



DR. BERNIE KRENZKE D.C.

June 21, 1955 - May 11, 2019

Dr. Bernie Krenzke, D.C. (June 21, 1955-May 11, 2019)

What a character! Bernie will fondly be remembered for his chiropractic skills, his passion for farming, his hunting escapades, being a kid magnet, ALWAYS running late, his bear hugs, his trademark laugh, and his tender soul.

Bernie grew up on the Krenzke farm in Pfeffer Valley of rural La Crescent, the fifth child of seven for Ed and Florine. He attended St Pete's in Hokah, and La Crescent High School where he loved wrestling, football, and girls. He graduated in 1973, and told the story many times: yes, it was him who lit the firecracker on stage during graduation. He played softball for many local leagues. He continued wrestling for Winona State University before transferring to Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa, and fulfilled one of his life dreams by becoming a terrific chiropractor at his practice of 38 years, Caledonia Chiropractic Center, helping many people over his lifetime (although it was his secretary Anna Marie McCormick who really ran his practice). He joked that being a chiropractor was a great part time job that supported his farming habit. He wanted to make sure to express his appreciation and thank his wonderful friends and family who helped him farm when it was becoming difficult for him to do so. He was passionate about hunting and fishing, and took many hunting trips for elk, deer, pheasant, bear, and lately, prairie dogs.

Bernie didn't get older—he just got “Bernier”.

Bernie was welcomed in heaven by his parents Ed and Florine and his sister Eileen (Steve Wiste). He is survived by his daughters Rachel and Nicole, his estranged wife Cheryl, siblings Dr. Jim Krenzke (Jean Carlson); his adopted brother Denny Langen; Mary Grosskopf (John); his new sister Lori Wiste (Steve); Tim Krenzke (Debbie); Steve Krenzke (Paula); and Diane Sillman (Therese Wagner). This was in reverse order because Bernie never followed a straight line. He earned the “Favorite Uncle” award from nieces and nephews Jeff and Jamie; Chase, Caitlin, Haley and Christopher; Sophia, Kelsey, and Cole; Sophie, Sam and Megan; Andrew, Anthony, Nathan and Brandon; Genna, Philip, John, and Kate; Jenn and Josh; and all of their young families. He has many Godchildren and tons of cousins on the Petke and Schneider sides, and has more friends than one could ever hope for. He is further survived by his blue tractor, and his dogs Lucy and Susie the Slut.

A huge thank you to the wonderful staff at Mayo Health. You made him feel like a king at the end of his life.

Bernie specifically requested no church services or visitation; instead he wanted a big “Why We Love Bernie Party”, which will be held at the The Four Seasons Community Center in Caledonia, MN, on Saturday, May 18th, from 1-5 PM. When asked what he wanted his family and friends to know, he answered “I love them.” We know, Bernie-- it was always so evident. Always. We love you, too. Forever.

Tribute Wall

RR

“ *Many good memories with Bernie over the years! Especially in wrestling and softball....so sorry for your loss! Bob LaRue*

Robert La Rue - May 18, 2019 at 02:21 PM

ND

“ *Yes, that was Bernie who set off that firecracker in the back of the stage at the graduation ceremonies of the Class of '73. I was seated a few chairs away from him with the rest of us guys who were seated together at the back of the stage(big mistake) as various shenanigans ensued. We were all family in that class and Bernie was a cherished friend to us all. I was fortunate to become friends with him and his family for a couple of years after high school and many years later when I would see Bernie at my nieces and nephews weddings we would have long conversations and many laughs and great memories. Bernie was a friend for life with so many people and it was all totally genuine. The laugh, the love, the helpfulness, the loyalty, all of it, that was genuine Bernie all of his life. It made life so much more positive for so many people.*

On behalf of myself and my family as well as the Class of '73, I offer my sincere condolences to Bernie's loving family.

Nick Dietmaier

Nick Dietmaier - May 18, 2019 at 01:12 AM

BB

My husband, Doug Bigelow, was on the wrestling team with Bernie - wonderful memories!

My heart is sad for your sadness during this time

Becky Bigelow - May 21, 2019 at 09:48 AM

SM

*Love you Bernie, Thanks for all the great memories at Palmer (you, Jim and Denny made it fun!). Thanks for all the laughs and good times!!
Scott Mason F.C.
(fellow coyote)*

Scott Mason - June 23, 2025 at 04:28 PM

MP

“ *Sympathy to the family. I knew Bernie as I went on a few hunting trips in Colorado with him and Kevin Haas years ago. He was interesting to talk to and we always had a good time.*

Mike Peterson - May 16, 2019 at 01:48 PM

JS

“ *Our condolences to Bernie's family. He was a great guy and a wonderful chiropractor. He left us too soon and will be missed. May he rest in peace...*

Janel Sloan - May 16, 2019 at 10:38 AM

 Abby
Bulman

“ *There was no one quite like Bernie and the way he dictated his own life. Even though he was constantly late, he was one you could always count on if you needed a helping hand. I owe so much to him in my physical road to recovery. I remember as a child going to his farm, and then years later my child seeing his bear heads and buffalo heads on his office walls. He was definitely one of a kind, and will be greatly missed.*

-Abby Bulman and family

Abby Bulman - May 15, 2019 at 09:34 PM

RT

“ I am honored to say that Bernie was my chiropractor and more importantly my very close friend for 35 years. We both evolved from a pair of single guys in our twenties looking into the future to sharing our life's journeys, personal issues and challenges, how to deal with and fight those challenges, looking back at our glory days, days yet to come, life in general and even death. Generally discussed over a beer (or two). We knew this day was coming but it still hurts none-the-less. I pray that your daughters will realize how special you are and how many people you touched in your life. I am sorry that I was not able to return your last phone call to me before you were physically unable to take more calls. I cherish our last afternoon together in the hospital (Sparta) but regret not having that last phone call. I am a better man for knowing you, especially by seeing how you dealt with the last three years...always upbeat and never bitter...always pushing yourself to treat one more patient...always wanting a little more time...one more calf crop...getting the most out of the time you had left. I miss you but you will always be on my mind and in my heart. Rick Tolzmann

Rick Tolzmann - May 13, 2019 at 12:15 PM

SG

“ Steve, Paula, Tim and family: Although Bernie was a year younger than me, I remember him fondly as one of the nicest, cutest "lower classmen" at La Crescent High School. I too remember that beautiful smile and laugh. There comes a time when the spirit is still willing, but the body just can't hang on. My heart aches for all of you--RIP Bernie--
"The time we have is never enough, the love we have is never ending. The ones we say goodbye to are never, ever forgotten. They live in our heart forever".
Sue Gordon-Class of '72

Sue Gordon - May 13, 2019 at 08:38 AM

CT

Bernie was the BEST! Mike's best friend, our best man at our wedding, best chiropractor, best laugh, and on and on! We are looking forward to celebrating his life and seeing family members that we haven't seen for so many years! We love you Bernie! Mike and Connie Tschumper

Connie Tschumper - May 13, 2019 at 06:35 PM

CO

“ *Plenty of hilarious memories! I always will remember him for his Amazing Bale Trailer! He'd deliver a few corn stock bales to our farm every year for us. He always tried to offer us free appointments. We took The offer once. Even though I only had to get my back & neck cracked 2 times it always felt good.*

Cooper Sylling

Cooper - May 12, 2019 at 07:53 PM

SL

“ *We remember the day we found Bernie laying on our crushed rock valley road almost dead from tipping a motorcycleEd & Florine were apple picking so GMA Gen said get him to the hospital . Bernie & me in the back seat giving him CPR (could we find a cop on the way as were speeding NO) . They worked on him in our car for ages before moving him in to the hospital . The Lord didn't take him then because He knew Bernie had things to do & he did them well . Now you can play pranks in heaven & get the rest you deser*

Sandra Langen - May 12, 2019 at 05:31 PM


Megan
Tanner

I don't recall ever hearing this story before! Thanks for sharing!

Megan Tanner - May 15, 2019 at 08:59 PM

 Lizel Sillman

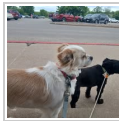
“ Our sincere condolences with the family. Josh always speaks of uncle Bernie and I know he would have loved the boys. I wish I got the chance to meet him as he sounds like he was an awesome guy. He is definitely the favorite uncle the way Josh speaks of him. We wish we could be there to celebrate his life with you all. May God comfort you all during this time of sorrow.
Love
Josh and Lizel

Lizel Sillman - May 12, 2019 at 05:02 PM

DH

“ My condolences to your family. Bernie was my chiro in Caledonia for years. I always enjoyed him. I know he was loved by many. May he rest in peace.

Dera Hanson - May 12, 2019 at 04:52 PM



Bernie was a great guy , who worked from the heart. Rest Easy .

Tony Becker - May 12, 2019 at 09:07 PM

CL

Love you Cousin Bernie! Remembering lots of laughs and fun at the farm with the Krenzke Family! Goodbye, until we meet again.

Cousin Joni (Schneider) Lynch - May 13, 2019 at 06:06 PM

KE

*Oh Boy!! Being a bartender in Hokah for almost 20 years, I can remember "several" stories about Bernie! The many trips into town for a cold one after he, Jim, and Denny Langen had been coon hunting always turned into a fun night. AND I might add...a lot of BS!! Rest in peace and comfort now my friend...Eileen will be there to meet you!
Love from Kate and the Elton boys*

Kate Elton - May 18, 2019 at 11:43 AM