



Bernard Leo Francka Jr.

April 23, 1959 - May 6, 2022

On Friday, May 6, 2022, the Francka family lost their greatest farmer to a battle with lymphoma. Bernard Leo Francka, Jr., “Bern,” fought for over a year with the support of his loved ones and medical team. Bern was a strong man, with a love for God’s green Earth and his family.

Born in Springfield, Missouri, April 23, 1959, to Barbara (Horton) and Bernard Francka, Sr. Bernie was raised on the family farm, shadowing and learning the trade from his dad. He attended Bolivar High School, Class of 1977. He participated in football and baseball and he was also an active member of the Bolivar FFA, where his love of farming continued. During this time, he began courting his high school sweetheart, Cindy Barham. They were married August 14, 1981, and were blessed with three children; Bernard Leo III (B.L.), Mallory Ann, and Samuel Clark. He was a faithful member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bolivar.

In the local agricultural community, Bern was one of the greats. He was his family’s fourth generation to farm their land. From milking cows, growing and harvesting crops, carpentry, and mechanics, there was very little he couldn’t do. Bern began his own custom harvesting services, where he loved being behind the wheel of his John Deere equipment. He held various positions over the years, including being a board member of the Bolivar Farmers Exchange,

county committee-man for Polk County FSA, and an active member of the Bolivar Young Farmers. Over time, he became a self-taught explorer of the world wide web; from online farm equipment auctions, to farm YouTube channels, Bern could be found late evenings, at his basement desk, with a salty bowl of popcorn searching online for his next big idea.

Bernard is survived by his loving wife, Cindy; mother, Barbara; brother, Raymond (Jane); sister, Amy (Brian Perkins); son, B.L. and wife Keli; daughter, Mallory and husband Jesse Ramsey; son, Sam and wife Faith; grandchildren: Boe, Jax, Gabe, Kellsey, Annie, Dal, Landon, Tucker and Holden; brother-in-law David Barham (Lisa), and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, neices and nephews. He is predeceased by his father, Bernard Francka, Sr.; brother, Daniel Francka, and in-laws, Randy and Janice Barham.

Visitation for Bernard will be held 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Sunday, May 15, 2022, at Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar, MO. Funeral Mass will be held 10:30 AM Monday, May 16, 2022, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bolivar, MO. Burial will take place in St. Wenceslaus Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Wenceslaus Cemetery.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 15. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar
407 E. Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
(417) 326-5233
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

MAY 16. 10:30 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
1405 W Fair Play St
Bolivar, MO 65613

Graveside

MAY 16 (CT)

St. Wenceslaus
State Hwy U
Bolivar, MO 65613

Tribute Wall



“ *Bernard Leo Francka Jr.*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Bernard Leo Francka Jr.*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Kevin, Jeri, Dannie, Mary Jane Hubbert purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of Bernard Leo Francka Jr..*



Kevin, Jeri, Dannie, Mary Jane Hubbert - May 14, 2022 at 07:56 PM

AM

“ Cindy, Mrs. Barbara Francka, Raymond/Jane, and Amy/Brian and Francka Children/Grandchildren,

My Deepest Condolences to all of you on the passing of Bernard. I knew you all by taking care of Bernard's Father at St. John's back in the late 80's. I came to your house Cindy meeting Bernard and you. I was with either Raymond or Daniel. I remember how nice and friendly you all were and enjoyed being around you all for a short period of time. So sorry for the passing of Bernard. I will keep all of you in my daily prayers/thoughts. May God comfort, encourage, strengthen, and give each of you peace. May God bless all of you.

*In Christian Love,
Mrs. Amber(Cozort)Redburn*

Amber(Cozort)Redburn - May 14, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Bernard Leo Francka Jr..



May 13, 2022 at 08:57 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bernard Leo Francka Jr..



May 12, 2022 at 03:58 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bernard Leo Francka Jr..



May 11, 2022 at 11:59 AM



“ Heritage Tractor - Rogersville purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Bernard Leo Francka Jr..



Heritage Tractor - Rogersville - May 10, 2022 at 03:31 PM



“ Charles & Brenda Krueger (Krueger Dairy) purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Bernard Leo Francka Jr..



Charles & Brenda Krueger (Krueger Dairy) - May 10, 2022 at 11:24 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Bernard Leo Francka Jr..



May 09, 2022 at 09:20 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bernard Leo Francka Jr..*



May 09, 2022 at 07:29 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bernard Leo Francka Jr..*



May 09, 2022 at 06:11 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bernard Leo Francka Jr..*



May 09, 2022 at 05:27 PM



“ *Bernard was our go to man in hay season. He's been a friend and always there to help when we needed him.
Sympathy to his wife, his Mother, and his children. God be with you all.
Fred & Bonnie*

Bonnie Potts - May 09, 2022 at 02:09 PM

MV

“ My prayers and wishes go out to the Francka family. Our memories of Bernie will last forever. The Vodicka Brothers sort of grew up with the Francka boys in the early years. I am one of the sons of Ed Vodicka, we used to live in Karlin, just down the hill from the Francka Farm. Bernie you will be miss, but not forgotten.

Marty. Vodicka - May 08, 2022 at 09:49 PM

JO

“ May God give The Francka Family strength and healing through this difficult time. Love always.
Janet Olson

Janet Olson - May 07, 2022 at 01:07 PM

BY

“ our condolences to family of bernard francka bill and linda yarberry

bill yarberry - May 07, 2022 at 08:56 AM