



Warren L. Bertelsen

October 7, 1940 - September 8, 2020

RACINE - Warren L. Bertelsen, 79, passed away on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 after succumbing to the pain of pancreatic cancer that had moved to his liver and spine.

He was born on October 7, 1940 to the late Clarence and Dagney (nee: Jacobsen) Bertelsen.

Warren was a sheet metal worker by trade and made a living as a custodian and building engineer with the Racine Unified School District. He was most at home exploring the wilderness, some said he was born two hundred years too late. Warren was a fan of Native American and Early Colonial American Culture. He loved canoeing, sitting by the campfire, and even built his own cabin. Warren coached youth baseball, collected antique cars, and loved rebuilding motorcycles. He was a contrarian; a lifelong Cubs and Vikings fan. Warren was a friend to a countless number of people and was always trying to learn the names of new acquaintances.

Warren is survived by his children, Daniel (Stephanie) Bertelsen and Barbi (Rick) Dixon; brother, Dean (Sue) Bertelsen; sister, Karen (Vern) Kolze; grandchildren, Keenan Lantz, Julian Lantz, Hannah Bertelsen, Greta Bertelsen, and numerous niece, nephews, great-nieces and nephews to whom he was known as Uncle Gum.

To honor Warren's wishes, there will not be a funeral or memorial service. He died knowing he was saved by grace through faith alone.

Tribute Wall

MH

“ Warren was an amazing and good man. I worked with him at Gilmore Middle School. He knew how to put a smile on your face. He was a pleasure to be around.. May God strengthen you family and give you peace.

Melinda Hadley - April 28, 2021 at 09:45 PM

BR

“ My family grew up next to the Bertelsen family on Jones Street in the 50's. Warren taught me to ride a 2 wheel bike. It was a girls 26", probably Karen's. I was pretty small & about 5 years old. My butt never neared the seat. We lived on a dead end street, allowing a lot of safe practice time. I guess I was a quick study & was riding in a short time. Warren ran to our house & asked my parents (Emil & Beverly) to come outside for a surprise. Warren was grinning from ear to ear, as was I, until I ran into a parked car. I still (at 67) have the scar above my right knee:) It wasn't his fault at all. My parents found out shortly after that I was in desperate need of glasses. Great memories of great times in a close knit neighborhood. I hope you all have many great memories to hold near & dear. Rest in peace, Warren.



Barbara Pavlik Riegelman - September 14, 2020 at 10:57 AM

NT

“ Warren was a great guy very genuine. I always called him "The Mayor of Reschke Ave" which always brought a smile to his face. Whenever he stopped over we would talk about old coins, which we both had a fondness for. I will miss those visits but never forget the memories of a truly great guy. My deepest sympathy to his family. Love and Peace,
Nick Thielen



NICK THIELEN - September 12, 2020 at 01:55 PM

CZ

“ Warren was a classy guy; he was genuine and caring. He certainly had a following of the young people from the schools he served. Our entire family (especially our Special Needs daughter) have been friends with Warren for years. We even own/drive his red '55 Chevy. We're all so saddened to hear about his death. But we are so impressed that his obituary contains the Gospel ("For by Grace are ye saved thru faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast."). Till we meet again in Heaven.....The Dennis Zwaga Family

Cheryl Zwaga - September 11, 2020 at 01:47 PM

JU

“ I was truly privileged to know Warren, as was anyone whose life he touched. Although I only knew him for a brief time, it was very clear that he was a man of kindness, caring, genuine love of life, conviction and principle. His spirit has left an imprint on me, and all anyone whose life he touched. Rest in peace, kind soul --

Julie - September 11, 2020 at 09:40 AM

KU

“ Warren was lived next to my storage garage and i have known him for 30 years always came over to say hi some small talk and a handshake when he saw me there.from what i know of warden through the years he lived by his own rules amd enjoyed life he is missed

Kurtjorgenson - September 11, 2020 at 07:46 AM

DT

“ Warren was a caring and genuine man! He knew every students name and would help out anyone in need! This is a huge loss. Much love to you friend. Rest in Peace!

Dan Thielen - September 10, 2020 at 07:13 PM

DI

“ I met Warren when I was the Gilmore school Police liaison back in the 90's. It was an instant friendship which only grew through the years. He always called me Son of Iver and I called him Son of Berthel as we both have a Danish heritage. We had a bond that will never be broken even through his passing. I thank God for his friendship and that I grew to know and love the man. I'm overwhelmed with all the amazing memories and with the loss in his absence. He came to visit me over the years in South Dakota, Tennessee and northern Wisconsin. We was a kind, genuine and down to earth man who I will miss for the rest of my days.

david iverson - September 10, 2020 at 12:30 PM

KL

“ Warren and I were friends from church back in high school and I fondly remember scooping the loop in his old 1937 /- car. Luther League, Bible Camp.....all had a special aura about them thanks to Warren!

Karen Nielsen Lorence - September 10, 2020 at 11:01 AM

SN

“ Warren was a staple at The Nielsen home on West 6th St for many years. My brother Ray and Warren were great friends in the 1950-60s. We all had good memories of Warren as he was so polite and a very nice young man. My Mother thought highly of him. My sincere thoughts are with your family at this time. 💕

Sandra Nielsen - September 10, 2020 at 06:44 AM

CZ

Warren was a classy guy; he was genuine and caring. He certainly had a following of the young people from the schools he served. Our entire family (especially our Special Needs daughter) have been friends with Warren for years. We even own/drive his red '55 Chevy. We're all so saddened to hear about his death. But are so impressed that his obituary contains the Gospel ("For by Grace are ye saved thru faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest any one should boast.") Till we meet again in Heaven....The Dennis Zwaga Family

Cheryl Zwaga - September 10, 2020 at 02:00 PM

LH

We were fortunate enough to get to know Warren when he was a custodian at Gilmore School. He was such a pleasant and interesting man. He always had time to talk to you and sincerely cared. He was a good person and left his mark in the world. Rest in peace dear friend.
Linda and Jerry Heitzinger

Linda and Jerry Heitzinger - September 12, 2020 at 11:44 AM

RD

Our dad, Joe Johnson Sr. worked at Mohr-Jones Sheet Metal Co. with Warren. Long before our dad retired we all knew Warren's name because our dad thought so highly of him. Shortly after he retired, our dad had a stroke. Over the following years even though our dad was friends with everybody, only one person from the entire shop came to visit him--Warren Bertelsen. No one was ever more welcome in our house than Warren B.

As the years have passed we would hear many comments about Warren in his school years--everybody thought he was the best. We already knew that. May God bless you through Eternity Warren as well as your family. Rita (Johnson) Doonan and Joe Johnson, Jr.

Rita Doonan - September 26, 2020 at 10:47 PM