



Lawrence P. Berlen Sr.

September 28, 1932 - October 4, 2020

Lawrence “Larry” P. Berlen SR., 88 of Bonita Springs, passed away on October 4th of 2020 surrounded by his loving family. He was the devoted husband of Michele (née Vatalaro) Berlen.

Larry was born on September 28th, 1932 in Jersey City, New Jersey, to the late Lorenzo and Frances (née Abbatecola). Upon graduation from high school, he followed in the footsteps of his beloved father and brother Frank and joined the military, serving in the United States Air Force. Larry spent his time stationed primarily in Germany and Italy. While serving, Larry received training in aircraft mechanics and engineering and was the crew chief of a team who maintained the B-29 “Superfortress” aircraft. During his service he was also stationed in West Palm Beach and fell in love with Florida, vowing to retire here one day. With a continued passion for service, Larry also volunteered as a member of the National Guard for many years.

After completion of his honorable service to his country he moved on to learn to fly Ultra-light planes and pursue obtaining his pilots license. Larry earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting from Rutgers University, while working in international finance for Western Electric Corp and then AT&T where he met the Love of his life Michele in 1988. He retired and eventually he and Michele relocated to Bonita Springs and were wed overlooking the Gulf on Valentines Day in the year 2000.

Larry lived life to its fullest and was deeply loved by his family and friends. He was known for his amazing kind heart with a willingness to lend a helping hand to everyone. He had a witty sense of humor like no other, bright blue eyes and beautiful smile. He enjoyed gardening, photography, being outdoors bird watching, exploring nature and flying his specialty kites and mini model airplanes. Above all Larry loved spending time with family and friends, sharing his wisdom, childhood memories and positive outlook on life. He will be forever missed.

Larry is survived by his beloved wife Michele (né Vatalaro) Berlen. Father to Sandra L. Smith and husband David of FL, Lawrence P. Berlen Jr. and wife Nancy of FL. Allyson Berlen-Jelnicki and Husband Walter of FL, Cathleen Gallagher and fiancée Marian Dziak of PA. Brother to Nicholas "Nicky" Berlen and his wife Susan of FL, Marion Berlen of NJ, and Carmella "Millie" Berlen of NJ. Grandfather to Deanna M. Berlen, Lawrence "Larry" P. Berlen II, Shannon A. Corbley, Courtney L. Mione and husband Gino, Emily Gallagher, Tyler Gallagher, and Hannah Gallagher. Great-Grandfather to Austin, Wyatt, and Mila. He was preceded in death by his parents, the late Lorenzo and Frances (né Abbatecola) Berlen; siblings the late Frank Berlen and the late Antionette "Annie" Berlen.

Services will be announced at a future date and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation www.themmr.org

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Lawrence P. Berlen Sr.*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Larry touched the lives of so many people and his passing has broken our hearts. We are so fortunate to have Larry in our lives for so many years and blessed that he considered us among his friends. You can't think about Larry without smiling, you can't look at the Christmas tree without remembering Larry's beautiful ornaments and collectibles from his childhood, same for Dollar Store sardines and clams on the half shell. He left us with so many wonderful memories, so many Larry stories that we will carry with us until we meet again. Our condolences to Michele and the entire Berlen family. May God bless Larry and may he Rest In Peace.
Love, your buddies,
Ed and Maureen*



Ed Radigan - October 12, 2020 at 03:15 PM

SM

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Sue & Fred Mesiti - October 11, 2020 at 02:04 PM

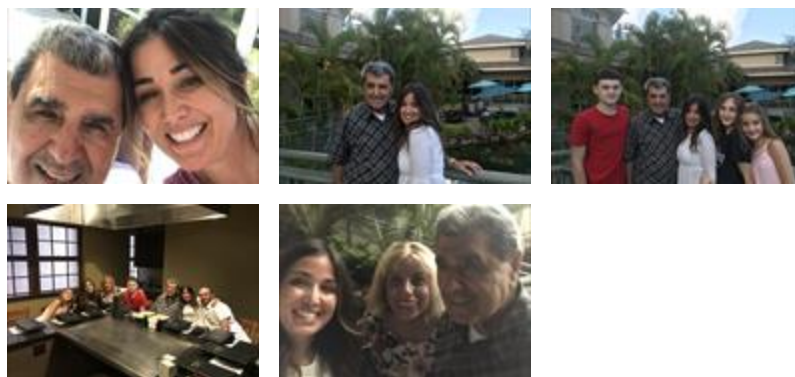
SM

“ Our sincere condolences to Michelle and the entire Berlen family on the passing of Larry. He was truly a wonderful, kind and caring man and we were very honored to consider him our friend. We will miss the happy times together we had at our annual New Year's Eve get togethers and many dinners at Cirillos restaurant. God bless you.
Love, Sue & Fred Mesiti

Sue & Fred Mesiti - October 11, 2020 at 02:01 PM

CG

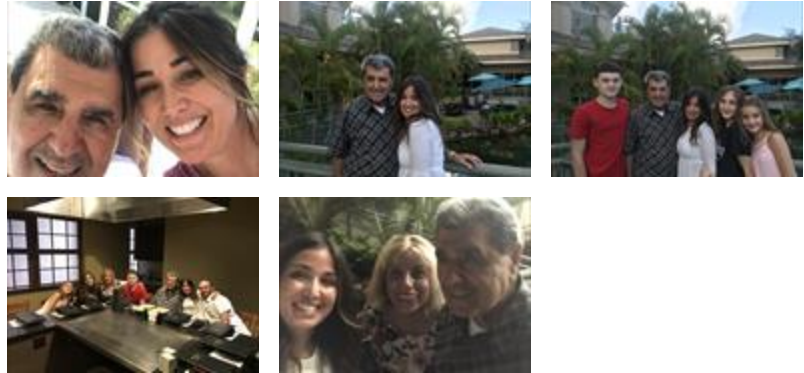
“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Cathleen Gallagher - October 11, 2020 at 12:00 PM



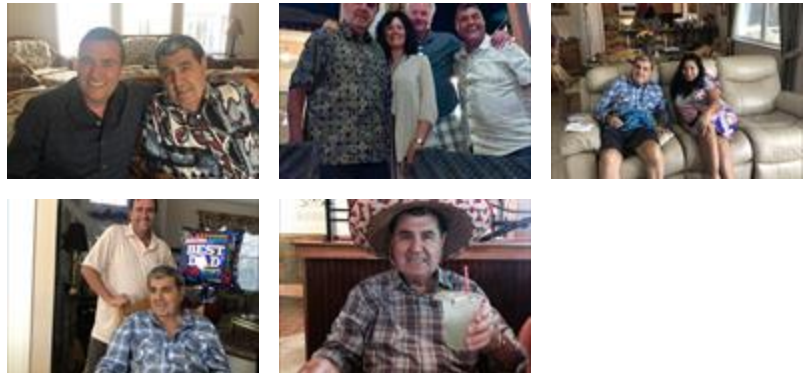
“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Cathleen Gallagher - October 10, 2020 at 09:51 PM



“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Larry Berlen - October 09, 2020 at 08:21 PM



“ Ghirardelli Galore was purchased for the family of Lawrence P. Berlen Sr..



October 09, 2020 at 06:56 AM

AB

“Unable are the Loved to die, for LOVE is immortality...
“Emily Dickinson”



Allyson Berlen - October 08, 2020 at 08:15 PM

BS

“ Ever since we moved to Florida 20 years ago, Larry and Michele have been part of our "Florida family"... together we've celebrated holidays, vacations and fun dinners. During these past "hibernating" months, we've often spoken about how we miss getting together just to laugh. Larry, our friend, our heart aches and we miss you already.

Michele, our heart is broken at your loss but please know that your friends will be here during these coming weeks and months to help you through. Our prayers are with you and the entire family.

Hopefully, when we meet again in the afterlife, you'll finally FORGIVE US for abandoning you and Michele in the back of the van at the Grove Park Inn!

Love, Bill and Mary Jane Scullin



Bill and Mary Jane Scullin - October 08, 2020 at 03:33 PM

PC

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Paul Barbara Curcio - October 08, 2020 at 12:34 PM

BC

“ So many memories, so little space. As we looked through photos to share, it seemed that most of the photos we have of Larry show him eating. How Larry loved food! Who could ever forget Larry picking crabs or scooping out the marrow from everybody's veal shanks. We have shared many meals over the past 30 years. We will miss you, old friend. If we ever get to eat in restaurants again, you will be there with us in spirit. Rest In Peace. Love, Barbara and Paul

Barbara and Paul Curcio - October 08, 2020 at 12:03 PM