

Bernard "Bernie" Nelsen

July 15, 1934 - May 19, 2018

The gathering of family and friends celebrating the life of Bernard "Bernie" Nelsen of Wadena, will be held on Tuesday, June 12 with an open house 4:00-8:00 and a circle of sharing and song at 7:00PM, at the Johnson-Schuller Chapel in Wadena. Bernie passed away unexpectedly at the age of 83, on Saturday, May 19, 2018 at his home in Wadena, MN.

Bernard Carl Nelsen was born to Carl Andrew and Evelyn Mary (Bowyer) on July 15, 1934, in Cedar Lake, IA, and grew up in Omaha, NE.

Bernie graduated from Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire with a BS degree in secondary education, majoring in history with a minor in psychology/sociology. He did post graduate work at Winona State University and received his MA degree in educational psychology at the University of Minnesota.

Bernard was united in marriage with Patricia "Patty" Jean Korn on February 1, 1958 in Eau Claire, WI. Over the years he worked as a teacher and counselor at Gale-Ettrick High School in Galesville, WI (1958-1961), Hinckley High School, Hinckley, MN (1962-64), and Wadena-Deer Creek High School, Wadena, MN (1964-1993). Bernie also served as a facilitator at numerous PIP Fests for Partners In Prevention.

In his retirement Bernie loved spending time with his family. He enjoyed fishing for salmon at Lake Michigan, halibut in Alaska, walleye at Lake Mille Lacs and fly-in fishing in Canada. He looked forward to deer hunting with family and friends and pheasant hunting with his beloved springer spaniels, Dot and Dove. He liked gardening, crossword puzzles and breakfast with friends at the Boondocks Cafe. Bernie was an avid Twins fan. He cherished singing with the Staples Area Men's Chorus, highlighted by performances in England and Carnegie Hall in New York City. Bernie also served on the Five Wings Art Council.

Preceding Bernard in death were his parents Carl and Evelyn; and his sister Karen Jo Nelsen.

He will forever be missed by his wife Patricia of Wadena; sons and daughters , Michael of Minneapolis, Amy (John) Rasmussen of Sauk Rapids, Sheila (Sarah) Nelsen-Amado of Minneapolis, Stephen (Karen Kohler) Nelsen of Hutchinson, and Wayne Nelsen of Minneapolis; grandchildren Abigail, Jennifer and Jaclyn Rasmussen; Karlee, Tristin and Andrew Nelsen, and Zochi Nelsen-Amado; sisters Mary Ellen (Phil) McClendon of Florida, Judy (Ron) Herrick of Minnesota, Kay (David) Jenness of Washington and Betty Nelsen of California.

At Bernie's request his remains were donated to the University of Minnesota Medical School for research.

The family suggests memorials be sent to The American Cancer Society, the University of Minnesota Medical School, and the Staples Area Men's Chorus.

Previous Events

Gathering of Family & Friends

JUN 12. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel
205 4th Street Southwest
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3632

Time Of Remembrance

JUN 12. 7:00 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel
205 4th Street Southwest
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3632

Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Bernard "Bernie" Nelsen*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - June 05, 2018 at 05:55 PM



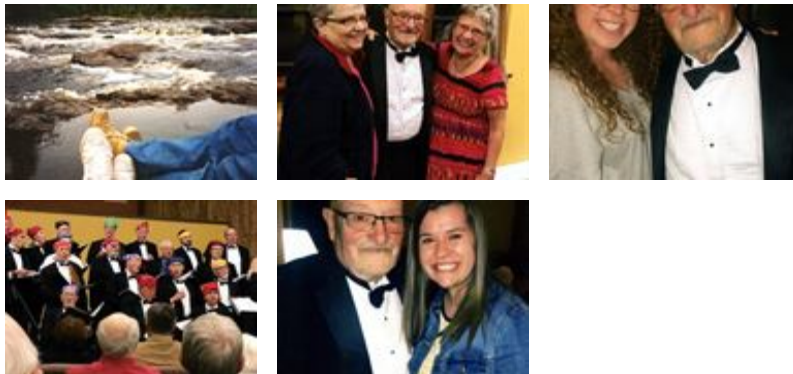
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Arleen A. Paulson - June 08, 2018 at 02:29 PM



“ *47 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - June 05, 2018 at 04:42 PM

SB

“ Sharon Boline lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Bernie" Nelsen



sharon Boline - June 04, 2018 at 09:14 AM



“ Rocky Reese lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Bernie" Nelsen



Rocky Reese - May 29, 2018 at 05:55 PM

BT

“ What a positive, light hearted man! He will be missed.



Beth Topp - May 29, 2018 at 10:35 AM

CH

“ RIP Bernie.



Christie (Crabb) Hennagir - May 27, 2018 at 08:01 PM

DH

“ *Mike and Family,*

Very sad news about the passing of Bernie. He was a terrific teacher/counselor.

He will be missed indeed.

Godspeed in your healing.

David Hunnicutt

David Hunnicutt - May 26, 2018 at 11:48 AM

DM

“ *A memory from Dixie Klatt McMullan (Patty Nelsen's sister)*
I was only ten years old when my sister Patty met Bernie at the WEAU-TV station in our home town of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. They both had jobs there while they were students at Wisconsin State University. Bernie's fraternity had an initiation ceremony that required each new member to grow a beard, mustache, or sideburns. Bernie decided to grow sideburns. I thought he looked like Elvis -- the King of Rock n Roll.

Dixie K Klatt McMullan - May 25, 2018 at 05:17 PM

JJ

“ *Justin Jetenberg lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Bernie" Nelsen*



Justin Jetenberg - May 25, 2018 at 02:34 PM

DS

“ *Dave Schumacher lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Bernie" Nelsen*



Dave Schumacher - May 24, 2018 at 09:38 PM

JL

“ *Jackie Lehmkuhl lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Bernie" Nelsen*



Jackie Lehmkuhl - May 24, 2018 at 05:38 PM

VW

“ *Virginia(Kern) Wiederich lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Bernie" Nelsen*



Virginia(Kern) Wiederich - May 23, 2018 at 12:03 PM

VW

Many years ago-- 51 to be exact -- I worked for Bernie as his secretary on the part-time training program. He was a great guy to work for-- always treated me very well. My condolences to the family for their loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Virginia(Kern) Wiederich - May 23, 2018 at 12:06 PM

JR

“ *Bernie made our trip to Carnegie Hall even more special by being with us and telling us all that he would hold this New York City trip near and dear as one of the best things that he had ever been a part of. I think he may have thanked me, and others, at least a dozen times. He was without a doubt one of the very strongest advocates we have ever had in the Staples Area Men's Chorus and we will miss him greatly but will always have great memories of our time with him!* ”



Jerry Reck - May 23, 2018 at 06:52 AM

TA

“ *Tammie lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Bernie" Nelsen* ”



Tammie - May 22, 2018 at 10:31 PM

KL

“ *Kelly Lorentz lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Bernie" Nelsen* ”



Kelly Lorentz - May 22, 2018 at 03:58 PM

MO

“ Mike Ortmann lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Bernie" Nelsen



Mike Ortmann - May 22, 2018 at 11:41 AM

CS

“ Collette Stevens lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Bernie" Nelsen



Collette Stevens - May 22, 2018 at 08:33 AM

MF

“ Marie Carlson Fraune lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Bernie" Nelsen



Marie Carlson Fraune - May 22, 2018 at 08:15 AM

DK

“ Dan Kern lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Bernie" Nelsen



Dan Kern - May 22, 2018 at 04:56 AM

DO

“ *Doug And Joan Ostlund lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Bernie" Nelsen*



Doug and Joan Ostlund - May 21, 2018 at 07:19 PM

SS

“ *I met Bernie when my wife and I were seated at his table for the 2012 Madrigal dinner in Staples Motley High School gym. He invited me to join Staples Area Men's Chorus. He said with a last name of Sing it was meant to be. That was the start of a great but too short friendship. I will miss him greatly. Steven C. Sing.*

Steven Sing - May 21, 2018 at 02:43 PM