



Melvin John Behnen

July 4, 1927 - June 30, 2024

Melvin John Behnen, age 96, of Bloomington, MN passed away on June 30th, 2024, in Minneapolis MN. Survived by 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 Bertie Lou, Lee, Terry, Alyce, Ronny, and many nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by his wife Bernice Behnen, his brother Herman Jr., and sisters Darlene and Carol.

Melvin was born July 4, 1927, in New Munich, MN, to the late Herman and Veronica Behnen. He graduated from Melrose High School. During his junior and senior year, he was also the school bus driver, and drove a delivery truck after school.

He was drafted into the Army in 1950. He served in Korea as a Platoon Sergeant with the 3rd Engineer Combat Battalion, assigned to the 24th Infantry Division, where he achieved the rank of Sergeant First Class. He returned home in July 1952.

On August 1, 1953, he married Bernice Kilian from Melrose, MN. First living in Minneapolis, they later settled in Bloomington, MN where they raised their six children.

Mel was diagnosed with Polio six weeks after they married. After nearly six months of recovery time, he enrolled at Northwest Electronics Institute. Upon completion he worked for Radio Electric Supply for about ten years. Later, he

joined Countryman Associates as an electronics manufacturer's representative. He became a partner, and eventually purchased the company, before selling and retiring in 1994 at age 67.

Mel had many interests; family genealogy, fishing, boating, history, and travel. Aside from wintering in Sun City, AZ for over 20 years, travel took him and Bernice to all parts of the world. Hawaii being one of their favorites, visiting the island over 15 times!

Aside from those interests, Mel focused a lot of his retirement time being an active member of the DAV, Korean War Vets Association and American Legion. He was Commander of the DAV Star Chapter #24 in Sun City, AZ and 60-year member of DAV between MN and AZ. With the Minnesota Korean War Veterans Chapter 1 of Roseville, MN, he participated in efforts to create several Korean War memorials throughout MN, as well as participating in efforts to bring home MIA's and bring closure to families.

Mel's family is grateful for the staff at Minneapolis Veterans Home (where he spent the last year) for their care and for those that prayed with him, and Minnesota Hospice for their loving and compassionate care for both Mel and his family.

The family asks that you remember Mel for what we loved about him: For his faith in God that started early in his life - a deep faith that brought strength and grew stronger as he lost his mobility and almost all of his eyesight, and for his belief that praying brings hope and comfort. For his sense of humor, story telling, and willingness to say, "I am sorry" and shed a tear. For his thankful spirit towards those that helped care for him at the Veteran's Home when days were challenging, and for his strong desire over so many years to help others in need.

Visitation is at 9:00AM on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at St. Richards Catholic Church, 7540 Penn Ave S. Richfield, MN 55423., followed by celebration of Mass at 10am, and lunch following. Interment at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery at 1:00PM.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, memorials be directed to Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation or the DAV Star Chapter #24 in Arizona.

Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation

950 North Washington St.

Suite 220

Alexandria, VA 22314

<https://koreanwarvetsememorial.org>

DAV STAR Chapter #24

PO Box 1911

Sun City, AZ 85351

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

Mass of Christian Burial

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

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

Graveside Service

JUL 31. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Fort Snelling National Cemetery
7601 34th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450

Tribute Wall

AJ

“ My deepest sympathy to Mel and Bernice's children and families. Mel was a third cousin of mine and became a friend. He came to Sun City West where my sister-in-law wintered and visited with us a couple of times. My favorite story is when they got robbed in the Sun City home and slept thru it! I loved that he volunteered there to collect extra oranges, lemons and grapefruit from people to bring to food shelves. I am ever thankful that he and his son put our genealogy into form to see. He traveled to Germany and Salt Lake City to gather family history. And he gathered us together to celebrate a family reunions in Richmond! I and other cousins met with him to help organize our parts of the Behnen family. I truly admired and thanked him for his service in Korea. He was an amazing storyteller and shared amazing stories of his time in the service. A true American Patriot! And I tried to watch some of the Memorial Day events on TV and got to see him in vet uniform honoring our Veterans at various places in the metro area where he was part of the Honor Guard. I am sharing his stories from online about his service time and connections after with my family. Eternal Rest to a man who lived life well; faith, family, and friends. Annette Behnen Jesh

Annette Jesh - July 31, 2024 at 11:15 AM

KC

“ Kevin and Lisa Clark purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Melvin John Behnen.



Kevin and Lisa Clark - July 30, 2024 at 11:52 AM



“ *America the Beautiful* was purchased for the family of Melvin John Behnen.



July 29, 2024 at 11:48 AM



“ *My sympathy to Deb & Scott, Tom & Deborah,, Sheryl & Phil, Tim & Anna, Mark & Mary Beth, Scott & Gina on the death of your Dad father iin law ,grandpa and great grandpa. rest in Peace BROTHER Mel RIP.*



Ronny Kunstleben - July 22, 2024 at 11:17 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Melvin John Behnen.



July 22, 2024 at 04:15 PM