



Bernard "Bennie" J. Ganje

October 2, 1930 - June 13, 2015

Bernard "Bennie" John Ganje was born on October 2, 1930 to John and Margaretha (Reiger) Ganje in Eagle Butte, South Dakota. When he was six years old, his family moved to Villard, Minnesota. He graduated from Alexandria High School in 1948 and shortly after enlisted in the military. He was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, and was honorably discharged after serving two years. When the Korean Conflict escalated, he was recalled to serve as a training officer. He was honorably discharged in 1952.

Bennie was united in marriage to Delores "Dice" Maloney on May 22, 1954 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alexandria. To this union the couple was blessed with three children, Gregg, Lynn, and Gary. He started working in the meat department of SuperValu and then Pete's County Market, early on assuming the role of meat department manager. A position he held for fifty-three years. He exchanged recipes with many of the housewives in the Alexandria area. Everyone admired him for his great knowledge of meat products and also for his great kindness and respect to his customers.

Bennie and Dice were one of five couples who started the C.C.D program at St. Mary's. He was active in the scouting program for many years, including teaching Ad Altari Dei Church Award. He was a volunteer fireman for twenty-four years, holding the position of chief engineer part of that time. He is a life member of the Knights of Columbus, a member of the Elks, Golden K's, V.F.W, and the American Legion.

Bennie enjoyed hunting, cooking, playing cards, and had a love for learning.

He had a passion for old time music, playing the piano, and playing the accordion. Bennie enjoyed spending time at the family cabin on Lake Miltona. Most importantly he enjoyed being with his family, especially being present at his grandchildren's activities.

Bennie is survived by his wife of sixty-one years, Dice (Delores Maloney); three children, Gregg (Toni) of Portland, OR, Lynn (Steve) Irons of Twin Falls, ID, and Gary (Janet) of St. Cloud, MN; five grandchildren, Ben Ganje of Portland, OR, Kellan Ganje of Portland, OR, Chelsea (Jameson) Spooner of Sandy, UT, Ashley Irons of Minneapolis, MN and Megan (Eddie) Rogosheske of Fairmont, MN; and sister, Mary Rajdl. Bennie is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Herman, Joseph, Anton and Albert; and sisters, Barbara, Victoria, and infant twin sisters.

Bennie passed away at the St. Cloud Hospital on Saturday, June 13, 2015, at the age of 84. He will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

723 West Winona Dr.
Alexandria, MN 56308

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 17. 4:00 AM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Anderson Funeral Home
659 Voyager
Alexandria, MN 56308
<http://andersonfuneral.net>

Prayer Service

JUN 17. 6:00 PM (CT)

Anderson Funeral Home
659 Voyager
Alexandria, MN 56308
<http://andersonfuneral.net>

Knights of Columbus Rosary

JUN 17. 6:30 PM (CT)

Anderson Funeral Home
659 Voyager
Alexandria, MN 56308
<http://andersonfuneral.net>

Visitation

JUN 18. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
421 Hawthorne St
Alexandria, MN

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 18. 5:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
421 Hawthorne St
Alexandria, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Anderson Funeral Home and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Bernard "Bennie" J. Ganje*



Anderson Funeral Home - June 16, 2015 at 02:18 PM

GA

“ *I was so sad to have missed Bennie's funeral. The Ganje family was my 'second family' while I grew up. Bennie was a kind, mild mannered man that I admired and will never forget. Heaven just got a bit brighter.*

Glenaris Arvold

Glenaris Arvold - June 26, 2015 at 10:24 PM

BM

“What a wonderful man and a beautiful family! Bennie and Dice will always have a special place in our hearts. So many memories of spending time with them at the cabin, playing games, drinking Rock and Rye, looking at the latest kitchen gadgets. Only Bennie would think to buy a malt machine from the Rexall Drug store when it closed and bring it to the cabin for all to talk about and enjoy.

Bennie enjoyed life and loved his family like no other. He always had a twinkle in his eye and a mischievous nature that made him even more endearing. He liked to make your drinks too strong, fill you with food and listen intently to everything you had to say.

I can picture Bennie with my dad right now softly complaining about how he was the one that always had to paint the white picket fence at the big house on Douglas Avenue. All by himself, you know . . year after year. . . and that fence went all the way around the yard. . got no help from anyone. . and never even got paid!

Uncle Bennie's passing leaves a huge void in the Ganje family, but he will never be forgotten. We love your family and treasure the time we've had together. We hope the sentiments of friends and family comforts all of you during this very sad time.

Greg, Becky, Shana, Lindsey and Josh

Becky Menbgelkoch - June 18, 2015 at 01:12 AM

JC

“Judy, Karen, Jim & Patty and Pam -Montana & California purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Bernard "Bennie" J. Ganje.



Judy, Karen, Jim & Patty and Pam -Montana & California -
June 17, 2015 at 02:23 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bernard "Bennie" J. Ganje.*



June 16, 2015 at 11:37 PM



“ *So sorry to learn of Bennie passing away. He was a friend for several decades. I You have our sympathy. Ken and Tolly*

Ken and Tolly Tessmer - June 16, 2015 at 03:43 PM



“ *51 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Anderson Funeral Home - June 16, 2015 at 02:13 PM



“ *Terry, Sharon, Leanne, Muffy, Becky, Kevin, Jim, and Mike purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Bernard "Bennie" J. Ganje.*



Terry, Sharon, Leanne, Muffy, Becky, Kevin, Jim, and Mike -
June 15, 2015 at 09:32 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Bernard "Bennie" J. Ganje.*



June 15, 2015 at 09:55 AM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Bernard "Bennie" J. Ganje.*



June 14, 2015 at 11:23 PM



“ *Margee Andresen sent a virtual gift in memory of Bernard "Bennie" J. Ganje*



Margee Andresen - June 14, 2015 at 07:07 PM