

Porter E. Bidleman

May 1, 1926 - November 24, 2020

Altamont, NY – Porter E. Bidleman passed away “on the top shelf,” November 24, 2020 at his home with his loving daughters by his side. Born in Lyndonville on May 1, 1926, he was the son of the late Donald and Paulina Porter Bidleman. He spent his childhood on the Bidleman family orchard, and raised chickens alongside his dad, uncle and 3 brothers. Port played basketball in high school where he first laid eyes on a cheerleader from Barker, he unknowingly would later meet, and marry.

At the age of 18, he enlisted in the Navy and served his country proudly during WWII on an LCI(R) 1077 as a gunner’s mate. He was assigned to the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre and was present during the assault and occupation of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Following the war, he returned home to see his cheerleader, “Sally Borresen”, the rest was a love story that lasted for over 68 years.

After graduating from Simmons School of Mortuary Science, he worked for Corwin FH in western NY before moving Sally and his 3 daughters to Altamont; where he became the owner of the Fredendall Funeral Home in 1957. He served his community and the Hilltowns for over 40 years with compassion, dedication and respect. A true gentleman and friend, when asked how he was doing, he always replied, “I’m right on the top shelf!”

He was an active member of the Altamont Reformed Church, the Altamont Fire Department, Altamont Village Board, Noah Lodge #75, American Legion Post 0977, VFW Boyd Hilton Post 7062, and the Urban Renewal Agency. For years he volunteered at the Guilderland Food Pantry and Community Caregivers. At one time he drove a school bus for the GCSD and Hertz Rental.

He and Sally vacationed in Ogunquit, Maine for over 26 years with their family, and friends; where in retirement he spent many years being a Trolley driver. They had some wonderful trips with LCI reunions across the US, and were able to take a Caribbean Cruise, a trip to Switzerland and to Norway. He loved to hunt, fish, camp, ski, hike, golf and bowl.

Over the years, he enjoyed daily walks to High Point and the Altamont Fairgrounds where he loved meeting new people. There is no doubt this contributed to his 94 years of life. Many mornings he started his day having coffee with the locals at the Home Front, the Penguin and Stewarts. He was so grateful for his wonderful family, friends, and the blessings that he received over the years; he was humble, and loved people.

He is survived by his devoted daughters, Barbara Bidleman of Guilderland, NY, Beth Burlingame of Altamont, NY; his 7 cherished grandchildren, Erin (Sean), Quillinan, Staci (Andrew) Clark, Eric (Heather) Kisby, Alissa Yohey, Mike (Sarah) Yohey, Jason (Katie) Burlingame, and Kara Banks; 15 loving great grandchildren, and many adored nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife, Alice "Sally" Bidleman, his daughter, Mary Lou Kisby, 3 brothers; George, Roger and Lewis, and his son in laws, Mark Burlingame and Alan (Sharon) Kisby.

Those who wish may make contributions to The ARC Good Samaritan Fund,

PO Box 671, Altamont, NY 12009, The Mary Lou Kisby- Elizabeth Severson Scholarship Fund, PO Box 1398, Guilderland, NY 12084, The Guilderland Food Pantry or Community Hospice.

Due to Covid restrictions, there will be a private family service. At a later date, a memorial service will be held.

Burial will take place in the spring at the Hartland Cemetery, Gasport, NY.

Services are provided by McVeigh Funeral Home. To leave a message for the family, please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Cemetery Details

Hartland Central Cemetery

8541 Ridge Road
Gasport, NY 14067

Tribute Wall



“ *McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Porter E. Bidleman*



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - December 09, 2020 at 03:14 PM

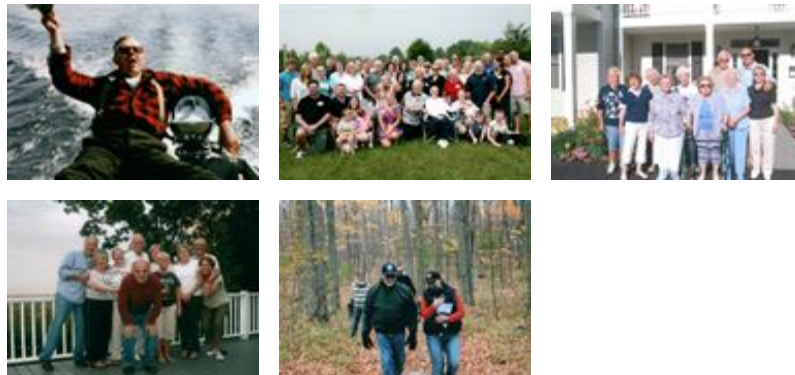


“ *Porter E. Bidleman*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *18 files added to the album Life Tributes*



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - December 11, 2020 at 03:08 PM

“ 42 files added to the album Life Tributes



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - December 09, 2020 at 03:13 PM

LT

“ *Beth and Barby,
So sorry to hear about your Dad. Jay and I have so many great memories of him.
But, we all, including Mom and especially our kids, remember waiting for the right Ogunquit trolley to stop with our favorite driver at the wheel. He made those rides so much fun! Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families. We will miss a very special person! ❤️ Linda and Jay Twombly and family.*

Linda Twombly - December 05, 2020 at 01:19 PM

CS

“ *Barb and Beth- Was saddened to hear of your Father's passing. I enjoyed talking with him and will miss seeing him in the village . Many will miss being one of the gathering of people coming together to mourn his absence. I will think of him often and recall his fine ,welcoming smile and gentle conversation . You have my deep and heart felt sympathy.Rest in Peace,Porter. Carl Schilling*

carl schilling - December 03, 2020 at 07:32 AM

JW

“ Beth, Barbara and extended family, We would like to express our sincere sympathy on the loss of your father and grandfather, Port. Over the years, many years, we have enjoyed seeing him around the village and his famous smile and saying....”he was on the top shelf that day”!! Such a loving man to all, but especially his family, he will be missed. We hope your hearts will be filled with happy memories that will bring smiles to you all as you recall the good times....and there were many! Sincerely, Jane (Quay) and Dick Willey

Jane Willey - December 02, 2020 at 08:39 PM

JG

“ Barbara, Beth and Families

It was always a joy to see and chat with Porter, he was "Top Shelf" to us and so many other people. It was a great inspiration to see him navigating the village with his walker despite the weather. We will miss him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Jim and Wanda Gardner

Jim and Wanda Gardner - December 02, 2020 at 12:30 PM

EL

“ Chris and I were sorry to hear about your Dad. What a special man he was. He is a great example to all of us in how to live life with enthusiasm, optimism and gratitude even though he dealt with terrible loss. Our condolences to all the family. He will not be forgotten.

Ellen Leach - December 02, 2020 at 09:13 AM

DS

“ Port not only was the best neighbor that could ever be. He also was one a very few people that have come into our lives and left footprints on our hearts and we will never ever be the same.
Blessings,
Don and Anne Snyder

Don W Snyder - November 30, 2020 at 07:23 PM

KA

“ Barb, I'm so sorry to hear of Port's passing. He was a wonderful man and he's with your Mom again (he picked a good one in her!). My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

My best to you all. Kathy Campbell

Kathy - November 30, 2020 at 11:42 AM



“ To Barbara, Beth and Bidelman Family,

The Guilderland Lettermen Foundation expresses our sincere condolences to you all. Porter lived a great life; may your memories sustain your loved ones during this difficult time.

Mark Williams - November 30, 2020 at 07:15 AM

ES

“ Barb and Beth,
We just wanted to send our love and condolences. Porter was such a wonderful man, always "on the top shelf"; smiling and sharing stories. He had an amazing smile and contagious positive personality!! He will be missed.
Love,
Bryan, Eileen and Duncan Satterlee

Eileen m Satterlee - November 29, 2020 at 03:17 PM

CZ

“ I am so sad to learn of Porter's death. For many years Porter was our neighbor on Helderberg Avenue. His unfailing friendliness and generous spirit was always a pleasure. He loved life, he loved his wife and children, and he loved everyone around him. Many years ago, Porter and I skied at Okemo Mountain in Vermont. It was a memorable day. Porter was a skilled skier and great companion on the lift rides. Over the years, we frequently talked about skiing, and he always wanted to know about my latest ski trip. Porter was truly a kind man whose positive spirit was always a pleasure. The world would be a far better place if everyone was like him.

*Cliff Zucker
Altamont, NY*

Cliff Zucker - November 29, 2020 at 10:47 AM

RM

“ Barb and Beth,

Sorry to hear about your Dad. He always had a smile and was a character of a man that we were fortunate enough to meet.

Bob & Wendy Matte

Robert Matte - November 29, 2020 at 10:30 AM

JH

“ Barb, Beth and family, we extend our condolences to you and your family. It was heartwarming to see how Port was so loved and cared for by his family. Whenever one had the occasion to stop and converse with Port you could not help but to walk away with an uplifted heart. He was a special gentleman.

John & Judy Hukey

John Hukey - November 29, 2020 at 09:20 AM

LW

“ So sorry for your loss Barb, Beth, and family. Your father is going to be missed by so many - myself included. I always loved running in to him, usually in the post office or on the fairgrounds. He always had a story to tell me - usually about his family. We'd usually both wind up in tears. I especially liked to hear his stories about my grandfather though - he was working at the funeral home when Porter purchased it.

One day after a memorial service at church he had commented on how nice it was to hear everyone stand up and say something nice about the deceased. He went on to say that when he died, he wanted someone to stand up and say that he was very thankful to everyone for being so kind to his family and... he's no longer on the top shelf - he's in a much better place. Rest in peace Porter.

- Laurie Warner

Laurie Warner - November 27, 2020 at 09:26 AM

DM

“ I could call him “Port” when I was talking about him, but I could never call him anything but “Mr. B” to his face. With his death I feel like one of the last big parts of my childhood is gone. We were so blessed to grow up when we did, so many different homes we felt comfortable (loved) in, and so many wonderful things to do. The Christmas Eve parties at the Bidleman’s home after the church service were such a big deal, we got so dressed up for them! My first trip to Maine Mr. B came up to Thompson’s Lake to get me and we drove straight up to Ogunquit. It was special because I was getting to go without my family, but on the other hand it was like being with my extended family. Seeing Port always made a day more special, as he got deafer he would say your name with a bit of a shout that was so cheerful, you couldn’t help but smile ... and shout a greeting back to him. Mr. B is part of Altamont history now, and I can only imagine the gathering in heaven. Reunited with Sally, his parents and brothers, Mary Lou, Al and Mark, and all those people who he took such good care of. And no more shouting. My love to all of you, with gratitude for having been a small part of your lives. With sympathy from Deb McKee and family

Deb McKee - November 26, 2020 at 11:10 PM

PF

*We just sadly heard of your dad, grandfathers passing!
So very sorry for your loss.
I’m sure his love will live on in you! Of all those we’ve been blessed to know...he truly was on our “top shelf!”
It has been an honor to know him , love him .. work beside him and pray with him.
We’ll always remember him with
love filled memories*

pamela and david fialkoff - November 29, 2020 at 11:49 AM

MY

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Porter's passing. It was always a joy to see his smiling face come through the door at the Home Front Cafe. He was a regular attendee at our WWII Veterans and Iwo Jima Survivors breakfast groups. He will be sorely missed and never forgotten.



Mark Yingling - November 26, 2020 at 08:37 AM