



William R. "Billy" Bernert

April 12, 1963 - July 5, 2020

William R. Bernert "Billy", age 57, of Wilmington, DE, formerly of Blackwood, NJ, beloved husband of Catherine (Ciccarelli) Kennedy Bernert, passed away peacefully at his home with his wife by his side, on Sunday, July 5, 2020. He was a true warrior fighting Acute Myeloid Leukemia until the end.

Bill is survived by his wife, Catherine; and his three stepchildren: Brianna (Kennedy) and husband, Cody Muse, Robert Kennedy Jr, and Gabrielle Kennedy; mother, Rita Macey Bernert; sister, Jennifer (Bernert) and husband, Harry Hartman and nieces, Pauline and Rita; sister, Rita Bernert and niece, Abby Gloekler . He was preceded in death by his father, William H. Bernert.

Bill graduated from Bishop Eustace Highschool in Pennsauken Township, NJ, class of 1981 and Embrey-Riddle Aeronautical College in Daytona, FL, class of 1987. Bill was a successful businessman, who owned Northeast Parking Systems with business partner, Renato Demo. His love for NASCAR and all Philadelphia teams, especially the Eagles, was what he enjoyed watching on Sunday afternoons. Gardening was always his favorite pastime, as he did his best to have the lawn looking like Longwood Gardens.

The family would like to graciously thank St. Francis Healthcare System of Delaware and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital of Philadelphia (specifically the departments of Medical Oncology) for their expertise and

continuous care during Bill's three-year fight with Leukemia. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Francis (701 N. Clayton St, Wilmington, DE 19805) or TJUH Department of Medical Oncology (834 Chestnut St, The Ben Franklin Building, Suite 320, Philadelphia, PA 19107) are preferred.

A Memorial Service will be announced at a later date pending pandemic restrictions. To send an online condolence, visit www.stranofeeley.com

Cemetery Details

Private

Tribute Wall

JM

“ *BillyB. Apparently I am the only one who always called you that. I suppose it came about from grand mom’s long ago neighbor, Mr. Rue, who gave all the kids nicknames. When you were born, I was young too ... just in 8th grade and living in Audubon. Your parents moved a lot, so often you would all lives with us temporarily. Being the youngest of 5 siblings, you felt like a baby brother to me. Through the years we both had our challenges, but you were always easy to be around, and always reminded me that you loved me. As we grew older, that became more significant. ... I am happy you found and married the woman of your dreams. And that you and Cathy moved into your dream house and you started hosting family get togethers. We were counting on you to safekeepings some of our parents treasured moments and traditions. Life has a way to surprise us all. Your time here ended out of order. But you left your mark while you were here, and we will cherish those memories. Many of them were funny, BillyB. So we’ll smile and laugh when we reminisce, and hope you hear us from the heavens. Love, Aunt Jane*

Jane Macey - August 12, 2020 at 01:43 PM

“ REMEMBERING BILLY BERNERT -- 1963 - 2020

I first met Billy when he was about eight or nine, while visiting his grandparents' shore rental with his Aunt Joan....well, I met his left side, as he stood behind his mother, peeking out at me -- and for the first year or so, never saw much more of him, nor did he say more than a few words except a 'please' and 'thank you' when appropriate. The shyness disappeared, and we became forever friends.

I watched him grow into a handsome young man [well, there was that 'Afro' hairdo period] -- who was kind, considerate, with a dry sense of humor. We exchanged 'war stories' of the single dating life -- especially his quest for 'Ms. Right' -- and after a series of 'Ms. Wrongs' found The One -- the true love of his life and soul mate, Cathy! He loved to entertain, like his Dad, and hosted some great get-togethers at both Glassboro and Wilmington....especially the last few Easter and Christmas holidays.

Our friendship ranged from a mutual love of jigsaw puzzles, baseball, and gardening to his teasing me about my cats....and my love for hats! He knew I was an amateur photographer, so he asked me for a photo of Center City. I was proud to respond with one taken from the Art Museum in the '70s, with no glass towers. ... adding a bonus.... a pre-9/11 photo of the World Trade Center... both of which he loved.

He was the first to know when I found my home in So. Jersey - he offered to power wash the deck that first summer --- in exchange for a meatloaf dinner [plus one to take home for later] and a lifetime of deviled eggs! When he decided to come out of his self-imposed retirement from playing the piano, my assignment was to find the sheet music to several of his favorite songs -- no easy task - they

were rock songs from the 70s and 80s, and not readily available at Sam Ash, believe me!!

We also shared a secret 'Bucket List' wish -- that surprised and delighted both of us -- so recently I told him that if I decided to celebrate my birthday with a bang one year -- I would drive a NASCAR racer wearing a T-shirt with his picture on it for both of us!!

I love him and miss him -- but if I listen carefully, I imagine I can hear the unmistakable sound of Harry Kalas announcing "He's Up Here.....!!!" as Billy joins his dad, his Uncle John and Uncle Paul to watch the Phillies Forever Stars play in the Out of The World Series!!!

'Aunt' Nathalie

Nathalie Wells - July 20, 2020 at 01:34 PM

AG

“ *I will always remember the memories we had together, especially the memories we made in North Carolina, and the things you taught me through my childhood. Each time I light a punk, play corn hole, and look at my stuffed animal Scooby I will think of you. I will miss you and will always love you. I promise that I will never forget about you. Rest In Peace Uncle Billy.*

Abigail Gloekler - July 12, 2020 at 12:46 PM

EC

“ *Cathy. Very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family*
Ernie Casper

Ernie Casper - July 10, 2020 at 09:01 AM

PC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Patty Cardis - July 09, 2020 at 06:49 PM

CA

“ May your light shine bright



catherine - July 09, 2020 at 03:05 PM

MC

“ We love and miss you Bill. May you look down on us and always see that your ornament picture will always be on our Christmas Tree. You're the only adult with our eleven grandchildren as a decoration. Every year you checked to see if you made it another year on the tree 💜
Mi Mamma and PAPA Ciccarelli



Maria G. Ciccarelli - July 08, 2020 at 09:12 PM

CA

Bill always admired the Picture ornaments of your grandchildren each year. When he finally made it on the tree with his own ornament, each year he looked to see if he was there too. I too will miss his coming to Christmas dinner with everyone, all the loud conversations, plenty of drinks and all the food he couldn't wait to eat. He finally realized you need to bring extra comfy clothes after eating all day .

Catherine - July 16, 2020 at 08:06 PM

HH

*“ Billy was a fighter from start of his life to his final days. If he had a belief in something or an opinion on something you never left him without knowing what he believed. Billy did everything the right way in life and had a real passion for living and was the best damn interior house painter I have ever seen. It is hard to believe he is gone and he will be missed by many. I have many great memories of Billy but the one that sticks out the most is him “forcing” me to drink Scotch with him as we toasted the firing of Andy Reid after the last Eagles game in 2012. If Bill has anything to do with it, he will be looking down next year and Reid may never win another game. Bill was a great man and a brother to me. God Bless You Bill. I hope you are having a drink with your father and uncle right now, Cheers.
Harry Hartman*

Harry Hartman - July 08, 2020 at 11:19 AM

NW

*“ Billy -- I am honored and grateful that I was able to spend time with you recently to remember and laugh about some of the great memories we shared. I am also honored to have watched you grow up, become a good, kind man, and proud to have you introduce me as your 'Aunt'. One could not have asked for a better 'Nephew' -- I miss you and will love you always,
Nathalie*

Nathalie Wells - July 08, 2020 at 12:15 AM

RB

“ You are the longest relationship I’ve ever had with a boy. 😊 49 years of being your sister. We started off great. I idolized you as a little girl. Sitting in your room listening to records. You introduced me to my first love....basketball. Will always remember your Stacey Augmon defense. I couldn’t get a shot off. I’ll never forget our awesome weekend in Alabama...college football and a NASCAR race in 48 hours. Life doesn’t get better than that. Then we had our share of bad years that’s for sure. I’m so glad we ended on three good years. The memories I’ve shared with you these last few years are second to none. I will never forget our day together last week as siblings creating a playlist of songs of you, me and Jennie growing up. I will listen to that for the rest of my life. I’m so happy you finally got everything you wanted. A beautiful wife...a wonderful home...a successful business and lifelong friendships. I just wish you could of had more years to enjoy your accomplishments. I’m so proud to be your sister. I’ll miss you for the rest of my life. ❤️ Rita



Rita Bernert - July 07, 2020 at 11:29 PM

SM

“ I had the pleasure to care for Bill for the last year of his life. I will never forget his ability to persevere through every new challenge he faced. It was truly an honor to know him and he will never be forgotten 💕
Sarah Munden
St. Francis Home Care

sarah munden - July 07, 2020 at 10:36 PM

CA

Sarah, Bill always loved you coming on your home visits. He knew you'd be the one person he could rely on as his patient advocate every week. If something wasn't right. You were the go to, besides me, and as his wife, I'm grateful you came into our lives.

catherine - July 08, 2020 at 04:46 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of William R. "Billy" Bernert.*



July 07, 2020 at 10:33 PM

JH

“ *I love you Uncle Billy. You were the best uncle anyone could have ever asked for. You always made me laugh and smile. I remember doing so many puzzles with you and you trying to help me with my math homework. You will always be in my heart and will miss you every day. Love, Rita Gianna*



Jennifer Hartman - July 07, 2020 at 10:23 PM

JH

“ Through all our years I looked up to my big brother Billy, through good times and bad, with many laughs, tears and many roads traveled. I miss you so much already but know you were ready and I will cherish always the times we had together and our shared experiences in the last 50 years of our lives together. Rest in peace my brother....we shall be together some day. Thank you for your love and devotion to my girls and for giving them a strong roll model to look up too. Love, Jennie



Jennifer Hartman - July 07, 2020 at 09:41 PM



Jen, you have my sincere condolences on the passing of your brother Bill. May he Rest In Peace. God bless you all.

Michael Graci - August 15, 2020 at 11:23 PM

CA

“ My husband was truly my best friend. Together we accomplished many goals in our 8 years together. We always felt we had many years ahead of us to create more memories. However, God decided it was time to say so long for now. In my heart , I'll cherish my time with Bill . Thanks to my dearest friend Jenny P and his sister Jennie, our lives were destined to connect. He was my one and only blind date. Who says dreams don't come true?? All you have to do is “ Believe”



catherine - July 07, 2020 at 09:20 PM

CA

“ My husband, Bill was and will always be my best friend. Together we accomplished so much in a short time together but felt like a lifetime. Meeting him on my one and only blind date at the Big Fish Grill at the Riverfront was destiny. Thanks to my dearest friend Jenny P and his sister Jennie , dreams do come true. All you have to do is believe.. ♡



catherine - July 07, 2020 at 08:47 PM

JM

My nephew “BillyB” ... We spoke twice during his last days. Cherished conversations. He moved into our Audubon house when I was a young teen, temporarily, with his dad and my sister. I’m the youngest of my siblings, so he was like a baby brother to me. He moved in again, when a toddler. He loved the big bus tires of the Audubon Bon Bons Drum & Bugle corps. Later, as a young teenager, he loved the Bon Bon Girls. He longed for marriage with the right woman, and he finally found her just before turning 50. He cared about people and things more deeply than most of us. And he cherished his past ...people, places, and things. He played puzzles with my mom for hours. He took his aunts to lunch often... one at a time. He loved Thanksgiving dinner at his grand mom’s house in Audubon... my house now. He said it was his favorite meal of the year...and he thanked me for sending him home with enough leftovers to enjoy for several days. His place at the table was clearly marked with not a dinner plate, but the big old 1940s “turkey” plate. He filled his platter carefully. He savored each bite. And he always was the last one to finish the meal. Rest easy now BillyB. You have loved ones here and up there. You’ve left us too soon. Love, Aunt Jane

Jane Macey - July 11, 2020 at 12:34 PM

CA

He truly looked forward to Thanksgiving Dinner every year. He always spoke lovingly of the house he called "second home" where his grandparents lived in Audubon, N.J. If he had to choose a place he longed for, your house was it. So many cherished childhood memories and so blessed you opened your home to everyone at Thanksgiving. His favorite holiday.

Catherine - July 16, 2020 at 08:39 PM

PH

“*My Uncle Billy has always been there for me, especially in my early childhood. From taking me to Phillies games to parading my stuffed animals around the living room and many other amazing memories, he always brought such joy to my life. As my Godfather and Confirmation Sponsor, Uncle Billy inspired me and will continue to inspire me to strengthen my faith. Even when he was sick, Uncle Billy was still one of my biggest supporter. He came to my eighth grade graduation and my show in which I was the lead. His support and love for me was unbelievable. I loved my Uncle Billy so much and will always remember and love him. Love, His Goddaughter and niece, Pauline Rose Hartman*



Pauline Hartman - July 07, 2020 at 11:48 AM

CA

Pauline, your uncle was always so proud of your accomplishments! He was determined to see you 8th grade play as the lead. Continue to do your best in all you do. He will be looking down and know that he's with you in spirit.

catherine - July 07, 2020 at 08:41 PM

LP

“ *Bill, you will be missed and your tenacity through all your struggles stays with me. You continued to engage with life even when your body betrayed you, showing all of us that life is worth fighting for. If anyone ever earned the right to rest in peace, it is you my friend. My craziest memory will be taking you down Monkey Hill to the Brandywine Zoo, what a hilarious great adventure that was ! Without your cell phone I don't think Cathy would have believed it. We will meet again some day Bill, and maybe there will be a beautiful garden to walk the dogs. Lynn Porro*

Lynn Porro - July 06, 2020 at 06:37 PM

LP

“ *Lynn Porro lit a candle in memory of William R. "Billy" Bernert*



Lynn Porro - July 06, 2020 at 06:10 PM

CA

Lynn, you always made Bill push to get out and walk with you during his time with treatments after a relapse. Monkey Hill was a true adventure for him! He strives to keep a fast walk pace with you. So blessed to have you and Mike as neighbors 💜

catherine - July 07, 2020 at 08:39 PM