



Bernard Henke

October 27, 1929 - April 15, 2011

Lt. Col. Bernard (Bernie) J. Henke, 81, died Friday, April 15, 2011.

Lt. Col. Henke retired from the United States Army after 22 years of service. He was a member of St. Michael Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus and the VFW.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Konrad and Matilda Henke; brother, Konrad Henke and brother in law, Raymond Ropelewski.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 59 years, Patricia Meszaros Henke; sons, Bernie K. and Lee Henke, Potomac Falls, VA; Phillip M. and Melinda Henke, Haymarket, VA; daughters, Veronica (Ronnie) and Mitch Lusk; Monterey, TN; Barbara and Bill Grove, Glen Allen, VA; grandchildren, Michele Bailey and her husband Mike, Patricia Kinder, Brad Grove, Brittney Grove, Nichole Henke, Zachary Henke, Melody Henke, Stephanie Henke, Kristen Badawy, Hannah Badawy, Anjela Lusk; great grandson, Terry Cropper; sisters, Matilda Ropelewski, Marie and Gilbert Roth, Veronica and George Schaeffer, Therese and Bill Ulery, Josephine and Jim Gaughan; brother in law, Edward and Theresa Meszaros; numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass will be held 11:00 AM, Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at St. Michael Catholic Church. Fr. Ray Carlo celebrant. The family will receive friends on Monday, April 18, 2011 from 3 - 5 PM at the funeral home. Interment with full military honors will be conducted at 8:45 AM, Tuesday, August 30, 2011 in Arlington National Cemetery.

Those wishing may make donations in Lt. Col. Henke's name to Tideland

Community Hospice, 2591 N. Fraser Street, Georgetown, SC 29440 or to the St. Michael Building Fund, 572 Cypress Ave., Garden City, SC, 29576.

Sign online guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com.

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel, 11528 Hwy 17 Bypass, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576 is in charge of the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **18**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Celebration Center
11528 Hwy 17 Bypass
Murrells Inlet, SC 29588
(843) 651-3295
info@goldfinchfuneralhome.com
<https://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com>

Service

APR **19**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St Michael Catholic Church
542 Cypress Ave
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
(843) 651-3737

Tribute Wall

WR

“ Hey Uncle Bernie have you run into my Dad yet? I know he's been waiting for you in the Club House.

Some of my fondest memories as a child include watching you and my Dad laughing your fool heads off and carrying on till all hours of the night...

Thank you for the wonderful memories.

Love Wally

Wally Ropelewski - August 11, 2011 at 07:08 PM

NH

“ Grandpa,

I know computers weren't for you too much but maybe you'll be reading this from up there! Don't forget your glasses. :) I honestly don't know why me and Zach called you grandpa...Brad and Brittney called you Papa. It honestly doesn't matter what you were called, what matters is you were always there for me. It didn't just start with me though. It started with your wife then I guess she liked you enough to have FOUR beautiful kids with you. :) I know my dad was a hard head when he was younger. I don't know how you dealt with him! In the long run, my dad turned out to be such a good man because of you. No matter what you were always there for him, never once judged, just like my father. You passed on such a great way of life and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I was so blessed with a father who learned so many things from you, who has a great family value as you. That is one thing I will never lose. I asked you last Christmas why we spend Christmas together like we do, you responded in such a simple way, of course in a way that was funny. You said that your dad did it too. Grandpa what you didn't realize is that you were such a great man to keep the tradition going. You knew what family should mean and did mean to you. You wanted your kids and your kids children (me) :) to understand what a gift family is. I was actually thinking...funny right...me thinking...but threw this whole thing I realized how alike we are. I think I am so much like you because my dad is so much like you. I have the funny sense of humor (at least I think so...) like you do and I love my family, just like you. That's all you need in life to live happily. I know with the wife, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, golf clubs, ice cream, and booze that you lived more a happy life, a great life.

Oh, oh, oh...let's not forget when you drove me to the hospital when you know who hit me with the golf club. You were so calm, and knew how to deal with the situation. That is another great trait as well in which I believe I got from you too.

You raised great kids who love you dearly, you have no idea how much they love you. They respect and cherish you and they miss you very dearly. They know you are up there drinking, playing golf and making jokes. I know you were looking down on us grieving, smiling, knowing that in the long run we will always know how much you gave us. You know at some point we will instead of cry, smile for the times we've shared with you. I bet you heard us laughing about your sense of humor and your love for ice cream. :) Maybe you even saw the sense of humor you gave my father, when Phil asked him to kneel, and Bernie (my daddy) said you know I can't do that. It is those little things that you taught your kids, who taught us, and we, your grandkids, will teach our kids, and it will go on forever. Your memory will go on forever grandpa.

I wonder if you were a good speller...because I have had to use the correcting tool so many times. :) I know this wasn't very mushy, but I know this is what you would have wanted. I love and miss you grandpa. Don't eat too much ice cream up there! I'm sure it's hot up there and wouldn't want the melted ice cream fall on my head, but if that ever happens...I'll know where it came from. Talk to you later grandpa.

*You will always be in our hearts.
Love is Eternal.*

-Nicole Henke

Nicole Leigh Henke - May 02, 2011 at 09:12 PM

“ Tribute to PaPa

It is hard to put into words how much Papa meant to all of us. There are so many great memories and I am so thankful to have spent the time that I did with him.

One of the things I'll always remember is the great times we spent on the golf course together. We all looked forward to trips to Grandma and Papa's house. I remember the excitement I had the night before we'd go golfing and not being able to sleep then waking up early in the morning, way to early because Papa liked his morning tee times so he could be back for the always important siesta time. He sure loved his siesta time, there was no interrupting that. But no matter how early it was, I was up "bright eyed and bushy tailed" as Papa would always say. I would try so hard to beat Papa just once. I would swing as hard as I could and hit the ball as far as I could but Papa would play smart and hit the ball straight down the middle every time. Between beating me with every shot, Papa taught me so many lessons through the game of golf, always looking for a way to help me grow and pass on some of life's lessons he had learned through the years. No matter how his shot turned out he never showed any frustration or anger. As frustrating as golf is, it amazes me how calm he stayed. Through his actions and his words he showed me honesty and value. He was able to use sports, something he knew I loved, to connect with me and help me become a better person and instill his Christian values in me. Whether it was sports or something else, he always found a way to connect with all of us grandchildren.

It has become apparent to me how much Papa has been an influence on my life over the past several years. One thing he loved was his ice cream and chocolate. Every time we'd visit, I would wait for Papa's ice cream time each night. It was like clockwork, you could always count on it. We'd all get a big bowl of ice cream and he would put it in the microwave to melt it just a little. I would do the same wanting to be just like Papa and because he knew how to

make a bowl of ice cream taste even better. But as much as he loved his rocky road ice cream, it was nothing compared to how much he loved his family and friends.

Behind this loving and caring man that all of us grandkids were lucky enough to know there was a strong, tough and courageous man. Along with the great times we spent together, Papa always will be and always should be remembered for how much he gave for his family. The amount of respect and admiration I have for the challenges he faced and accomplished cannot be expressed fully in words and it takes a special kind of person to face those challenges head on with such strength and courage. As I reflect on his life I can't comprehend the bravery of this wonderful man. He worked hard and did everything he could to give us all the best life possible. His service to our country and unwavering love is part of why Papa is a true American hero. Papa and people like him are what made this country great, the best in the world. We all owe so much to him and I know that I will always be so grateful for what he has given so we all can have the best life possible. I only hope that I could be as strong, brave and tough as he was and pray that I and my generation and the next generations can live up the high standard Papa has set for us all.

He was a true American hero. He was an honest, caring and loving man. He loved with all he had. He gave so much for his family and his country. We are all so blessed to have had the opportunity to have spent the time we had with him.

Brad Grove

Britt - April 30, 2011 at 08:47 PM

“ Tribute to PaPa

First of all we would like to thank everyone for coming and for all of the support that everyone both here today and those that couldn't make it have provided our family. It really means a lot to Brad and I and I know it means more than words can say to grandma and the rest of the family.

We wanted to say a few words about Papa for the grandkids and great grandkid and try to put into words how much he meant to all of us, although we know this is impossible to do.

I could not have asked for a better role model and man to call my grandfather. If you look around, you can see what an amazing family Grandma and Papa created. Papa showed us what it means to love unconditionally with 59 years of marriage and commitment to my wonderful Grandma.

Lord knows we were definitely not the easiest kids, grandkids and great grandkid to raise but he stood by our side without fault and supported us in all of our endeavors. Papa never gave up the opportunity to spend time with us and teach us the importance of faith, family and friends.

Some of our favorite memories with our grandfather include putt-putt, golfing, tea parties, siesta time and our course eating ice-cream. It was always a special time to go to Grandma and Papa's house and feed the raccoons on the porch or the ducks in the ponds. I loved the countless evenings we spent together on the golf course searching for golf balls... even if some of them may have come from his pocket... And I always knew Papa was a genius because he could always finish the crosswords in the paper!

He also taught us some important lessons that we will never forget... We learned that it is perfectly acceptable to eat chocolate for breakfast, especially our favorite chocolate donuts that I dunked

fully into my glass because that's what my Papa did. He preached that there is no such thing as too much butter or cool whip. Papa definitely enjoyed the simple things in life.

Although Papa wasn't especially fond of traveling, he always made it to our special events whether it was birthday parties, graduations or sporting events. It meant so much to always have him there.

My grandfather was never afraid to speak his mind and always stood up for what he believed in. One of my favorite memories with Papa was during my freshmen year of college. I was just a little chump playing on the University of Maryland volleyball team and I spent most of my time waiting my turn on the bench. That was until Papa arrived for one of my road trips. As I introduced my grandparents to my coaches, they asked Papa where he was from. "I'm from Myrtle Beach and I came all this way to see my granddaughter play." His response was one of his great one liners that left my mouth wide open...But wouldn't you believe it, the next game I was playing...

Papa never sweated the small stuff and always wanted everyone to feel at home and at ease. I am beyond lucky that I had such a wonderful, kind, loving man in my life and he will be forever missed. Thank you Papa for all of your blessing and I'll see you on the 19th hole.

Brittney Grove

Britt - April 30, 2011 at 08:36 PM

KR

“ *Your presence is what I will miss the most. You have a joy about you, a genuine heart and a contagious smile. Chocolate covered cherries will always bring joy to my heart because it will remind me of the few beautiful Christmases I was blessed to have spent with you. I was looking forward to getting to know you better, but I am sure, one day, we will meet again. Until then I will smile when I think of you. You will always be missed.*

Happy Easter Mr. Hanke!!

Kristen - April 24, 2011 at 04:26 PM

HB

“ *I wonder who will sit in the famous chair next year for Christmas upstairs when the kids are opening up their gifts. You were such a joy to be around, your presence always brought joy to my heart:) You will be missed and thought about, Happy Easter Mr. Henke thank you for being so kind!*

Hannah Badawy - April 24, 2011 at 03:36 PM

LB

“ *A whispered prayer upon the news, God had freed you from your earthly trials.
Bringing you eternal love and light.
Our hearts are filled with what you left us.
To me, your namesake, a fine and beautiful soul, and the family you loved so dearly
One day we'll see you again and laugh and joke as you always did.
Acting casual but so strongly connected.
Until that day, we'll treasure your gifts.
And keep you in our hearts.*

*Your loving daughter-in-law,
Lee*

Lee Badawy-Henke - April 23, 2011 at 04:31 PM

BB

“ *Dad,*

My heart is broken. I know you are with God now. So many good times, so many lessons learned. You always supported me and never stopped teaching me. I didn't always listen, you were still there to help. I know that I am a better father and husband because of your love and patience.

You will always be in my heart.

I love you Dad.

Bernie

Bernard K. Henke (little Bernie) - April 23, 2011 at 09:55 AM