



William A. Bernardo

October 31, 1927 - January 16, 2019

Albany-William A. Bernardo, of Albany, NY, passed away in Nassau, The Bahamas, on January 16, 2019, at the age of 91 years.

Born on the lower east side of New York City to the late Leon and Belisa Bernardo, he was the youngest of 8 children. He grew up in the Bronx, and Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, and served in the US Army in France, Germany, and Austria during the years 1946-47. Following military service, he came to the Capital District where he lived the rest of his life. He received an Associates Degree from Albany Business College while attending night school there and starring on the basketball team. In 1953, he went to work for NY Life Insurance.

Bill was a co-founder of the Bernardo - Goldstein & Quinn Agency, bail bonds and insurance, in 1962. The family business remained an important part of his life, and he continued to serve as an advisor to his sons and grandsons. He was inducted into the PBUS (Professional Bail Agents of US) and NY State Bailbond Association Halls of Fame. He also started 3 travel agencies, East Greenbush Travel, TraveLand and TraveLand II, which operated for almost 20 years. Bill was a board member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and served as a judge for the Albany Tulip Queen Festival for many years. He was a charter member of the Albany Patroon Basketball Team Board of Directors. He served on the Town of North Greenbush planning board for over 30 years

as well.

Bill served as a high school football and basketball referee for over 30 years, and was elected to the Capital District Basketball Hall of Fame in 2012. In addition to basketball, Bill loved playing softball and golf. He also enjoyed traveling, but most of all, he enjoyed spending quality time around the dinner table with his family.

Bill was predeceased by his parents; brothers Ralph, Joe, Sam, Marty, and Marsh; and sister Columbia (Pauline).

He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Betty Jane Bernardo; children Mike (Darly) Bernardo of Newberry, SC, Jane (Jeff) Sandwick, of Spanish Wells, the Bahamas, and Jay (Karis) Bernardo, Lisa (Tom) Carter, and Rick (Mary Jo) Bernardo, all of the Capital District; grandchildren Jason, Jessica, Jordan, Stephen, Nate (Sidney), Nick (Kirsten), Hannah, Brett, Grace, Garrett, Bekah (Michael), Jake, Leah, Tori, Claire, Emma, Amy, Caleb, Seth, Caden; loving sister Ann Newcomer of Torrance, CA; and a very close cousin, Matt Mataraso, of Guilderland, NY.

The family wishes to thank the healthcare staff who worked diligently with Bill during the past year.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests those wishing to make memorials in his honor may do so to: Capital City Rescue Mission, capitalcityrescuemission.org, 259 S Pearl St, Albany, NY, 12202; and Schenectady City Mission, citymission.com, PO Box 760, Schenectady, NY, 12301.

Calling hours will be Friday, January 18, 2019 from 4 - 8pm, and Celebration of Life Service on Saturday, January 19 2019 at 1pm at Grace Fellowship

Church, 20 Delatour Rd, Latham, NY.

Gravesite burial at Memory Gardens in Colonie will be held Monday, January 21, 2019 at 12:00 pm

To leave a message for the family, light a virtual candle, obtain directions or view other helpful services please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 18. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Grace Fellowship Church
20 Delatour Road
Latham, NY 12110

Service

JAN 19. 1:00 PM (ET)

Grace Fellowship Church
20 Delatour Road
Latham, NY 12110

Graveside

JAN 21. 12:00 PM (ET)

Memory Gardens Cemetery
983 Watervliet Shaker Road
Albany, NY

Tribute Wall



“ *William A. Bernardo*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *We were very sorry to hear the news of Mr. Bernardo's passing. I always enjoyed the support he gave at our team games - his legacy with his children reflects this love and passion. Condolences from the Texas Chiffolo family.*

Dominic Chiffolo - March 14, 2019 at 12:23 PM



“ *Mr. Bernardo was one of the most welcoming people I have ever met in my life. When I first got on the bench, he invited out to join him at the Port of Albany for breakfast after a court session - my first and only time there - so he could chat and get to know me. He shared his wonderful insights about life and about Albany. His two sons who I have gotten to know the best, Jay and Rick, are a wonderful reflection of their father and of his values and integrity. My condolences and prayers go out to his wife and the family. Bill/Mr. Bernardo will be missed and always thought of with fondness and respect for the compassionate person he was and the countless lives he touched in so many special ways.*

Helena Heath - January 29, 2019 at 07:37 AM



“ Thoughts and prayers to the Bernardo Family on behalf of my late husband, Arnold Busold. The 2 were the best of friends during my husband's banking career on State Street in Albany. Bill always took care of all our personal insurance needs. What a wonderful man and he will not be easily forgotten. Deepest sympathies and condolences to your family. May he rest in peace. June Busold

June Busold - January 24, 2019 at 03:33 PM

PC

“ Our community has lost a true mentor. Bill distinguished himself in his profession and in his love of family. Each time he would visit, he would express how delightful it was to see the children and how fond he was of his own. The Bernardo Family, a true success story, thrived from Bill's love and compassion for the human element. He will always remain a large part of our lives. Our continued prayers for Betty Jane, Jay, Rick and the family.

Peter Crummey - January 24, 2019 at 02:46 PM

TU

“ Our deepest condolences to the Bernardo family. Bill was always so wonderful and friendly to me especially when he insured my printing business. He will not be easily forgotten. God bless you!
Tom and Lorraine Urbano

Thomas L Urbano - January 22, 2019 at 04:53 PM

GS

“ George Smith lit a candle in memory of William A. Bernardo



George Smith - January 22, 2019 at 07:12 AM

DP

“ Our condolences to the entire Bernardo family.
Donna, Jim, Kendra & Truman Patrick



donna patrick - January 21, 2019 at 06:39 PM

AT

“ From Anthony Treffeletti Jr. Nino's son, Bill was a friend as well as his brother Marshan', over the many years in and around Albany while growing up in our family's local grocery business, there were numerous instances of our meeting. Bill had the infectious warm smile always a greeting and embracing friend who always remembered where he came from, a very good place! My Dad used to eat at his brother's diner next store to our grocery store # 308 South Pearl St. for years almost daily for breakfast, Marshan's ', before he and his family moved to Ft. Lauderdale/ Bt The Sea. Bill like Marsh and the entire Bernardo family was a family that truly made the Albany community a better and more desirable place to live. All the best to the entire BERNARDO FAMILY! From the entire Treffeletti family. Bill will be sadly missed and proudly remembered. A true friend in the Bernardo tradition. All God's continued blessings. Tony Treffeletti and family.

Anthony Treffeletti - January 21, 2019 at 12:54 PM

KB

Thank you so much Tony for your kind words about Bill and our family. I remember the Treffeletti family fondly.

Kareen Bernardo - January 24, 2019 at 11:06 AM

BS

“ *Bernardo Family - Our heart goes out to you during this trying time. Bill will always be in our heart and the Bernardo family in our prayers. He is in a better place (along with Trudy and Bob) and, in all likelihood, with that million dollar smile on his face!*

Bob & Mimi Smith and Family

Bob Smith - January 20, 2019 at 08:02 PM

LC

“ *Betty and family,
We send our love and condolences at Bill's passing. So sorry we couldn't make it to the service today. May God comfort you all and hold you extra close, and may you sense His presence more than ever.*

Lauren and Bill Caldwell

Lauren Caldwell - January 19, 2019 at 07:19 PM

MF

“ *I met Bill in the early 50s while he played basketball nights at school 20 in North Albany. The janitor would not let us in but Bill spoke to, him and we got in to watch. We met many years later on the golf course and reminded him of that night and he laughed. Our last round of golf was in Ireland on the Links of Portmarnoch, we had a wonderful sunny day and a most enjoyable day on the Links. May he Rest In Peace.*

Mark Fitzgerald

Mark Fitzgerald - January 19, 2019 at 03:02 PM

FA

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family. Bill was the most friendly person you'll ever meet. When he gets to heaven he'll still be handing out pens to everyone.*

*Judge Francis Abitabile
Town of Greenport Justice Retired.*

Francis Abitabile - January 19, 2019 at 09:44 AM

MD

“ *Betty Jane and Family,
So sorry for your loss. Bill was a wonderful man and I always remember him with a smile on his face. He and my parents, I am sure, had the best reunion in heaven this past week. May your memories be your comfort in the months to come.*

Michele Sgroi DiPiazza

Michele DiPiazza - January 19, 2019 at 08:37 AM

DM

“ *Bill was a man in a class of his own. He was kind, engaging, interesting and a proud husband and father. When Bill walked into a room everyone knew it. He would shake every hand and share a few words with virtually everyone. He was a role model to me. I learned a lot from him. I respected him like none other. He outlived his contemporaries simply because he just loved life.*

*He was the best! See you soon buddy.
Drew Maggard*

DREW MAGGARD - January 18, 2019 at 07:24 PM

MF

“ Have so many good memories of my Uncle Bill. Played golf with him, swam with him and enjoyed many hours together while visiting my parents, Joe and Diane Bernard. Sad to think of him gone. Marney Frank

Marney B Frank - January 18, 2019 at 06:11 PM

BH

“ Dear Betty Jane, Rick and Family, Please accept our heartfelt condolences for your loss of a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. Bill will be remembered by all who knew him. May God Bless Bill and his family. God Bless, Barb and Mike Hodom.



Barb Hodom - January 18, 2019 at 04:13 PM

RS

“ Bill and my Dad were such close friends and I truly enjoyed our “boys trips “ to Jamaica and Barbados. Although I never met Bill’s children I feel as if I know them because he constantly boasted of their many accomplishments. Bill was a true gentleman with a smile and personality that always lit up the room. Thinking of him now brings a smile to my face....Bob Sgroi

Robert Sgroi - January 18, 2019 at 03:08 PM

RB

“ I always respected Bill's devotion to those who required his services -and I always enjoyed his company--Bob Becher

robert a becher - January 18, 2019 at 12:34 PM

MC

“ Betty Jane and your beautiful family -- I so enjoyed our visit recently! Bill and my husband Bob were such wonderful friends over the years -- they both had such respect for each other. Bill had the warmest smile -- and he is now looking over all of you. The one beautiful thing we have is to be able to cherish the lifetime of memories!! Each day a new memory will come to you and you will see the twinkle in his eye! Bless you all.

Mary Lou Bartolotta-Connolly

Mary Lou Connolly - January 18, 2019 at 10:39 AM

JP

“ Jules & Sandra Pinder lit a candle in memory of William A. Bernardo



jules & sandra Pinder - January 18, 2019 at 08:27 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of William A. Bernardo.



January 18, 2019 at 07:32 AM

BR

“ Sending my deepest sympathies to Rick, Jay ,and the entire family. This world has lost an incredible man who always had a smile on his face and would not hesitate to extend a helping hand to anyone who asked. May your happy memories of the past bring a measure of peace and comfort in the days ahead. So sorry for your loss

Brian Rossiter

Brian Rossiter - January 18, 2019 at 07:02 AM

M.

“ Mrs.G.G .Stoudmire lit a candle in memory of William A. Bernardo



Mrs.G.G .Stoudmire - January 18, 2019 at 06:54 AM

M.

There was " Only One Bail Bonds Man...Mr William Bernardo, it's painful to hear of his passing. There Is " Only One" an He is Right here.May He Rest in Peace.

Mrs.G.G .Stoudmire - January 18, 2019 at 07:01 AM

M.

Family of Mr. Barnardo, My Parents were sadden to hear of his passing. He Cared about others...Prompt, real, kind,understanding, personable,an Giving...This Mold...is discontinue (DC)...He Can't ever be replaced.i remember yelling...one day ...@ a gentleman... you're NOT"" Mr Barnardo...an it was the Truth....With Mr Barnardo, Business was easy...he made it Work...May He Be @ REST 🙏

Mrs.G.G .Stoudmire - January 18, 2019 at 07:09 AM

KM

“ Always enjoyed seeing your husband and dad all the times he spent with my mom and dad, Sam and Ronnie Sgroi. What a wonderful person! Everyone loved him. So sorry for your loss. Sending hugs and prayers. Your memories will keep him in your heart and minds.
Kathleen (Sam and Ronnie's oldest)

Kathleen magid - January 17, 2019 at 04:03 PM