

## Bernard "Bernie" Buchta

September 4, 1941 - January 26, 2017

Buchta, Bernard R. "Bernie", age 75, of Hazel Park, passed away January 26, 2017. He was born September 4, 1941 in Omaha, Nebraska, the first child of 10, to the late Raymond and Agnes Buchta. Bernie's life, like musicals such as "West Side Story", had multiple acts.

### Act One:

At a young age, Bernie was compelled to serve his country. While in high school he enrolled in the ROTC, earned his bachelor degree from Creighton University in Business Administration, and married his college sweetheart, Shirley Eva Sorys. In November of 1963 he joined the United States Army. Bernie's chapter with Shirley took them numerous places during his career as an army officer. His first and second children, Jerry and David, were born during their first stay in Germany. 1968 brought language school and a tour in Vietnam that concluded with a safe return to the States the following year. Karlyn, the third Buchta child was born while in Fort Bragg, NC and the family enjoyed being back on American soil. In the early 70's, another assignment brought his family back to Germany, which is where their fourth child, Chris, was born. Duty called the Buchta's back home to Kansas, where Bernie earned his first of two Masters' degrees. Cheryl, their fifth child, was born when the family lived in Aberdeen, Maryland. At the end of the 70's, the family relocated to Korea for a time. The Buchta family returned to the States for

good in August of 1980 and they were blessed with Jaclyn, their sixth child. In June of 1982; Shirley, his wife of 18 years, passed away from cancer.

#### Act Two:

Bernie remarries. His second love, Denise Boddington, joined the Buchta family in 1985. Together, they continued to grow the family in Fort Lee, Virginia. This is where his seventh and eighth children, Andrew and Bernard (II), were born, completing the "Big 8" family crew. In August 1988, Bernie retired from the Army as a decorated Lieutenant Colonel and the family took up residence in Troy, Michigan. He shared 21 wonderful years with Denise before her passing of cancer in June of 2006.

#### Act Three:

Bernie was wholeheartedly enjoying a post-retirement career in Computer Education at the Royal Oak Outreach Center. Teaching was most fulfilling to him and it connected him to his local community. Through his "late in life" teaching career, he continued to touch many people's lives and even met a special jewel, "Joanie" Cizmas, with whom he would share many happy years. The two connected over a deep commitment to GOD, community Outreach and charitable works. They spent countless hours volunteering with the Capuchins' R.O.P.E. program and On The Rise Bakery in Detroit. The two married on October 20, 2007 at St. Mary Magdalene, of Hazel Park, and they had a one-of-a-kind reception offered by the Capuchins (included a specially baked wedding cake by the Capuchins). Together, Bernie and Joan enjoyed retirement and traveled the world to places such as Czechoslovakia, Germany, Canada, and Hawaii. The Buchta clan recently shared a vacation to Niagara Falls.

Bernie was a shutterbug and avid family historian. He captured every event

that he could on film, as well as tabulating and marking the remarkable events in every family member's life. To him, a fulfilling life was fostering relationships with everyone he was connected with, and unabashedly loving his family every day.

Husband of the late Shirley Sorys and Denise Boddington and is survived by his beloved wife, Joan Cizmas Buchta.; loving father of the "Big 8", Jerold T. (Karen) Buchta, David M. (Lenore) Buchta, Karlyn J. (Richard) Jones, Christopher A. (Jennifer) Buchta, Cheryl L. (Jeremy) Lubben, Jaclyn M. (Michael) D'Hondt, Andrew B. Buchta and Bernard R. Buchta II; proud grandfather of Taylor Buchta, Jerod Buchta, Michael Buchta, Eva Jones, CJ Buchta, Jack Jones, Ryan Jones, Wyatt Lubben, Charlie D'Hondt, Lilyanna Lubben, Hayden D'Hondt, Juliet Lubben, Henry D'Hondt, Cora Lubben and Lucas D'Hondt; and dear brother of the "Big 10", Marie (Ed) Bray, Sr. Margaret Buchta O.S.M., Ronald (Laura) Buchta, Raymond Buchta, Robert (Kathy) Buchta, Richard (Jackie) Buchta, Deacon William (Nancy) Buchta, Michael (Deb) Buchta and the late Marianne (Zygmund, surviving) Jedlecki.

Visitation: Monday 2-8 p.m. with a 7 p.m. Rosary at the Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W 11 Mile Road (4 blocks E of Woodward), Royal Oak. In state: Tuesday 10 a.m. until the time of Mass at 10:30 a.m. at Guardian Angels Catholic Church, 581 E. 14 Mile Road, Clawson. Burial at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly.

Memorials to the Capuchin 'On The Rise Bakery' are appreciated.

Share your memories on the Tribute Wall tab at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road  
Holly Township, MI 48442

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 30.** 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Rosary

**JAN 30.** 7:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Funeral Mass

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JAN 31. 10:30 AM (ET)

Guardian Angels Catholic Church  
581 E. 14 Mile Road  
Clawson, MI 48017

## Committal Service

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JAN 31. 1:30 PM (ET)

Great Lakes National Cemetery  
4200 Belford Road  
Holly Township, MI 48442

# Tribute Wall

MT

“ My condolences to the family. Recall pleasant memories you shared with your loved one. May you find comfort in Jesus words, "I am the resurrection and the life."-John 11:25

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**Ms. Tuffy** - February 04, 2017 at 06:14 AM

BB

“ Bernie was an amazing brother. He humbly walked with God, even during the tough times like losing two wives to cancer. BERNIE KNEW HOW TO LOVE!! When I was growing up at 2936 Fontenelle Blvd in Omaha, HE WAS MY HERO.

He touched many lives and with 8 kids he spanked a few bottoms when needed. It was an amazing celebration at his funeral Mass. He will continue to be loved and he will be missed by many.

Love to Joan, the BIG 8 and the Big 10 and all who were a part of this great man's life.

Peace and Husker Hugs, Bill and Nancy Buchta

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**Bill Buchta** - February 03, 2017 at 12:10 PM

PW

“ I graduated with Bernie from High School in 1959. His legacy is a beautiful tribute to his family and any one that he touched through out his life. Your family is in my prayers.

Patricia Koley Walz

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**Patricia Koley Walz** - February 02, 2017 at 02:51 PM

CV

“ Thinking and praying for your family during this difficult time. Glen and Carrie Van Dyke

carrie vandyke - January 31, 2017 at 01:54 PM

SD

“ To Bernie's family: I graduated with Bernie, class of 1959 at Holy Name High School in Omaha,Ne. He came to our 50th reunion and it was fun to see him and visit with him.  
So sorry for your loss. Susan Merritt Dix

Susan Dix - January 30, 2017 at 07:52 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Buchta.



January 30, 2017 at 11:46 AM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Buchta.



January 30, 2017 at 10:45 AM

GB

“ Condolences to Chris and Jen Buchta family. We are so sorry for your loss.

Gina Bausano - January 30, 2017 at 07:46 AM

BL

“ To Bernie's family, I read in the paper of his death, my sympathies to all of the family. I was on his email list and I will miss them, always had such interesting posts. I retired from the Detroit Arsenal and have sent him emails at times with what was going on there. May the love of friends give you comfort and the love of God give you peace.

*Briony Lawson*

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**Briony Lawson** - January 29, 2017 at 07:54 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Buchta.



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January 29, 2017 at 06:50 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Buchta.



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January 29, 2017 at 03:53 PM



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



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January 29, 2017 at 11:18 AM



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



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January 29, 2017 at 10:52 AM



“ *Rob, Lisa, August and Cameron Brown purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Buchta.*



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**Rob, Lisa, August and Cameron Brown** - January 29, 2017 at 10:27 AM

LB

“ Dear Buchta family



*My heart is with all of you during this time of loss. You are such a big and close family and his absence will be noticable and extremely difficult for a long long time. I know this sounds cliché but try to embrace his life and all that he was.*

*Some of my fond memories of Bernie will include what a beautiful person he was, always with the camera around his neck, in an essence to catch all of the memories of his wonderful family at all times. He was such a plethora of knowledge when it came to technology and I know he would love it if someone took that ball and ran with it in his honor and memory.*

*As hard as it is for those of us left behind, the blessing that he did not suffer long term before going to his final resting place is invaluable. You won't realize that now because the pain is so deep and sudden, but watching someone you love suffer is the most helpless and agonizing thing to go through.*

*I truly believe that God brings some people home to him suddenly for a reason, and although, we might not ever understand why that it is, God is good and works in miraculous ways.*

*I don't mean to sound too religious, but I feel that I can speak from experience. God only works in ways that are for the betterment of man. I truly believe that. God is good.*

*God bless Bernie rest in eternal peace. And may he pave the way and watch over and bless all of you until you meet again.*

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**Lisa Brown** - January 29, 2017 at 09:20 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Buchta.*



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January 28, 2017 at 04:57 PM



“ *Bernard touched many lives, more than we will ever know, and probably even him.. Through all his e-mails I relived many happy memories over the years. Reading about everyone's 'going on's' gave me a sense of keeping in touch with family. I will truly miss all of that communication; besides the wealth of trivia, information, travel & news plus the many smiles. Many Prayers for Bernard and all of the Family members.*

*Arlene (Dworak) Mitchell Cousin*



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**Arlene (Dworak) Mitchell** - January 28, 2017 at 04:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Buchta.*



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January 28, 2017 at 12:19 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Buchta.*



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January 28, 2017 at 10:03 AM



“ *We are sending our loving thoughts & prayers to all of you as you see Bernie off to meet Jesus in heaven. We did not have the opportunity to know Bernie, but do know that he must be a very special guy who will be greatly missed by his family & friends. We have made a memorial donation to the Capuchin On The Rise Bakery in honor of Bernie and will have a Mass said for the repose of his soul, at St. Leo's in Grand Island NE. May he rest in peace. Our sympathy, Steve & Cheri Schmidt*

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**Steve & Cheri Schmidt** - January 27, 2017 at 08:44 PM

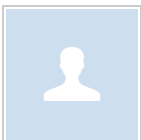


“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Buchta.*



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January 27, 2017 at 04:01 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Buchta.*



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January 27, 2017 at 03:46 PM

YC

“ *Your loving cousins. purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Buchta.*



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**Your loving cousins.** - January 27, 2017 at 12:36 PM

YF

“ *Your Ideal Contracting Family purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Bernard "Bernie" Buchta.*



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**Your Ideal Contracting Family** - January 27, 2017 at 10:07 AM

LB

“ *Bernie's love for his Country was eclipsed only by his love for his family. Thank you, Bernie. A grateful country and a loving family salute you.*

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**Laura Buchta** - January 26, 2017 at 10:48 PM

CH

“ *I miss you like crazy, Dad. Don't believe I could love you more...*

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**Cherbutt** - January 26, 2017 at 09:36 PM