



Benjamin Carl Milbrath

January 6, 1956 - December 11, 2024

Benjamin Carl Milbrath II (1/6/56 - 12/11/24)

On January 6, 1956, Benjamin P. Milbrath (1927-1983) and Mary L. Milbrath Kocher (1929-2022) celebrated the birth of Benjamin Carl Milbrath II. He was named for his grandfather, Benjamin Carl Milbrath I (1885-1976), and many knew this sweet baby as “Buzz.” (With so many “Bens” in the family, adding another made communication confusing!) Buzz eventually had to relinquish his top billing to other siblings, beginning with Peter (Mary), Anne Milbrath Ingebretsen (Kirk), Trina Milbrath Gillies (Chris), and Kathleen Milbrath Neelon (Chris).

When Ben married his wife, Sherry Hartrunft, he gained new family members: Sherry’s parents, George and Judy Hartrunft; her grandmother, Erna Linxwiler (1921-2011); and Sherry’s brother, Bruce Hartrunft. Ben and Sherry were then blessed with three treasures—daughters: Katherine (Kate), Kristen, and Melanie. Ben’s eyes always smiled whenever he spent time with or described outings and adventures with his family. Unequivocally, Sherry, Kate, Kristen and Melanie were Ben’s oxygen!

Ben was an outstanding student and athlete. He was a two-time high school Northwest Conference Wrestling Champion and a member of Andean High School’s Athletic Hall of Fame for tennis. He was a four-year varsity tennis

letterman at Wabash College, where he graduated with honors in 1978. Following graduation, Ben earned his CPA certification, which propelled him through a successful business career from which he retired in 2023.

Ben found classical music soothing, but having come of age in the 1970s, classic rock made him nostalgic and was part of his fabric. Whether it was The Doobies, Eagles or Foreigner, the soundtrack of Ben's life was always playing.

Ben was also devoted to the Chicago Bears and the Cubs, as reflected by his unwavering loyalty—whether through heartbreaking losses or historic wins, his belief in his teams never faltered. In fact, Ben and “the girls” were chasing a goal of seeing at least one game at every Major League Baseball park in the US, and they had already conquered 11!

For those who knew him, whether he was Ben, Buzz, Dad or Sir, Ben was not simply made in God's image but was steeped in authenticity and integrity—cornerstones of his character. Ben had a gentle, quiet kindness. He was steady, humble, slow to speak and quick to listen, wise and with a strong trust in God's will.

Don't grieve Ben's death. Instead, be grateful he stopped by and you were his friend. Hug your loved ones and emulate Ben's goodness whenever you hear a 70s classic rock tune that makes you yearn for yesterday, thankful for today, and makes you dream until your dreams come true!

Please join us in celebrating Ben during his memorial services on January 6, 2025 at St. Maria Goretti Church (500 Northgate Drive, Dyer, IN 46311) at 11am. Burns Funeral Home and Crematory entrusted with arrangements.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

JAN 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Maria Goretti Church
500 Northgate Dr.
Dyer, IN 46311

Tribute Wall

EA

“ Elizabeth A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benjamin Carl Milbrath.

Elizabeth A. - January 06, 2025 at 08:02 AM

SF

“ Serna. Martin & Smith families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benjamin Carl Milbrath.

Serna. Martin & Smith families - January 03, 2025 at 01:14 PM

SF

“ Serna. Martin & Smith families purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Benjamin Carl Milbrath.



Serna. Martin & Smith families - January 03, 2025 at 01:14 PM

AM

“ Ann and Steve Moore planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benjamin Carl Milbrath.

Ann and Steve Moore - January 02, 2025 at 01:28 PM

TP

“ Sherri and Family ... There are just not enough words to express the sorrow that losing Ben so suddenly has brought to your lives. Steve enjoyed working with Ben at Thatcher and appreciated Ben's dedication and help over the years. Sending you our love and prayers. Steve & Tammy Parkison

Tamara Parkison - January 02, 2025 at 10:54 AM

TP

“ Tamara P. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benjamin Carl Milbrath.

Tamara P. - January 02, 2025 at 10:43 AM

IV

“ In sympathy, Allison Vidimos purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Benjamin Carl Milbrath.



In sympathy, Allison Vidimos - December 31, 2024 at 01:35 PM

BM

“ Aunt Sherry, Kate, Kristen, and Melanie,
We are so incredibly sorry for your loss. Uncle Buzz will be missed,
and we will always think back fondly on his memory. I was telling my
dad and brother that it will be impossible for me to look at a bottle of
Heineken without thinking about him, as I know that was always his
preferred beverage whenever we had a family get together.
The Texas Milbraths are thinking and praying for you all.

Love,
Benjamin Peter Milbrath II
Stephanie Milbrath
Benjamin Peter Milbrath III

Ben Milbrath - December 31, 2024 at 11:51 AM

TL

“ The Adams Girls - Karen, Lori & Lisa purchased
the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Benjamin
Carl Milbrath.



The Adams Girls - Karen, Lori & Lisa - December 29, 2024 at
04:01 PM



“ A [Memorial
Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Benjamin Carl Milbrath.

December 29, 2024 at 01:34 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Benjamin Carl Milbrath.



December 29, 2024 at 01:34 PM



“ Dear Sherry, Kate, Kristen, and Melanie,
There are no words to explain how I feel about Ben's passing. Suffice it to say that Ben and I came into this world virtually together. He was born January 6th, 1956 and I on January 8th, 1956, both of us at Mercy Hospital in Gary. Our mothers were hospital roommates at Mercy Hospital. Friendships don't get any older than that. In essence, we were like twin sons of different mothers. I miss Ben. I will miss our regular lunches with Ben, Rich Rykovich, and myself. May Ben rest in peace. May his memory be eternal. I know that it will be for me.
Much love,
Lou Zeheralis

Louis Zeheralis - December 29, 2024 at 11:19 AM



“ The Scully Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Benjamin Carl Milbrath.



The Scully Family - December 28, 2024 at 02:40 PM

TF

“ *The Scully Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benjamin Carl Milbrath.*

The Scully Family - December 28, 2024 at 02:40 PM