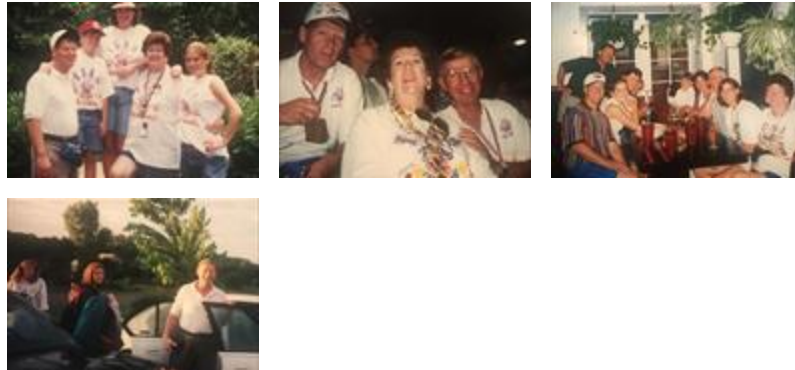
JI

“ I was fortunate to follow Ben as the Principal at Forest Lake Elementary about 12 years ago. Ben was retiring but was very welcoming and kind to me when I visited the school a few times to prepare to take over from him. His most valuable piece of advice was for me to remember that the kids were "all good". He was right. My thoughts and condolences are with all who miss now.

Jeff Ion - November 27, 2018 at 10:23 PM

MH

“ Bennie went on a road trip with the Peterka family to the 1996 olympics. He loved sports. We have some great memories of watching my sister participate in Team handball. As we all stayed together in a small pool house trying to get showers in the AM was a challenge. Ben said he'd take a 3 min shower. It literally took him 2! Military style. We will love and miss you always Bennie!



Mary Hanson - November 27, 2018 at 08:32 PM

JK

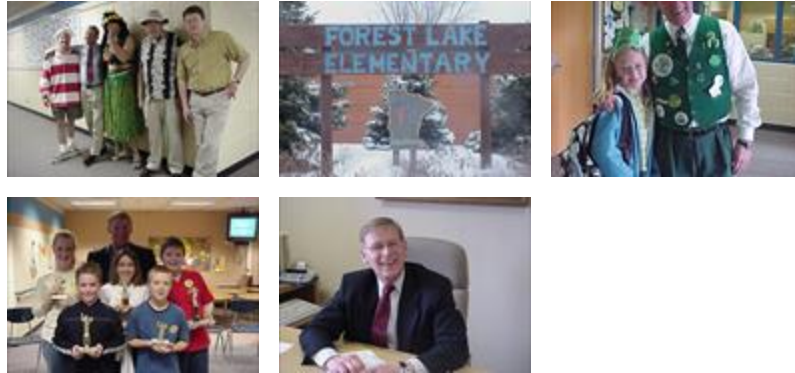
“ Jukka & Kit purchased the Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket for the family of Bennie Clark.



Jukka & Kit - November 27, 2018 at 02:10 PM

KD

“ 29 files added to the album Forest Lake Elementary



**Kelly Duncan** - November 27, 2018 at 09:02 AM

KC

*These are great pictures ❤️ brings back lots of memories!*

**Kayli Crowe** - November 27, 2018 at 12:32 PM

CG

*Great pictures Kelly! I have such fond memories of my years at Forest Lake Elementary and these pictures of Ben capture his fun and gentle spirit! That green vest for St. Patrick's Day was one of my favorites! My condolences to his family. May his memory be eternal...*

**Chris Gulachek** - November 27, 2018 at 12:52 PM

BT

*Ben had such a heart for students, teachers, and families! He served our children well during their time at Forest Lake Elementary. He never failed to ask about them once they had moved on to Jr. High and High School. I also had the privilege to collaborate with him on many projects. Our condolences to his family and friends.*

**Brian and Jennifer Tolzmann** - November 27, 2018 at 01:09 PM

DH

*I enjoyed revisiting some of the days shared with Ben at Forest Lake Elementary. He is gone too soon and will be missed. My condolences to his family. May you be blessed and comforted with many sweet memories in the days ahead.*

---

**Diana Heineman** - November 27, 2018 at 02:51 PM



Krystle  
Kranz

*Love all these pictures! They truly captured the kind heart he had! He was always smiling and so caring! Brings back a lot of memories! ❤️*

---

**Krystle Kranz** - November 27, 2018 at 08:47 PM

KJ

*I really owe my career to Ben. He took a chance on me and I am forever grateful. He was my principal and friend for about 20 years. He watched my children grow up and guided me as a parent. My deepest sympathy to his beautiful family. May good memories and God's peace comfort them.*

---

**Kathy Jurasin** - December 01, 2018 at 08:09 PM