



Bruce George Pillar

March 26, 1953 - April 18, 2021

Bruce George Pillar of Valparaiso, age 68, passed away peacefully at home on April 18, 2021 after spending his whole life having fun.

Bruce loved Beefeaters, his wife, his grandchildren, his daughters and the Elks, in that order. He was great at hosting parties, making dinners, and his (mostly embellished) story telling will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him. Bruce discharged himself from the ICU on March 26, 2021, so that he could throw himself a birthday party. His life and his legacy are the epitome of “have fun or die trying.”

Bruce graduated Crown Point High School in 1972 (already rocking a combover), and, after a short stint with the Ironworkers, spent his career selling and marketing floor covering, which also involved bossing other people around. When he retired, he became a bus driver for Crown Point Community School Corporation, and, later, Valparaiso Community Schools, where he was called “Bahama Bruce” (although we think that was a self-inflicted nickname) and he was known for his loud, obnoxious, Hawaiian shirts and his backpack full of Jolly Ranchers.

Bruce was active in the Hobart Elks Lodge 1152, and, later, the Valpo Elks Lodge 500, serving as Exalted Ruler of both Lodges. When Bruce was around, the bar was always open, there was always twice as much food as necessary, and he always had the last word.

Bruce touched more lives than can fit in this obituary, but in true Bruce fashion, we won't be succinct. His wife of sixteen years, Kathie; his daughters

Jacquelyn (AJ), Jesica (Dave), and Jenifer (Chris); and his stepchildren Athena (Bob), Alex (Charity), Donny and Craig (Lynette). He really shined at being a Grumpa to Grace, Everly, Addison, Noah, Luka, Ivan, Hannah, Asher, Olive, Jane, Noah, Nathan, Charlie and Bobby. His brothers Brian (Kathy) and Mark (Linda), as well as his in laws, Patti and Merv, have too many stories about him (and will probably be long winded at his memorial service). He also had countless nieces, nephews, in laws, and friends that loved and cherished him, but are too numerous to name (but you know who you are).

His family takes comfort in that he is now with some of the people he loved the most – including his parents, his brothers Mick and Terry, and his sister Marcia.

Friends are welcome to meet with the family at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point IN, on Thursday, April 22nd from 2 pm until the time of Funeral Service at 6 pm. The Elks Service will follow. Because it is Bruce's service, it likely won't be on time, but we'll try our best. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Elks Cancer Fund. www.burnsfuneral.com

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 22. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

APR 22. 6:00 PM (CT)

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

Elks Service

APR 22. 6:30 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Bruce George Pillar.



April 22, 2021 at 12:31 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Bruce George Pillar.



April 22, 2021 at 12:29 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Bruce George Pillar.



April 22, 2021 at 10:23 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Bruce George Pillar.



April 22, 2021 at 09:17 AM

ST

“ Stacy & Tim purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Bruce George Pillar.



Stacy & Tim - April 22, 2021 at 09:09 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Bruce George Pillar.



April 22, 2021 at 08:54 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bruce George Pillar.



April 22, 2021 at 08:15 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Bruce George Pillar.



April 21, 2021 at 08:25 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Bruce George Pillar.*



April 21, 2021 at 04:01 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bruce George Pillar.*



April 21, 2021 at 11:23 AM



“ *Bruce is the best brother-in-law that a sister-in-law could have! I will always treasure my funny memories with him and Kathie. ❤️ Love to his daughters and the whole family!*

robin moss - April 21, 2021 at 01:21 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Bruce George Pillar.*



April 20, 2021 at 08:53 PM

GS

“ We always had great closing time conversations with Bruce. We only knew him a few years but enjoyed our chats and friendship
Geri and Dave Sprinkle

Geri Rose - Sprinkle - April 20, 2021 at 07:00 PM

TL

“ You are the big brother I always wanted,
I was blessed to know you when I needed it most!
Till we meet again my friend,Godspeed.



tracy Lightfoot - April 20, 2021 at 01:11 PM

DM

“ Dick & Deanna Mandel purchased the Sacred Garden Spray for the family of Bruce George Pillar.



Dick & Deanna Mandel - April 20, 2021 at 11:52 AM



“ I didn't know Bruce but I know his daughter Jackie. So I know Bruce must have been a kind, funny, smart, talented and loving Father and will be missed by his family.

Catherayne Pully - April 20, 2021 at 08:26 AM

BC

“ Jackie, I'm so very sorry for your loss. Your dad seems like a wonderful man and I hope that your memories of him will be a blessing.

Beth Casbon - April 20, 2021 at 08:23 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bruce George Pillar.



April 19, 2021 at 08:02 PM

BH

“ I worked with Bruce at Valparaiso transportation. He and I were talking one day about fun games to play with the family. He told me about the dice game, Left,Right, Center. I had never heard of it. He said he would let me borrow his dice. He showed up the following Saturday morning with the game. My family & I loved that game. I had to go buy my own before I returned Bruce's dice to him. I so enjoyed shooting the breeze with Bruce! You will be missed, my friend!

Becky Hansell - April 19, 2021 at 06:19 PM

SS

Ellen and I truly loved every moment spent with our brother Elk. Bruce was an incredible representative of what it means to be an Elk. Plus, so much fun; so focused on getting the best from life. It was obvious how much he loved his wife and his family. Never a dull moment with Bruce. If he wasn't decked out Hawaiian style, he had a t-shirt on that captured his unique and sarcastic view of life. It was a privilege, a blessing, and a joy to know him.

Our prayers are with Kathie and the family. Treasure your memories. If we live our lives as he did, they will be very full indeed.

Sleep well my brother and peace be with you. You have joined that mystic roll call, but you will never be forgotten

Stephen Scott - April 21, 2021 at 06:59 AM

MW

“ *We met Bruce many years ago through the Elks organization. Bruce was an awesome man. He always kept it real and was just so much fun to be around. One specific memory I have of him keeping it real was when we were in a big Grand Lodge meeting, can't remember which city. Anyway Grand Lodge was doing their spiel about raising money in our different lodges for their different causes. Bruce jumps up and asks if everyone can contribute to his lodge as they were in need of money for some reason or another for their building. It was a moment I will never forget as he had the courage to let it be known that a lot of Lodges were struggling and could use help from Grand Lodge instead of the lodges always helping Grand Lodge causes. I think many people in that room applauded him for saying something we all wished we could have said. You will be missed Bruce!*



Mona Wilson - April 19, 2021 at 04:54 PM