



Bernard (Bernie) Handerhan

July 8, 1941 - February 28, 2025

Bernard (Bernie) Handerhan, 83, of The Villages, FL, passed away on February 28, 2025, after a courageous battle with melanoma cancer.

Born on July 8, 1941, to Hugh and Gertrude Handerhan in Carnegie, PA, Bern's life was one filled with love and dedication. He married the love of his life, Ruth Fife, shortly after high school, and together they celebrated 64 years of marriage. Their bond was a true testament to love, and everyone who knew them could see the deep affection they shared. They raised their children, Bernie, Barb, and Brian, in Oakdale, PA, where family was always at the heart of their lives.

Bern often said that nothing meant more to him than his family. Whether it was offering a helping hand or tackling a project, he was always there for his loved ones. He had a remarkable ability to fix or build anything, even constructing an inground pool for the family to enjoy, where they hosted many fun-filled gatherings. Bern's incredible sense of humor kept friends and family laughing. In 2002, Bernie and Ruth retired to The Villages, FL, where they embraced their love for pickleball, horseshoes, and golf, enjoying 23 years of happiness with both old and new friends. Though his life was filled with many passions, Bernie never missed a Pittsburgh Steelers game, always watching with those who shared his enthusiasm for the team.

To all who knew him, Bernie was the epitome of a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Bernie was predeceased by his parents Hugh and Gertude Handerhan, his brother Joesph Handerhan and his sisters Ginny Hohn, Janet Brockmyer and Judy Handerhan. He leaves behind his devoted wife Ruth; his brother Bill; his children Bernie (Rita), Barb (Reed), and Brian (Stephanie); as well as his grandchildren, Jordan (Mead), Adam, Lauren, Jacob, and Anna. He also leaves his great-grandchildren Rae, Collins, and Worth, all of whom he cherished deeply.

A celebration of Bernie's life will be held at New Bethel Community Church on March 29, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. with lunch following. The church is located at 8780 SE 157th Place, Summerfield, FL.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR **29**. 10:00 AM (ET)

New Bethel Community Church
8780 SE 157th PI
Summerfield, FL 34491

Lunch will follow the Celebration of Life service.

Tribute Wall

KE

“ During fun times like Steeler games and golf, Bernie was joyful. During difficult times like throughout his battle with cancer, Bernie was still a joyful person.
We will miss him very much but his joyful spirit will stay with us.

Kathy & Dave Ehrhardt - March 20, 2025 at 01:24 PM

BJ

“ The private memories I have of Dad, I will keep for myself to remember and cherish forever, but I will share this one memory. Dad was a man of few words. A kind, gentle soul, and a good man. A Great Father!
One memory was when my wife Rita and I went to a lunch buffet with Dad and the rest of the family. We loaded up our plates with a lot of good food, then sat down at the table to eat. After sitting there for a bit, Dad started to say something. As I was listening with interest, he said, "Too bad we aren't like cows with multiple compartments in our stomach so we could save some of this food to eat later." My wife Rita said to me, "I think in the future your Dad will write a book entitled, "Deep Thoughts" by Bernard Handerhan. Dad was always there for me, my sister Barb, and my brother Brian. I am sure we will always remember his love and devotion to us, and to our Mom. Thanks Dad, we all love you!
Bernard Jr. and wife Rita

Bernard Handerhan Jr. - March 18, 2025 at 07:31 PM