



Bernice Macas

October 9, 1931 - October 4, 2023

Bernice was born in the Back of the Yards neighborhood in Chicago on October 9, 1931, and died peacefully on October 4, 2023.

In 1950 she married Edward Macas, who preceded her in death in 2003. Together, Eddie and Bernice had three daughters: Barbara Macas, the late Carol Fout, and Linda Parker. Her much-loved grandchildren Debbie, Kimberly, and William spent many days at Long Lake. Bernice also has three great-grandchildren: Peyton, Riley, and Morgan.

Bernice moved her family to Long Lake and commuted nightly to her job in Chicago. When she retired she began childcare. Auntie Bernice loved watching the children grow into wonderful adults. She always remembered Melissa, Cassie, Beth, Catherine (KD), Kevin, Jenny, Melissa (Mel), Steven, R.J., Andrew, Ryan, Curt, and Teagan, and she remembered the names of their children too. Her neighbors and friends held a special place in her heart. Everyone was always generous and helpful to her. Her granddaughter Debbie helped in so many ways and was always appreciated by Bernice. Bernice also loved her cats. Charlie was the first and all the others were named Charlie too. She said it was easy to remember. Bernice's last cat was Charlie 5.

A memorial gathering and visitation will be from 12:30 - 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at Ringa Funeral Home in Lake Villa. Donations can be made to St. Jude's Hospital or Samaritan's Purse to help children in need have a long life.

<https://raise.stjude.org/fundraiser/5036539>

<https://fundraise.samaritanspurse.org/fundraiser/5036725>

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **28**. 12:30 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Ringa Funeral Home

122 S. Milwaukee Ave.

Lake Villa, IL 60046

(847) 356-2146

info@ringafuneralhome.com

<https://www.ringafuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

TB

“ *The Bretschneider's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernice Macas.*

The Bretschneider's - October 26, 2023 at 06:56 PM

TB

“ *The Bretschneider's purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bernice Macas.*



The Bretschneider's - October 26, 2023 at 06:56 PM



“ *Aunt Bernice was the best! She would always say yes when I wanted to bring a group of friends up to hang out at the house to play on Long Lake. All my friends continue to talk about the great times we had at the lake and how welcomed Aunt Bernice and Uncle Eddie made them feel. She will always be in our memories!*



Tom Stoklosa - October 21, 2023 at 11:00 AM

“ I cannot describe my feelings about the loss of my mom. I am going to miss terribly our conversations. It will take some time to not pick up the phone to give her a call to see how her day is going. My only solace is that now mom is with dad. She missed him so much.

Memories Of Mom (and Dad)

They were both a little hesitant about moving to Long Lake. It took a lot to move away from their family and out of the city to start the next phase of their lives. But in the end they couldn't be happier. The picture I chose was when we had the entire family come out to take picture at the lake.

They were so happy when mom decided to quit her job in the city and start babysitting. The enjoyment they got out of watching everyone grow up was made more special because everyone became part of the family. They became Aunt Bernice and Uncle Eddie. Mom being more of the disciplinary and dad breaking all the rules. They talked for months about the various day trips.

They so enjoyed when family and extended family came to visit. Be it Long Lake, Door County or Octagon House (for fish boil). They couldn't have bigger smiles on their faces.

Mom so enjoyed eating and planning her next meal. Especially when we were in Door County, she would spend time everyday reviewing the restaurant guide to see the daily specials. One of her favorite breakfast was the Cookery's granola French Toast. The other was when Linda and Mike stopped on the way home from Kim's wedding so that she could have a lobster roll.

Mom was so thankful for everyone that came to visit her either at home or at Crystal Pines. She always said that she couldn't have been in her house, for as long as she was, without the help of her friends. From getting mail, newspaper or coming to visit. They will hold a special place in my heart.

One of the last phone calls I had with mom was that during her last visit to the hospital she had bacon at every meal. Bacon was on the top for her favorite food. She always said that she would be happy to die with bacon on her breathe. She got her wish.

Again, I cannot thank the folks in her life that made it so special, especially at the end. Life will go on but mom and dad will never be forgotten. There is going to be every big void in my life. But hope to see them at some time in the future.



Barb Macas - October 14, 2023 at 06:24 PM

JB

Barb what great memories you share! She a great tribute to an amazing woman who brought so much light into this world! Your Mom filled many hearts and her zest for life will continue in the lives of those she touched! She will never be forgotten!

I so remember the many summers we visited your mom and dads home with my family and those memories are treasures we hold! Loved how your dad took us out in the pontoon for the lake tour! Your Mom always making sure the kids had plenty to do! Summer fun at its best!!

To all the Macas family I extend my deepest condolences! Know your in my prayers but most of all know Bernice is just a whisper away and a new angel watching over us all! Xoxo love you so, Janet and Jim Balayti

janet jim balayti - October 15, 2023 at 12:13 PM

LP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Linda Parker - October 14, 2023 at 12:22 PM

PW

“ *They say it takes a village to raise a child Bernice was the heart of that village, our girls and grandkids all loved going and seeing her and seeing Charlie that put smiles on their faces she will always be in our hearts ❤️*

Pam and Willie - October 13, 2023 at 03:06 PM

EG

Bernice was one of my favorite caregiving clients. We had in common our love for Door County.

She shared stories of many trips there with family and friends.

Bernice had sturdy everlasting faith. She enjoyed weekly visits from her parish priest. I have admiration for her strength and practicality in making a home lakeside for over 50 years, at waters' edge. She knew every square foot of her home, and how to manage it thru every season.

Bernice inspired me with her courage to face forward into advanced aging.

It was my honor and privilege to visit her and attend to her household and personal needs. I shall miss her.

Ellen G - November 19, 2023 at 09:45 PM

MH

“ Sending thoughts, prayers, and good vibes to the entire Macus Family. We had an absolutely wonderful childhood growing up next to Bernice. I have such a clear vision of the opening in the row of lilacs that connected our yards. The fence was there but no grass, as we were always there. Either to climb over or just to say hi and chat. I believe she was always watching us from that spot. It is such a blessing that Mrs. Macus got to share her love and talent with so many children and families. She will always hold a special place in my heart.

Missy (Newman) Hill - October 12, 2023 at 09:32 AM

JS

“ Aunt Bernice,

You were my home away from home. Never a “babysitter.” You loved like I was your own and the memories we made together have left a lasting impression on me. The magic shows, making sweatshirts, popsicles and laying out on the deck after hours of swimming in the summer, “Christmas in July” for my birthday, peanut butter face sandwiches, trips to the zoo, movies, Chicago, arts and crafts galore, helping with homework- “Aunt Bernice, how do you spell _____?” “Get the dictionary and look it up.”

You helped teach me that hard work pays off, that imagination breeds creativity, that I can in fact, do anything I put my mind to. I’m so incredibly grateful for you. I’m a better Mom because of the important lessons you taught me. “God grant me patience” and “don’t run faster than your guardian Angel can fly” run through my brain often. You inspired all that I did at my home daycare.

Thank you for being a listening ear as I got older and needed your wisdom. Your perspective on the world was settling and I left your house with a better grasp on how to handle whatever situation I threw at you. Your love, sense of humor and zest for life will continue to live in everyone who was blessed enough to know you.

I love you Aunt Bernice. I miss you incredibly. Cheers to your first birthday in heaven. I know you’re celebrating ❤️

-Jenny



Jenny Sheets - October 09, 2023 at 07:48 PM

PS

“ There is a special place in heaven for those who care for children. Aunt Bernice will be among the best of babysitters and caregiver to the parents of the children she helped raise. She made us feel like family. We were blessed to have her in our lives. She was kind, patient, gentle, loving, but still knew when to get us all “in line”. She had the red chair, the special square on the kitchen floor, and the awesome cups that the kids had to share. She made awesome lunches and played games with the kids. They watched PBS Channel 11, had carnivals, went swimming, skated, and fished. They took daily walks and everyone had a spot for the afternoon naps. Aunt Bernice let my kids be creative with her fun crafts and she knew how to make every one of us feel special. May all the good memories help the family get through the difficult days ahead. May her reunion with Eddie, family and friends be one of the best parties ever! All our love and admiration forever ... Steve, Peggy, Catherine and Kevin Savage

Peggy Savage - October 07, 2023 at 05:33 PM

M(

“ Where do I even begin? Aunt Bernice (and Uncle Eddie) helped make so many childhood memories for me and anyone who they fondly took into their home before school, after school and on days off.

Our days were filled with carnivals, naps on “our” bed or couch, swimming EVERY DAY after nap time with black tubes and jumping off the dock, walks down to the beach to find shells, the “circle” cup filled with kool-aid, peanut butter face sandwiches, calendars full of fun-themed days, getting to pick our lunch and cake flavor on our birthdays, McDonald’s Picnics and Native American Festivals, putting on plays, waiting anxiously for the Christmas lights to go on, Charlie the cat (ALL of them!), granola bars at Halloween, the wooden spoon and red chair, Zoobilee Zoo, PBS fairy tale remakes, Mr. Rogers, the California Raisins, Cheers, all the Sing-Along-Songs and so many more shows and movies that I only watched at her home.

Aunt Bernice was one heck of a lady that was more like a grandmother to me. She helped raise and shape me into who I am today. She was generous, empathetic, resilient, humble, nurturing and had the patient of a Saint. I know she would be turning 92 in a few days, but she’ll forever be 100-years-old to me!

Aunt Bernice, you will be missed dearly by so many people. You’ve touched an infinite amount lives and while I’m extremely sad about losing you, I’m so happy you finally get to be reunited with Uncle Eddie. I love and miss you tremendously. Sending sympathy and prayers to the family. Please know that our hearts are breaking right along with you.

Melissa McCart (Sheets) - October 07, 2023 at 02:07 PM

LN

“ *Bernice was a lovely and kind lady that I am honored to have been her friend. May she rest in peace and enjoy her reunion with Eddie. Linda I am so sorry for your loss.*

Leslie Nafzger

Leslie Nafzger - October 06, 2023 at 06:57 PM

ET

“ *My childhood was some of the very best of times and that had a lot to do with Aunt Bernice. I do not think anyone who was under her care as a child would argue. Aunt Bernice helped develop me into a caring individual, encouraged my creativity and fostered a love for various things (cinnamon and sugar toast; eggs, bacon and corn; swimming; crafts; walks; Anne of Green Gables; beautifully decorated Christmas trees...the list could really go on.) The world lost a tremendous person on Wednesday. I am forever grateful and fortunate for knowing Aunt Bernice and I love her so much. All my love to the family. My deepest sympathy and all my prayers to you.*

- Beth Thomas

Elizabeth Thomas - October 06, 2023 at 06:13 PM