



Bernard VanSloten

December 12, 1948 - November 3, 2018

Bernard (Bernie) Jay VanSloten, 69, of Rudyard, Michigan, surrounded by his family in his home, went to be with his Lord on Saturday, November 3, 2018. He was born on December 12, 1948, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Vern and Marion (Postma) VanSloten. On February 11, 1967, Bernie married his high school sweetheart, Chris (Ehle), and graduated from Rudyard High School in May. Following graduation, Bernie worked in the construction and concrete business for many years, before working as a civilian mechanic for the US Coast Guard in Sault Ste. Marie for over 25 years.

Bernie was a beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather, and friend to everyone. He truly lived his life to the fullest through each and every member of his family. Anyone that knew Bernie, knew how much of a foundation he was for not just his family, but for the whole EUP. He had a never-ending commitment to help those around him; always putting himself last. There was nothing Bernie couldn't fix, and with his uncanny sense of sarcasm followed by a big smile, there was nobody he couldn't cheer up. Bernie was a lover of sports, especially Rudyard HS athletics. There was no better place for him than being at the Rudyard ball fields; fixing fields, inventing new equipment and watching games from the press box. In support of each Grandkid, there was not a game that he missed - no matter the weather, the distance, or his health.

If not at the ball fields, you could find Bernie chasing walleye and perch on the Munuscong Bay or around the Les Cheneaux Islands. He was known in the

local ice fishing circles as a great fisherman, the guy who could help someone get their snowmobile or ice auger working again, and was never afraid to try the thinnest ice on the bay...he probably should have worn a life jacket!

Bernie is survived by his wife, Chris; his four boys - Ron (Andrea), Pat (Michelle), Dave(Jill), and Brian; his 12 grandkids - Brett (Ilsa), Cora (Robbie), Nate and (Katelyn), Brady, Max, Erika, Bailey, Haley, Nick, Maverick, Nash, and Lilianna; and his 2 great-grandkids Robert and Archer McLennan. Further survived by his 6 siblings - Ray (Sue), Jane (Marty) Eckardt, Gladys (Ken) Norris, Jerry (Marsha), Alan (Kathleen), and Lynn Wallis; his sister-in-laws Wendy, Jan (Rick), Raya (Marv); and his brother-in-law Mike (Margaret). He was preceded in death by his parents Vern and Marion, his father and mother in-law Gerald and Phyllis Ehle, and brother-in-law Jerry Ehle. Bernie leaves behind a wonderful legacy. A legacy of love. A legacy of kindness. A legacy of selflessness. He will be sorely missed by his family, and the many people that consider him a friend.

Visitation will be held at St. James Lutheran Church in Rudyard on Wednesday, November 7 from 6:00-8:00 pm and on Thursday, November 8 from Noon-1:00 pm. The memorial service will follow at 1:00 pm. Finally, there will be a luncheon at the Town Hall after the memorial service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to the Rudyard Township Parks (Baseball/Softball fields) or Hospice of the EUP.

Tribute Wall

MR

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire VanSloten and extended family during this time. I remember Bernie from New Hope Church and from the community. He was always smiling and had a love for the Lord and his family. He will certainly be missed and remembered.

Mike and Melissa Rivenburgh - November 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Chris we are all very saddened for you by Bernie's loss. I know you know he is in bliss where he is now. He's telling stories with my dad, Randy and every other person that has gone before him. We are here to help you through this time of sorrow, but keep your head looking up for the best is yet to come. Please know we pray for comfort and peace for you. Always in our Lord, The Reilly family

The Reilly family - November 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Wonderful memories of how kind and friendly he always was. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family. May you all find solace in the wonderful memories you will share.

Cindy Bryner Craig - November 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Sorry to hear about your loss, I had the pleasure of being around Mr. Van Sloten back when he was coming to Ron's college games at CMU, he was a great guy with a dry sense of humor. I always admired the strong relationship Ron had with his Dad. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Van Sloten family.

Denny McNamara - November 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Thoughts and Prayers to Your Entire Family..God hold you close at this Time.

Larry and Jamie Fegan - November 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ED

“ My deepest sympathy in the loss of Bernie. Beth Davis

Elizabeth J Davis - November 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ May God bless you, Chris, and your whole extended family through this time of sorrow. Bernie's kindness and gentle, good nature is reflected through his sons, who will carry his legacy forward.

Karen McDowell Boncek - November 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ I can only feel for family and thought often of Bernie over the years. My thoughts are for the family and the men that I grew up with and how he shaped our lives for the better. Love Bill

Bill Howland - November 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BO

“ Chris and family- so sad to hear of the passing of Bernie. You are all in our thoughts and prayers

BETTY OSBORN - November 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ You will be greatly missed by everyone in the community. It was an honor to know you and call you a friend.

Dawn M Gillett - November 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ *Sincere condolences to the VanSloten family.*

Brian Komejan - November 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ *So sorry for your loss, may the memories you have give you comfort in your time of sorrow!*

Jane Lanaville - November 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM