



## Bernard "Bernie" Bitzan

September 17, 1926 - May 22, 2015

Bernie Bitzan, age 88, of Alexandria, died Friday, May 22, 2015. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 10:30 Saturday, May 30, 2015 at the Church of St. Mary in Alexandria. Entombment will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 PM Friday at the Anderson Funeral Home in Alexandria with parish prayers beginning at 4 PM. Additional visitation will be one hour prior to the service at church.

### OBITUARY

Bernard "Bernie" N. Bitzan, 88, of Alexandria, Minnesota, died on Friday, May 22, 2015 at his home. He was born on September 17, 1926 to Peter and Rose (Turchin) Bitzan of Millerville.

Bernie grew up on the family farm and attended Brandon High School. He enlisted in the US Army Air Corps on his 18th birthday and was deployed to Germany. Bernard worked at Runestone Electric Association from 1948 to 1989. Bernie began as a laborer with REA and was trained as a lineman. He helped bring electrification to many of the farms and residences in Douglas County. Later, Bernie worked as a sub-station maintenance manager, superintendent, and Operations Manager at REA.

Bernie was married to LaVerne Anderson of Brandon in September 1948 until her death in August 1956. Three years later he married Bonnie Squier of Alexandria. They resided in Alexandria and eventually settling near Lake

Andrew with their children.

Bernie was a member St. Mary's Catholic Church of Alexandria. He was also active in the community as a member of the Catholic Aide, American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and VFW Honor Guard.

Bernie loved attending polka fests and dancing the days away with Bonnie.

He belonged to the Heartland Polka Swingers and Polka Lovers Klub of America. Bernie was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed spending the days in the woods, fishing, trap shooting, hunting, cutting wood, making homemade syrup, apple juice, jams, and wine. He also loved going to auctions and garage sales, and the Dalton Threshermen's days, and other festivals. Bernie was a very active grandpa giving tractor, snowmobile and four-wheeler rides to the grandchildren and enjoyed teaching them to fish and hunt.

Bernard Bitzan was preceded in death by his parents; first wife, LaVerne; infant son, Daniel; sister, Irma Foslien; and brothers, Richard and Leonard Bitzan.

Bernie is survived by his wife, Bonnie of Alexandria; children, Kevin Bitzan of Wadena, Becky Nohre and husband, Mark, of Alexandria, Brenda Bitzan of St. Paul, Curt Bitzan and wife, Jodi, of Alexandria, Doug Bitzan and wife, Paula, of Milaca, Janice Puckett and husband, Reese, of Lakeville, and Wanda Lillemoen of Shakopee; grandchildren, David Nohre, Scott Nohre, Kayla Nohre, Nick Bitzan, Starsha Froberg, Ashley Iverson, Aaron Bitzan, Jacob Warren, Cassy Warren, Mitchell Bitzan, Rachel Bitzan, Ethan Puckett, Ella Puckett, Brianna Lillemoen and Brayden Lillemoen; great-grandchildren, Brock Zastrow, Blake Nohre, Reed Nohre, Sophia Nohre, Sadie Nohre, William Bitzan, Joseph Froberg, John Froberg, Daemon Warren and Alex Warren; sisters, Collette Kraemer of Alexandria; Evelyn Peterson of Detroit Lakes; Rita Karger and husband, Ervin, of Brooten; and sister-in-law, LaVern Bitzan.

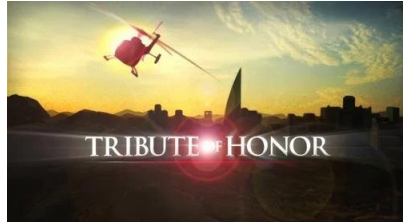
A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 10:30 AM Saturday, May 30, 2015 at the Church of St. Mary in Alexandria. Reverend Father Steve Binsfeld will be the celebrant. Entombment will be in the church cemetery. Casket bearers

include all of Bernie's grandchildren. Honorary casket bearers include all of Bernie's great grandchildren. Military honors will be accorded by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 936, American Legion Post 87, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 235 and the Minnesota National Guard. Arrangements are with the Anderson Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Anderson Funeral Home and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Bernard "Bernie" Bitzan*



---

**Anderson Funeral Home** - May 29, 2015 at 07:51 PM

JB

*Bonnie so sorry to hear about Bernie .It was a great Honor to be with my Dad Ollie and Bernie on the Honor Fight to Washington D.C.what a great memories for our world war vets it was a great day of joy for all our vets. God Bless you and your family.  
Jane Bunting*

---

**jJane Bunting** - July 30, 2015 at 11:39 PM

BS

“ *Bonnie, we are so sorry to recently hear about Bernie. We so enjoyed seeing you both at many dances through the years, Bernie always had a smile. We miss those days. Our deepest sympathy to you and your family. Bill and Bonnie Sharp, Maricopa, AZ.*

---

**Bonnie Sharp** - September 03, 2015 at 03:45 PM

JH

“ John, Kristy, Hattie, and Sadie Hendrickson purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Bitzan.



John, Kristy, Hattie, and Sadie Hendrickson - May 29, 2015 at 09:30 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Bitzan.



May 28, 2015 at 04:51 PM



“ Spring Has Sprung Mixed Basket was purchased for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Bitzan.



May 27, 2015 at 05:27 PM



“ Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Bitzan.



May 27, 2015 at 03:44 PM

BL

“ *Bonnie and Family,  
Sorry for your loss of Bernie, hold on to all the great times you  
shared!*

*Keeping your family in our prayers!*

*Bill and Donna Luckemeyer*

---

**Bill and Donna Luckemeyer** - May 27, 2015 at 10:12 AM

LR

“ *"Dancing Bernie"  
He and Bonnie were always at the VFW dances and both were  
great to visit with.. He always had a smile and was willing to help.  
He was a good friend and will be greatly missed. Lloyd and Rosie*

---

**Lloyd & Rosie** - May 26, 2015 at 06:44 PM

MG

“ *Our deepest sympathy to Bonnie and family. We will never forget  
Bernie out on the dance floor dancing with Bonnie and always a  
smile on his face. Seems as though he never got tired, even when  
he danced a polka after another polka. You will be missed.  
Kevin and Marlene Gwost  
The Nite Owls Band*

---

**Marlene and Kevin Gwost** - May 26, 2015 at 05:04 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of  
Bernard "Bernie" Bitzan.*



---

May 26, 2015 at 04:39 PM

ST

“ Our Heartfelt Sympathy to you for your loss. Praying for Peace for you. Share all the memories of a Life Well Lived. May God hold your hand as you go through this time of Celebration of Bernie's Life. God Bless.

Shannon, Ed, Patti Thompson - May 26, 2015 at 05:13 AM

ST

Shannon, Ed and Patti Thompson - Forada Supper Club

Shannon, Ed, Patti Thompson - May 26, 2015 at 05:14 AM

BD

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, Kevin.....It's like Helen said, "No more suffering, he is at peace now."

Barb dau - May 25, 2015 at 04:54 PM

AR

“ JUST SEEING BERNIE AND HIS WIFE DANCING FOR SO MANY YEARS IS A PLEASANT MEMORY  
ANDY RADERMACHER

ANDY RADERMACHER - May 24, 2015 at 07:31 PM

SM

“ I was so very sorry to hear of Bernie's passing. My heart goes out to the family and I think and pray every day you find peace. Remember the good times.  
Sue Midboe

Susan Midboe - May 24, 2015 at 06:31 AM