



Bernice Kathryn Behnen

July 24, 1931 - July 12, 2023

Bernice Kathryn Behnen, age 91, of Bloomington, MN, passed away on July 12th, 2023, in Lakeville MN. Survived by her husband Melvin Behnen; daughters Debra (Scott) and Sheryl (Phil); and sons Tom (Deborah), Tim (Anna), Mark (Mary Beth), Scott (Gina); grandchildren Brian, Brad, Brent, Chris, Ben, Nick, Matt, Lucas, Alex; great grandchildren Caden, Nolan, Megan, Daniel, Chloe, Parker; siblings Al, Bob, Mary, John, Charlotte, and many nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by her oldest brother Gerald and oldest sister Gladys.

Bernice was born July 24, 1931, in Melrose, Minnesota, to the late John and Ida Kilian. She graduated from Melrose high school and moved to Minneapolis, where she worked for Investors Diversified Services.

On August 1, 1953, she married Mel Behnen from new Munich, Minnesota. They moved to Bloomington, Minnesota and had six children. Bernice was a homemaker in her early years and then became a product demonstrator for Presto working in many stores, such as Holiday, Target LaBelles, and Macy's.

Bernice loved Jesus and was a prayer warrior. She would start her day praying for family and friends. If you knew Bernice, she probably prayed for you. She also loved flowers, her geraniums in her window beds and pots were beautiful, and she often started these from previous plants she had wintered in their basement. Bernice also loved taking pictures and had many photo

albums, they were filled with pictures of family and friends, and stories that went with the pictures. Included were also photo albums from the many trips she and Mel were able to take, in and out of the country. Bernice's favorite two spots were Green Valley Resort and Hawaii.

Family has always been the focus of Bernice's attention. In her later years she felt very blessed to spend more time with her kids and their spouses, her nine grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

Bernice's family is grateful for the staff at The Moments in Lakeville (where she lived her last two and a half months), and Minnesota Hospice for their loving and compassionate care for both Bernice and her family.

Visitation at 9:00 a.m. on July 31, 2023, at St. Richards Catholic Church of Richfield followed by celebration of Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Interment at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery.

The family suggests in leu of flowers, memorials may be directed to St. Richards Church, St. Jude Childrens Research Hospital, or the Dementia Society.

Cemetery Details

Fort Snelling National Cemetery

7601 34th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 31. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Richard's Catholic Church
7540 Penn Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423

Church Service

JUL 31. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Richard's Catholic Church
7540 Penn Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423

Tribute Wall

JC

“ *Janice & Tim Cunningham purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Bernice Kathryn Behnen.*



Janice & Tim Cunningham - July 24, 2023 at 04:06 PM

SP

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Bernice's family. I have been friends with Sheryl for over 40 years. We met working at Labelle's and that is where I met Bernice. She was such a kind person. Rest in Peace Bernice*
Shelley Presley

Shelley Presley - July 19, 2023 at 02:44 PM

SB

“ *Mom has passed
She has gone away
But will not suffer another day.
She is in heaven
The best place to be
She will be missed by you and me
Mom, we will meet again
Until then enjoy your family reunion.
You are with your mom and your dad.
Thanks for all the memories we have had.
You were a great mother and a great wife.
I cannot imagine another life.
You will be missed by all of us
But our memory of you will not be lost.*

Scott Behne - July 19, 2023 at 01:20 PM

RK

“ MY SYMPATHY DEAR SISTER IN LAW BERNICE MAY THE ANGELS LEAD TO TO PARADISE, MAY THE LORD HOLD YOU IN YOUR ENTERNAL LIFE WITH HIM..RIP DEAR BERNICE REST IN PEACE .

RONNY KUNSTLEBEN & FAMILY

RONNY KUNSTLEBEN - July 19, 2023 at 12:14 PM

JK

“ To my loving sister and "nanny" Bernice who I always called EC. Being a little less than six years younger than you my first memories of you go back about 84 years ago when you would pick out my clothes for the day, and then get me dressed and going. You, like our oldest brother, Gerry, would always be concerned about everyone else. This was demonstrated early on at Christmas time with you making sure our home was decorated and there was a gift for everyone. I remember you inviting me for thanksgiving dinner, when I was attending college, and not allowing me to go out and buy some cranberries because there were rumors that year they might kill you. I remember, when Diane and I were making out our first will, you and Mel agreed to take our children in case of our demise. I remember our month-long European trip in 1990 when you "freaked out" upon learning your baby, Scottie, was being deployed to Kuwait. We also witnessed your warm and charismatic personality, along with Mel's, being enjoyed by the other 46 passengers on that bus. We are thankful for the more than 20 winters we spent nearby in Sun City, AZ. Veterans day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, trips to Laughlin, and cards at least once a week were always so much fun. Knowing how much you loved wearing lots of jewelry I am sorry for the time I referred to it as "that junk."

About six months ago Diane and I found the perfect birthday card for you. I close with the message it contained. Sister: We share a special closeness and a trust that never ends . . . Chance made you my sister, but love made you my friend. The bond we share means everything to me . . . and so do you. With Love and Wishes For a Very Happy Birthday.

Your little brother Johnny (and wife Diane)

John Kilian - July 16, 2023 at 01:09 PM

AJ

*Dear cousin Mel and children,
My prayers and sympathy. Great memories of the times you got all the
Behnen's together for reunions in Richmond. And our visit with Hertz,
his sister Irene and I in Sun City West. *A life well lived. *A family who
loved her. God's peace to all of you.*

Annette Jesh - July 21, 2023 at 10:04 AM