



Bernard F. Beckham

February 3, 1929 - March 29, 2024

Bernard F. Beckham, age 95, of Valparaiso, IN, passed away on March 29, 2024. Bernard was born in Gary, IN, on February 3, 1929, to Patrick Beckham and Clara Keilman Beckham. He married Elizabeth Pishkur on December 30, 1950. They enjoyed 73 years of marriage. Bernard worked as a bartender at Jackson's Restaurant, Gary Hotel, and Golden Coin between the early 50s – late 60s. He worked concurrent construction jobs. During the late 60s, he started a career as a steelworker. He retired from Bethlehem Steel after 26 years. Bernard was a member of the Friendly Sons of Erin and the Knights of Columbus. He delighted in attending sports events, rallying for Andean baseball, Notre Dame football, and the Chicago White Sox.

Bernie will be remembered in many ways. The carousel of recycled jokes he imparted across generations. Stories of plucking turkeys for a quarter a piece during the Great Depression. His favorite songs that twinkle and dance, sweeping jazz melodies. He would walk to the edge of infinity and back for his family. We'll remember him with every smile line and grey hair he gifted us. Thank you for being ours, "Dr. English."

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth (nee Pishkur) Beckham; sons: Michael (Nancy) Beckham, Kevin (Jami) Beckham, Brian (DeeDee) Beckham; daughter, Kathleen (Greg) Koenig; grandchildren: Katie, Michael, Alyson, Grace, Kelle, Kacie, Patrick and Molly Beckham, Cameron and Caroline

Koenig; great-grandsons: Wyatt, Sebastian, Dominic, Joel, Drew, and Dax; sister-in-law, Mary Geras; many nieces and nephews. Bernard was preceded in death by his parents and his son, Stephen (Lydia Alvarez Beckham) Traicoff.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or any charity of your choice. A visitation will be held on Sunday, April 7, 2024, from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home & Crematory, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN. Knights of Columbus prayer service will take place at 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2024. Visitation will be held on Monday, April 8, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. until the time of Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. directly at St. Paul Catholic Church, 1855 W. Harrison Blvd., Valparaiso, IN. Rev. Roque Meraz officiating. www.burnsfuneral.com

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (cst)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Knights of Columbus Prayer Service

APR 7. 6:00 PM (cst)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
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<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Visitation

APR 8. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (cst)

St. Paul Catholic Church
1855 W.Harrison Blvd.
Valparaiso, IN 46385

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 8. 10:00 AM (cst)

St. Paul Catholic Church
1855 W.Harrison Blvd.
Valparaiso, IN 46385

Tribute Wall

LJ

“ My favorite Uncle...I am deeply saddened to hear this tragic news. Now, all 5 of the brothers and sisters have left us and gone to Heaven. My deepest sympathy to my Aunt Liz, cousins Mike, Kevin, Brian and Kathy. I received a call this morning (Monday) and was told about my Uncle Bernie's death. Please accept my deepest sympathy, all of you are always on my mind. I'm so sorry, prayers for each of you. Love, Lisa 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

Lisa - April 09, 2024 at 12:59 AM

LJ

“ Love Patty,Kathy and Mary Anne Johnston purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Bernard F. Beckham.



Love Patty,Kathy and Mary Anne Johnston - April 05, 2024 at 11:07 PM

RO

“ Enjoyed my visits to my cousin Bernie and his brothers and sisters at his parents house often with my father, Malachy Beckham, his paternal uncle.Bernie was handsome and had a wonderful sense of humor. His mother Clara Keilman Beckham was an Earth Angel. Am 84 today but was pre teen with visits with my father. Dear Bernie May you rest in peace. Rosemary Patricia “Becky” Beckham Ofsaiof, Northbrook IL Crestwood Place Senior Housing

Rosemary Beckham Ofsaiof - April 04, 2024 at 10:54 PM

LI

I lost track of you years ago, how can I get in touch with you? I will reach out to the Crestwood Place Senior Housing. Lisa (Jerry's daughter).

Lisa - April 09, 2024 at 01:03 AM

TN

“ *Bernie was like my second father to me. He was one of the funniest men I've ever known. Always smiling every time I had the opportunity to see him which unfortunately wasn't that often due to my location. He will be missed by many. My condolences to his family and especially to my good friend Kevin. RIP Bernie. Tom N*

Tom Novotny - April 04, 2024 at 07:03 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bernard F. Beckham.*



April 03, 2024 at 04:48 PM

BG

“ *Bev & Brian Greubel purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bernard F. Beckham.*



Bev & Brian Greubel - April 02, 2024 at 08:45 PM

BG

“ Bev & Brian Greubel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard F. Beckham.

Bev & Brian Greubel - April 02, 2024 at 08:45 PM

KF

“ Koenig Families purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Bernard F. Beckham.



Koenig Families - April 02, 2024 at 07:58 PM

MI

“ My prayers are with your whole family Kathleen. 🙏✝️



Mimi - April 02, 2024 at 06:08 PM