



Dennis B. Burns

October 15, 1942 - February 19, 2026

Dennis Brian Burns, 83, passed away on February 19, 2026. Born on October 15, 1942, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Dennis was the son of Glen Burns and Lone Raboin Burns Rabideau.

Dennis was educated in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attending St. Thomas Aquinas Grade School, St. John Cathedral High School, and later Marquette University, where he studied business and refined his skills as a tennis player. In the mid-1980s, he worked as a tennis professional in Milwaukee before relocating to Kankakee, Illinois, where he managed a local club and mentored young athletes.

He spent much of his life searching for the career that would truly fulfill him, exploring opportunities in tennis coaching, dog training, insurance, real estate investment before ultimately finding his passion in real estate. In Bonita Springs and Naples, Florida, he built a successful career and lasting relationships with colleagues and clients alike, many of whom became lifelong friends.

A lifelong love of dogs began in his youth while living in Milwaukee with his beloved grandmother, Ann Burns. Alongside her Dobermans, Phaedra I and Phaedra II, and a boxer named Duchess, Dennis developed the communication skills and instincts with dogs that became a defining strength

throughout his life. That passion remained constant, most especially through his cherished Shih Tzu, Toby, who was his faithful companion for over a decade. Their bond was unmistakable, and the two were inseparable.

In his later years, Dennis made his home in Naples and Bonita Springs, where he formed deep friendships that became family. He shared a special devotion and lifelong bond with his dear friends Molly, Judy, Laura and Kookie whose companionship and loyalty meant the world to him. He enjoyed traveling the world, combining his adventurous spirit with his interest in casinos, embracing the culture and character of each place he visited. Known for his humor, storytelling, and gift for conversation, Dennis had a way of connecting with people and leaving a lasting impression.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Glen Burns and Lone Raboin Burns Rabideau; his stepfather, Duane Rabideau; his stepsisters, Susan Poindexter (Jim) and Carol Rabideau (Charles); and his grandparents, Ann and Frank Burns.

Dennis is survived by his loving sister, Bonita Burns Johnson (Frank), his stepbrother, Robert Rabideau (Kim); and many nieces and nephews.

Dennis will be laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery in Milwaukee, WI, where he will join his father, Glen Burns, and his beloved grandparents, Ann and Frank Burns, to rest in eternal peace.

To sign his guest register or to leave online condolences please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home Family Owned and Operated Since 1978

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross Cemetery

Milwaukee, WI

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

MN

“ Dennis was my tennis instructor over 50 yrs ago and we maintained a friendship ever since. When I lived in Holland over 40 yrs ago he came to visit me and we made mutual friends and shared inside jokes that lasted us years of humorous memories till the end. He could always make me laugh and one of life's pleasures was making Dennis laugh in return. He was a good person with a heart of gold and I will miss his friendship.

MaryAnn Nicoud - March 27 at 12:14 AM

TJ

“ Dennis was one of my closest friends, and I will miss him. My condolences to his family.

Dennis and I were tennis buddies for over 50 years. We met in Milwaukee when he was a tennis instructor, and I was taking lessons from him. We used to play for hours every day, breaking for a lunch of buttery cheeseburgers and fries from Solly's. I represented him as his lawyer. We traveled to the Dominican Republic, were there on 9/11, and traveled to Puerto Rico and the Florida Keys. We were in the business of flipping houses when he moved to Florida. We loved drinking Cokes, smoking cigarettes, eating pizzas, and gambling. His politics and mine were 180 degrees opposite, yet our friendship remained solid until his death.

Rest in peace, Dennis.

Thomas Jacobson - February 25 at 09:34 PM

AB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Angela Bean - February 25 at 04:42 PM

AB

“ *Angela Bean lit a candle in memory of Dennis Burns*



Angela Bean - February 25 at 04:40 PM