



Bernard C. Conklin

July 2, 1924 - January 19, 2013

Bernard C. Conklin, 88, of Traverse City, Mi, passed away January 19, 2013, at his home surrounded by his family and his beloved dog, Daisy.

Bernard was born on July 2, 1924, in Owosso, Mi, to the late Chester James and Florence (Confer) Conklin.

Bernard shared 67 wonderful years of marriage with the love of his life, Nona, before she passed away in 2009. Their love of family inspired us all and they rarely missed a family event. The world is a better place because of their strength in family, faith and love.

Bernard influenced so many lives and his light will shine on through his family as we honor him.

Bernard honorably served in the United States Army in World War II as a private. He was at Anzio Beach, Italy, where he was wounded and lost his leg and sight in one eye at the age of 18 and newly married. He went on to Eastern Michigan where he received his teaching degree. His passion was coaching and he was employed for 33 years as a teacher and coach of football and baseball. Bernard's 1965 football team became the only undefeated team in Owosso High history. He also coached for the American Legion Baseball League where one of his teams went all the way to the national regional finals. When Bernard taught at Fort Custer, he took a group of students to the very first Special Olympics at Soldier Field in Chicago. It was such a thrill and honor for those students to participate in the Olympics and receive medals. All through his life, Bernard was a passionate Michigan Wolverine fan and loved to watch them play.

Bernard and Nona retired to Fairfield Glade, Tennessee, in 1986. He was an active member of the Fairfield Glade Community Church where he enjoyed singing in the choir and was a volunteer in the Stevens Ministry group. In his spare time, he loved to golf, play bridge and watch football. He was also active in the Fairfield Lions Club. Later in his retirement, he became a mentor/mediator for the court system to help mediate cases to avoid trial.

Bernard is survived by his two daughters, Patricia Conklin and Norma Raffaelli; two sons, Thomas (Tara) Conklin and Richard (Nancy) Conklin; 17 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren; 1 great-great grandchild as well as many other loving family members and friends.

Bernard was preceded in death by his wife, parents, son-in-law, John "Jack" Raffaelli, granddaughter Breanny, and siblings Emma, Marjorie, Ronald and Norman.

Memorial services will be held at the First Congregational Church in Suttons Bay, Mi on Monday, February 4 at 1:00pm with visitation beginning at 12 noon.

Memorial contributions in memory of Bernard may be directed to Hospice of Michigan or to the Disabled American Veterans.

Please visit <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com> to share your thoughts and memories with the family.

The family is being served by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Events

FEB **Visitation** 12:00PM - 01:00PM

4

First Congregational Church in Suttons Bay
Madison and Lincoln, Suttons Bay, MI, US

FEB **Memorial Service** 01:00PM

4

First Congregational Church in Suttons Bay
Madison and Lincoln, Suttons Bay, MI, US

Comments



“ The Fairfield Glade Lions Club sends their sympathy to the Conklin family at this time of Bernie's passing. He is well remembered and certainly lived by our motto, "We Serve." Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



Sue Litman, FFG Lions Club - February 02, 2013 at 08:34 PM



“ Just saw the obit on Bernie in the Fairfield Glade Sun. He golfed with my husband Bob who loved him from Day One! Bob played football at U of M & met Gordon Barnes (Owosso" to his coach Wally Weber) his first fall there as a freshman in '52. Gordon had played for Bernie at Owosso High. A story Bob loves to tell is the day Bernie arrived "late", just as they were ready to tee off, mumbling. His artificial leg strap broke & he finally had to duck tape the leg on. We remember Bernie with LOVE! Nona too!
Bob & Jo Ames

Joanne Ames - February 01, 2013 at 10:46 AM



“ We will miss you Poppa! You and Nana were such a great influence in my life. I am blessed to have had you in my life and that Sarah, Claire and Gabby were able to get to know their great grandparents! You taught me how important family is and to be a good person. You and Nana never missed a family event. We love you.

Christy

Christy Conklin Foster - January 30, 2013 at 10:01 AM



“ I had Mr. Conklin while attending Parchment High School and always remember him fondly for his "take no guff" attitude and ability to make the class exciting and interesting. You could just tell this was a man with a noble history and a desire to share his knowledge and interests with the next generations. So sorry for your loss, but you have to be so proud of his legacy. Take care. Kaarin (Stahl) Lueck

Kaarin Stahl - January 25, 2013 at 07:32 PM



“ John & Janie (Hart) Little lit a candle in memory of Bernard C. Conklin



John & Janie (Hart) Little - January 24, 2013 at 04:28 PM



“ Uncle Bernie was my favorite uncle, as well as Aunt Nona being my favorite aunt. They were always there for family. I know when they lived in Tennessee and came to Michigan they would always stop at the nursing home to see Aunt Emma and my mom. My mom loved seeing them and would get so excited to know they were coming. I was glad when they moved to Traverse City because I could see them more, I have so many memories of them as we were growing up and will cherish all of them. Rest in peace Uncle Bernie. I know you are happy now that you have reunited with Aunt Nona,

Love Ya,

Sharon Alden

SharonAlden - January 24, 2013 at 01:29 PM



“ Condolences to the Conklin family----I had Mr. Conklin as one of the coaches for the Owosso American Legion baseball team 1964-66. It was a pleasure knowing him.As a fellow veteran~ I salute him as he watches over us.
Mel Libby---Durand

Mel Libby - January 24, 2013 at 09:51 AM



“ Dear Conklin family & friends, I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. Conklin was my health teacher in 1980, he taught our class CPR and encouraged us all to NEVER hesitate to help another in need. Mr. Conklin had a great sense of humor and made first hour a funny and informative learning experience, I will never forget him or his sacrifice to our country~

Lisa L. DeYoung - January 23, 2013 at 04:45 PM



“ Uncle Bernie was one of the most caring person I ever knew I remember him and Nona coming up to nursing home to visit Ma and Dad he will be solely missed thanks
Jim DeVoe

Jim DeVoe - January 23, 2013 at 08:10 AM



“ My Papa was such an incredible man. I am so blessed to have had him in my life and in my childrens lives as well. I have so many memories as a young child, going to the house in Richland several weekends of my childhood. Nana and Papa taught us how to play pounce, Michigan rummy, to make French toast, to appreciate family, to love all that you have and most of all to simply love. I am who I am today because of them. Thank you for taking Christy and I to Cape Cod so we could be part of our sisters lives, thank you for taking us to all of the Conklin family events, thank you for making so many trips here for my graduation from nursing school, for Ben and Grace's baptism and the last time for Sadie's High School graduation. That meant more to me than you'll ever know!Most of all just thank you for all of the unconditional love. I hope there is plenty of coffee, football and snuggle time with Nana up in heaven. Meagan Conklin-Santos

Meagan Santos - January 23, 2013 at 05:12 AM



“ Mr Conklin was teacher, coach ,counsler,war hero,and inspiratiion for my career. Wounded Warriors of today can only be inspired by how he overcame his severe war wounds and had such a celebrated career. He was a true American Hero. To Norma and family , my condolence. May God Bless and keep him in peace.

Tom Campbell
class of 58

Thomas E Campbell - January 22, 2013 at 11:47 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Cheryl Root - January 22, 2013 at 10:08 PM



“ Cheryl Root lit a candle in memory of Bernard C. Conklin



Cheryl Root - January 22, 2013 at 09:37 PM



“ What can I say other then we lost a great man! Over the years we laugh, cried and have built great memoirs together! I am very happy I got to spend some time with him last week and daisy too. I asked him where my smile was and he gave me one, This is the man I will remember and his lovey wife also. This year he gave me the best present ever HE said I want you to have this it was a picture of there 50 wedding anniversary and it been on my refrigerator ever sense. He has left an emptiness in me but I know he is were he wants to be.

From Cheryl and Jennifer

Cheryl Root - January 22, 2013 at 09:58 PM



“ My dad will leave an emptiness in many of our hearts. He was a good man who loved his family, faith and sports. I learned so much from him and really enjoyed watching the games with him and sharing his enthusiasm. I will never forget his joy at going to the "Big House" 2 years in a row recently. Dad, you and Mom can now watch over all of us and guide us in our future. You both were the best.

Love, Patsy

Patricia Sue Conklin - January 22, 2013 at 09:04 PM



“ Hi Patsy....you may, or may not remember me, but I spent quite a bit of time at your home with your brother Tom. Very sorry to hear of your dad's passing. I was a member of the 65 football team, and will always remember the guidance and toughness Bernie tried to instill in all of the players. We probably didn't understand the life lesson he was preaching at the time, but soon after graduating from OHS, it sure became clear! My best to your family.

Dean Cobb

wd.cobb1947@gmail.com

William Dean Cobb - January 26, 2013 at 11:49 AM



“ Norma,
I am so sorry to hear your fathers passing. I never had him for a teacher but have always heard wonderful words about him. God be with you and your family.
Sandi Stange Rogalski

Sandra Jeanne Rogalski - January 22, 2013 at 07:05 PM



“ Mr. Conklin was my homeroom, and health teacher at Parchment High School. Even though he looked kind of ornery on the outside he was very funny. A kind of wry sense of humor, like when teaching health and telling the consequences of drinking and smoking - he would tell us under his breath that he "was known to have a puff or drink every once in a while" I had a chance after graduation to be on the golf course with him a couple of times and he was a very fun to be with. My condolences to the Bernie Conklin family, Rob Bryan

Rob Bryan - January 22, 2013 at 05:28 PM



“ Mr. Conklin was an icon at Emerson School. Unfortunately, like many great teachers, he was not as appreciated by us young, shallow, know it all already, students as he is now. He gave fully to his family, his community, and his country, and we sorely need more like him today. My condolences to Norma and the rest of his family.

Mick Danek

Mick Danek - January 22, 2013 at 04:23 PM



“ I had Mr. Conklin for my 8th grade science teacher in 1953 at Emerson. One amazing man, always gave his best to the students. Will certainly be missed by all.
Arden Hudson

Arden R. Hudson - January 22, 2013 at 02:24 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Conklin's family. There are many memories of a true gentleman throughout his years with the Owosso School System.

Judy Porter Bingaman

Judy Porter Bingaman - January 22, 2013 at 10:09 PM



“ Dear Nancy & Family, My sympathy to you and your family. I am so sorry for your loss. Terri Wolthuis

Terri L. Wolthuis - January 22, 2013 at 03:57 AM



“ Dear Norma, Jodi, Jill, Mike and family, My deepest sympathy to each of you in the loss of Poppa. What a great man he was and a true inspiration to all who had the opportunity to know him. I am so sorry for your loss. Love and hugs to each of you,
Tammy Rappuhn VanHorn

Tammy VanHorn - January 22, 2013 at 03:41 PM