



## Bernard Leo Francka Sr.

April 23, 1932 - March 25, 2017

Bernard Leo Francka, Sr., age 84, Bolivar, died peacefully in his home on Saturday, March 25, 2017. Bernard was born on April 23, 1932, the third of four children to Ben and Mary Ann "Mayme" (Stanek) Francka. He started school at Elm Grove District 69 and graduated from Bolivar High School in 1950, where he played football, contributed to Tiger Tracks, the school newspaper, and was a member of the Bolivar FFA.

After high school he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was an airplane mechanic, stationed in Pensacola and Key West, Florida. In 1956, he met Barbara Sue Horton at a wedding reception dance of mutual friends. During their courtship, Bernard convinced the "city girl" to become a "farm wife" and they were married on August 17, 1957, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Springfield, Missouri. They were blessed to share almost 60 years together as husband and wife.

He was devout in his faith as a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, where he served as an extraordinary minister, administered Holy Communion to the homebound, and served on the Parish Council. He was a charter member of the Knights of Columbus Council 8931.

Raising a family and being a good neighbor were foremost in his daily life. Milking cows, growing and harvesting crops, carpentry, mechanics, and many

other skills were hallmarks of Bernard. In addition to his work on the family farm, he served as a board member of the Bolivar R-1 School Board, and Bolivar Farmers Exchange, and was a proud member of the American Legion Post 138.

Surviving are his wife, Barbara; three children: Bernard Jr. and Cindy Francka; Raymond and Jane Francka; Amy and Brian Perkins; 11 grandchildren: B.L. Francka (Keli); Mallory Ramsey (Jesse); Samuel Francka (Faith); Matthew Francka (Erin); Danielle Emmons (Cole); Ally Murray (Josh); Larry Covert, Amy Hodges (Ben); Emily Wheelbarger (Zach); Brady and Reese Perkins; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Also surviving are sisters: Sophia (Ed) Griesbaum; Elizabeth Kressig and in-laws: Ruth Francka, Bill (Mary) Horton; Pat (Belle) Horton; Clara Horton; Judy Horton; Charlie (Linda) Horton; Mary Ann Horton and good friend Virginia Mayeux, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Preceding Bernard in death were his parents, his son, Daniel, and his brother, Ben Francka.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 29, from 5-7 pm, with The Rosary beginning at 7 pm, at the Butler Funeral Home, of Bolivar.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, March 30, at 10 am at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bolivar, with burial in St. Wenceslaus Cemetery south of Bolivar.

Memorial donations may be made to Knights of Columbus Council 8931, PO Box 106, Bolivar, MO 65613.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **29**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Rosary

MAR **29**. 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Funeral Service

MAR **30**. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bernard Leo Francka Sr.*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Bernard Leo Francka Sr.*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Uncle Bernard is and was the best. Loved going to see him at the farm and hearing the stories. I loved having him in my wedding. My kids enjoyed going to the farm as they remember feeding the calves. He has a great heart and it is nice to know we have him praying for us in heaven. Our prayers are with Aunt Barbara and all the family. Love to you all! Marcia and John and the kids!*

**marcia davis** - March 31, 2017 at 06:37 AM



“ *Bernard was a good friend. We have spent many hours working together, visiting about everything form farming, family, friends. He use to come to the farm and help chop corn. He favorite part was when mom & dad brought lunch to the barn. He was always happy or so he seemed. Just a wonderful guy to be around. He will be missed. He dearly loved his family. You could see his chest pop out a little more everytime a new member of the family joined the harvest crew. May the Lord bring you all comfort in this time of sorrow.*

**Lavern "loaf" Mashburn** - March 30, 2017 at 04:26 AM

LH

“ I am sorry for you loss, you are all in my thoughts and prayers.  
LeAnn Hubbert

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**LeAnn Hubbert** - March 29, 2017 at 09:49 PM

SP

“ Bernard always had a kind word, an amazing story and a genuine concern for all living things. I'm gonna miss him coming up to me so he could smell my cigar and most of all his smiling face at the dinner table. I have never walk away from him without him thanking me for being there. I'll miss your presence in this life but I will see you again in the next. God Speed.

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**Steve Pearson** - March 29, 2017 at 07:34 PM

JA

“ I was so sorry to hear of the passing of a true gentleman. I will always be grateful for having a friendship with Bernard and for his counsel and advice along life's way. Please know that your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

*Jerald Andrews*

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**Jerald Andrews** - March 29, 2017 at 05:42 PM

CT

“ Bernard was a neighbor and friend. The first person I met when I moved to Bolivar back in 91...i will miss seeing him out and about tending to his garden or The farm.. He will sadly missed and fondly remembered. So sorry for your loss.

*Carol Tobin and Melissa Martin*

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**Carol Tobin** - March 29, 2017 at 02:59 PM

JH

“ We are very saddened by Bernard's passing, he will be dearly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Kevin & Jeri Hubbert

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**Jeri Hubbert** - March 29, 2017 at 11:01 AM

TH

“ The Families of Chuck and Andy Horton purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Bernard Leo Francka Sr..



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**The Families of Chuck and Andy Horton** - March 29, 2017 at 10:07 AM



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



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March 28, 2017 at 08:23 PM



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



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March 28, 2017 at 04:32 PM

SF

“ *Sullivans, Hoovers, Prathers, & Pride Band Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bernard Leo Francka Sr..*



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**Sullivans, Hoovers, Prathers, & Pride Band Family** - March 28, 2017 at 01:46 PM

TD

“ *The MSU Music Department purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bernard Leo Francka Sr..*



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**The MSU Music Department** - March 28, 2017 at 12:49 PM

MF

“ *Our sympathy to the family on your loss. May your faith be a comfort to you.  
Marcy and Mindy Francka*

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**Marcy and Mindy Francka** - March 28, 2017 at 07:25 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bernard Leo Francka Sr..*



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March 27, 2017 at 10:25 PM

LB

“ When we moved to Bolivar three years ago we attended Mass at Sacred Heart. Bernard and Barbara Francka were the first people to greet us after the service. They were so friendly and welcoming that we felt at home immediately. We will miss Bernard sitting in front of us and his warm handshake and smile. Prayers for all, Rick and Laura Bigler

Laura and Rick Bigler - March 27, 2017 at 10:01 PM



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



March 27, 2017 at 06:57 PM

EP

“ Very sorry to hear about Bernard, As one of his 1950 class mates as one of his friendships touch. he is thought of very much.  
Ernest Pierce



Ernest Pierce - March 27, 2017 at 06:20 PM



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



March 27, 2017 at 05:48 PM

LF

“ Bernard was an amazing man and a great friend to many! He would graciously do anything for others and offer all that he had to those in need, whether it was simply giving of his time or items of sustenance. We will never forget all of the wonderful times spent together in the square dance circle and on the two-step floor as he always flashed that beautiful smile. We know that heaven gained a great one on Saturday! We will miss you. Jeff, Lisa, Zachary, Caleb, Aubrey, & Taylor

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**Lisa Funk** - March 27, 2017 at 01:44 PM



“ Uncle Bernard was a great man that always had a smile on his face. I am sure he and my mother and father are having some great talks in heaven. RIP Uncle Bernard!

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**Bob Horton** - March 27, 2017 at 01:25 PM