



Bernard "Bernie" Rauwerda

December 30, 1948 - February 11, 2022

Bernard "Bernie" Wayne Rauwerda, 73, resident of Caledonia, passed away on Friday

February 11, 2022 at his residence.

Bernie was born on December 30, 1948, to Bernard and Grace (nee: Hart) Rauwerda in Racine.

He was united in marriage to Suzanne Wolff on November 28, 1970.

He graduated from Racine Horlick High School in 1967, and then joined the US Navy Reserve in 1967. While in the Navy, he served on Midway Island in the South Pacific, followed by service on the USS Hansen Naval Destroyer.

He was honorably discharged as Seaman on August 31, 1973. He was employed as a real estate agent for Shorewest Realtors, retiring after many years. Bernie also worked as a Tool and Die Maker with Aide Inc., Sterling Tool, Surgitek and Letsch Manufacturing.

He was a member of Living Light Christian Church where he and his wife served as homegroup leaders for seven years. He sang bass in various Christmas concerts hosted by the church. Bernie was a member at the Artist Gallery in downtown Racine where he exhibited his wood-turned art. He enjoyed countless hours in his woodshop as he created segmented wood turned art, furniture, and anything else he could create with wood.

In 2007 and 2008, Bernie competed in and finished the Pleasant Prairie Triathlon. He then continued as a serious swimmer at the YMCA. He also coached youth baseball for 12 years for Racine Youth Sports.

Bernie enjoyed numerous camping trips to Timber-Lee campground with his family and close friends. He also enjoyed day trips with his wife to various points of interest in Wisconsin, as well as family time with his children and four granddaughters.

He is survived by his wife, Suzie of Racine; daughter, Christy (Phillip) Heiman of Janesville; son, Paul (Katie Leffler) Rauwerda; sister, Joanne Reske; granddaughters, Charis, Ryan, Lucy and Thea Rauwerda all of Racine, as well as nephews, other relatives and many dear friends.

Bernie was preceded in death by his parents, Bernard and Grace, and brother-in-law, Stan Reske.

Funeral services for Bernie will be held at Living Light Christian Church on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. with visitation from 9:30 a.m. until time of service.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **16**. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Living Light Christian Church
740 College Ave
Racine, WI

Funeral Service

FEB **16**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Living Light Christian Church
740 College Ave
Racine, WI

Tribute Wall

MB

“ Dear Suzie and family,

I am so sorry for you loss. I have wonderful memories of the times Bernie and my brother John would get together back in high school. I remember we would all sometimes skip religion class on Tuesday night and go ice skating at the zoo instead. I am so happy for the years the two of you had together. It was a privilege to be in your wedding. We enjoyed seeing both of you at our Brass Works Concert a Sacred Heart. I can only imagine how difficult this time is for all of you. Know that we are keeping you all in our prayers. May all your precious memories bring you comfort. Our hearts go out to you.

*With deepest sympathy and love,
George and Mary Baumgardt*

Mary Baumgardt - February 17, 2022 at 03:26 PM



“ *I only knew Bernie from working at Shorewest. When I first joined he was my primary trainer. I peppered him with lots of "but what if . . ." and I never stumped him. He taught me that it was ok to question but also to find the answers and rest in them. He stepped down from training a year after my group so I was always afraid I may have broken him! Of course, I didn't and for many years until he retired he was a rock for me in my career. His dry, direct sense of humor and his ability to demonstrate kindness to me are traits I will always treasure. He will be missed but I know that when he passed he was greeted with "Well done, you good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord." It is us here left behind that will feel the loss. My prayers are with his family. -- Kimberly Mann*

Kimberly Mann - February 15, 2022 at 02:09 PM

LT

I wasn't fortunate enough to ever meet Bernie, although had heard what an incredible man he was by a friend. I admired his exquisite wood turning skills. He was an amazing artist. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. Rest peacefully Bernie. What earth has lost, heaven has gained.

Loni Theisen - February 16, 2022 at 08:06 AM



“ Memories 44" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Rauwerda.



February 15, 2022 at 01:33 PM

SP

“ Bernie and I coached his son Paul and my son Nick in little league baseball many years ago. Bernie was always positive and a great mentor to the kids, friendly and a true gentleman. I will savor the memories of those days and miss you my friend. RIP COACH BERNIE

Stanley Postorino - February 15, 2022 at 01:19 PM

DS

“ So Sorry for your loss. May it comfort all of you to know, that Bernie is no longer suffering, and is a peace. Cherish all those wonderful memories that you have. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you! Diana Schultz

Diana Schultz - February 15, 2022 at 11:02 AM