



Bernard Edward Wagnild

August 25, 1939 - December 25, 2022

Bernie Wagnild, age 83, passed away on December 25th, 2022 due to complications of Parkinson's disease. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's more than 20 years ago and lived a remarkably active and long life, despite the progressive nature of the disease.

Bernie grew up in south Minneapolis and graduated from Vocational High School in 1956. While at Vocational, he concentrated on auto mechanics and followed that with a year at Dunwoody Institute. After completing his education, he would spend the rest of his working life in the automotive industry. His career began in 1957

working as a parts runner for Darling Oldsmobile in St. Paul and finished as principal partner and president of

Valley Automotive Group, which includes four General Motors dealerships.

Bernie was a member of the Minnesota

Automobile Dealers Association (MADA) beginning in 1975 until his death. He served on the MADA board of

directors and held officer positions as both its secretary and president. During the 1980s, Bernie was selected to sit

on the National Dealer Council of Chevrolet Motor Division, an honor that made him very proud.

In 1958 Bernie met his one and only love, Janet Honebrink, and after dating

for nine months, they were married on April 4, 1959. Their short courtship belies the endurance of their love and marriage, which lasted more than 63 years. They enjoyed an active social life with a wide network of friends and coworkers and travelled extensively. Over the years they lived in River Falls, Wisconsin; Winona; Burnsville; Minneapolis; and Lakeville. They also have a home in Palm Desert, California, a place Bernie loved dearly. Bernie's civic and philanthropic endeavors were extensive. In Winona, he was a member of the Port Authority and served as its president from 1982-1988. During that time, he also began a long tenure as a member of the St. Mary's University Board of Trustees, ultimately serving as its chair from 1997-1999. Other significant positions he held include being a member and chair of the Ebenezer Society Board of Directors, member and chair of the Fairview (Hospital/Clinic) Foundation Board of Directors and member of the Board of Directors of the Marshfield Clinic. He was honored by St. Mary's University with a Doctor of Philanthropy and Leadership - Honorius Causa, and by B'nai B'rith International with the Distinguished Humanitarian Award. Bernie and Jan were members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Burnsville while living there from 1968-1975 and rejoined that congregation upon moving to Minneapolis from Winona in 1989. Bernie served two terms as congregational president, first in 1973-1974 and then again in 1992-1993 and also was a past member and chair of the Prince of Peace Foundation. He is survived by his wife, Janet; their three children, Dawn (Jim) Jacoby of Chicago, Scott (Kathy) of Fergus Falls, Dean (Shannon) of Lakeville; grandchildren Klara (Andy) Beck, Elayna (Tyler)

Leonard, Carolina Wagnild, Georgia
Wagnild, Leah Wagnild and Dean Wagnild, Jr.; great grandsons Calvin Beck
and Owen Leonard; brothers Jerry,
Galen and Bill; and sister Mary Fraser; a large extended family; and many,
many friends. Our family would also like
to recognize special caregivers Paul Blom, Joshua Polanski and Shannon
Regan, and personal trainer Dan
Rabischko. Without their dedicated care, Bernie's final years would have been
much less active and meaningful.

A celebration of life will be held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in
Burnsville on January 31; visitation at 9:30 AM.

AM and memorial service to follow at 11:00 AM.

Memorials are preferred to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Burnsville or
St Mary's University, Winona.

www.Washburn-McReavy.com

Werness Brothers Chapel 952-884-8145

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 31. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Burnsville)
13801 Fairview Drive
Burnsville, MN

Memorial Service

JAN 31. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Burnsville)
13801 Fairview Drive
Burnsville, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bernard Edward Wagnild.*



January 26, 2023 at 12:43 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Steve Edstrom - January 13, 2023 at 08:28 PM

SE

“ *Bernie was the epitome of an American Success Story. He came from modest beginnings which he used to fuel his determination to succeed starting with his education and then in business, family, and community service.*

Bernie's determination was greatly assisted by his wonderful positive attitude regardless of circumstance. When he walked into a room the light got brighter and the conversation better.

Part of his secret was that he enjoyed hard work and worked hard at having fun!

Among his many achievements I'll add his fundraising back in Winona for the University of Minnesota Williams Scholarship Fund which he did with Al Nelson, Ev Edstrom and Paul Giel. When you saw Bernie, Al and Ev walking up your driveway back then you knew you'd be writing out a check very soon! Thankfully, it was for a great cause.

During the many years he battled Parkinsons I never heard him complain. It was really an inspiration whether on the Ironwood golf course, at lunch or over a glass of wine (which he was an expert on).

Bernie had a sunny disposition so big that it could put the sun to shame.

Very sad to learn he is gone.

Steve Edstrom

Steve Edstrom - January 13, 2023 at 08:25 PM

KD

“Nernie was a family friend of my parents Mary and Ev Edstrom for our entire lives.

My Dad used to say “If you want to get something done call Bernie. He delivers.”

Together they headed up many projects to help the town of Winona and Bernie was always open to donate his time for a worthy cause. He was a good friend, a generous and kind person and a devoted family man.

We all felt lucky to know him.

Sincerely,

Kim Edstrom DeFord

Kim Edstrom DeFord - January 10, 2023 at 09:36 PM

JM

“Jay and Kristen Malone purchased the Beautiful i
n Blue for the family of Bernard Edward Wagnild.



Jay and Kristen Malone - January 10, 2023 at 01:31 PM

TO

“Got to know Bernie when he started at Quality Chevrolet in Winona, working for my Dad. My Dad always said Bernie was destined to be a great one. You did great Bernie.

Terry Olson - January 09, 2023 at 03:41 PM

GL

“ Bernie was a great friend and was the Bd Chairman of both Ebenezer and Fairview Foundations and actually recommended me and I became the Foundation Vice President and had 25 years of relationship and friendship with him He also sold me my first car from his dealership and continued for 30 years Great leader and human being Peace be with you my good friend Gary Lewis

Gary Lewis - January 09, 2023 at 02:46 PM

JM

“ Fond memories of working with Bernie in Winona at Quality Chev, spending time with his family during that time and serving with him with the Winona Jaycees. We remained friend through out the years.
Thoughts are with his family at this time of loss. I know he will be missed by many.

Jim Mausolf - January 09, 2023 at 02:00 PM

RB

“ Whenever I approached Bernie for a word or a brief chat, there was this twinkle in his eye that never went away and it is something I'll always remember about him.

Ronald Bergerson - January 09, 2023 at 10:05 AM

CN

“ 4 files added to the album *Bernie*



Chris Nelson - January 06, 2023 at 09:11 PM