



Bernard A. Grome

October 7, 1932 - August 21, 2016

Bernard “Bernie” Grome, 83, passed away Sunday, August 21, 2016, at Crouse Irving Hospital in Syracuse, NY after a brief struggle with cancer.

He was born in Binghamton, NY on October 7, 1932 and spent much of his youth in South Onondaga, NY. Bernie was the son of the late Joseph and Helen (Thelma) Grome, being the middle son of five brothers. Bernie married Linda Bardwell July 6, 1957 and they recently celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary. Together they raised two children, John and Karen.

He was a life long resident of Otisco, NY; former member of the Otisco Presbyterian Church, and more recently Amber Congregational Church; a veteran serving in the United States Army, stationed in both the US and Europe; and a member of the Operating Engineers Union Local 545.

Bernie was always tinkering with something mechanical when he was young and continued to do so throughout his life. It only seemed natural that he would eventually choose to become an Operating Engineer. He could fix anything and operate any piece of equipment he put his hands on! He could carry a grade by eye with a backhoe bucket better than most operators with surveying assistance.

Many of the streets in Syracuse and surrounding highways (690, 81), Bernie

had a hand in building. He worked gas mains and electrical power lines throughout Central New York, along with many years helping to build portions of 9-Mile Point Nuclear Facility in Oswego, NY. Following his retirement, Bernie continued to take an active role in the Operating Engineers Union and taught crane school. Earlier this year he was honored for his dedicated service of Local 545. If this wasn't enough, he also operated his own small construction business along side his full-time career for many years. This was truly his passion and he loved his work. Up to the very end of his life he continued to operate his backhoe.

Bernie also loved his vegetable garden. So, did his neighbors! Because Bernie always grew more than he could use, giving away the fruits of his labors to neighbors, friends, and family. For many years he also enjoyed keeping a small farm raising ducks, geese, turkeys, rabbits, beef, and horses. He loved animals and his dogs were his close companions; first Mandy and then Jake. Jake accompanied Bernie just about everywhere he went.

After his retirement Bernie spent hours in his woodshop over the garage repairing antique furniture and a variety of woodworking projects. He loved deer hunting and spent several summers in the Florida Keys deep-sea fishing with a longtime friend and colleague.

He carried a brilliant smile and infectious laugh. When Bernie started telling stories or jokes, you'd better plan on spending the afternoon (or night). The most amazing thing was he continued to hold onto this art to the very end, entertaining family with stories his last few days in the hospital.

He had a strong sense of community. Throughout his adult life Bernie was there to lend a hand to his family, friends, and neighbors. From putting shingles on the church, to repairing a neighbor's furnace, to pulling someone out of the ditch, plowing a neighbors driveway in the middle of a winter storm,

or to helping his son our daughter with their homes; Bernie was always there. If he said he was going to do something, you could count on him 100%!

In addition to his loving wife, Linda; and his four-legged buddy, Jake; Bernie is survived by his son, John Grome; daughter, Karen (Scott) Allen; brothers, Gary (Virginia) Grome and Robert Grome; and five grandchildren, Erica, Matthew, Julie, Jamie, and Heath; along with many other family and friends who grew to love him.

SEP Calling hours will be held on Friday, August 26, 2016, from 10:00A to 12:00P at Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home, Inc., 2584 Field Lane, LaFayette, NY 13084. A funeral service will be held at Noon at the funeral home. Burial will be at Elmwood Cemetery, Preble, NY following the funeral service.

SEPSEP In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bernie's name to Amber Congregational Church, 2366 Otisco Valley Road, Marietta, NY 13110.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Bernard A. Grome*



Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home - August 21, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *We have great memories of Bernie and all the help he gave Cindy and I when we were building our house. Deepest Sympathies to the entire Grome family. Bernie was one of a kind.*

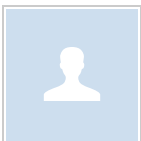
Jon and Cindy Carpenter

August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Fond childhood memories a hard-working, positive, honest, caring, friendly neighbor man.
A real person who cared about his family and others.*

Cat - August 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *PLEASE ACCEPT OUR CONDOLENCES THE RICE FAMILY WILL SURELY MISS BERNIE*

August 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



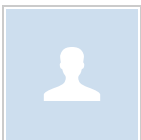
“ When I returned to Onondaga County for my East Syracuse/Fayetteville relative’s cancer (1988-’02) I bought an ancient place in Otisco. Bernie and Linda inserted themselves in my life with advise and help, (even when I arrogantly felt it unneeded), to get me settled. This helping welcome was generously offered despite my not-fulfilling the Otisco “Probationary Residency” expected of anybody travelling outside the “Scranton-Cleveland-Watertown arc of suspicion. ” Bernie’s generosity went far beyond tongue wagging and he literally put his back into helping with trailering and moving my furnishings. He loaned me timbers and jacks to correct the house for the settling earth. He was one of the finest neighbors imaginable and I attest to his “anonymous afterlife” already active in those he influenced. This includes folks who never met Bernie. Chuck Wilson Seattle

August 26, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Linda and family...We were so sorry to hear of Bernie's passing...He was a wonderful man who would help anybody and had a heart of gold. He helped Dale and I so much digging the pond on Woodmancy for the cows. Please know you are in our prayers. Dale and Mary Knapp

Heavenly Arch - August 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Ill always remember and miss talking with Bernie and hearing his stories. Bernie taught me some things that have been of great help and was a good neighbor. Seeing him go by in the "tractor hoe" in the dead of winter plowing some snow or hearing it start up will be something I'll always remember. I have a great picture of him and Brent in the tractor I will have to find. Love and prayers. Tyler

August 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CP

“Karen and family,
I'm extremely sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. You are all in my
thoughts and prayers at this time.

Candle of Peace - August 24, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“Linda and family,

*I am so sorry for your loss. Your eyes and face always lit up
whenever you told me about Bernie.*

Greg Scammell

August 24, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CR

“Linda and family, sincerely sorry to hear of Bernie's passing!
Prayers and thoughts coming your way.

Crucifix - August 24, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CN

“So sorry to hear about Bernie. Fond memories of our families being
friends when I was growing up in Otisco.

*Love,
Joyce Appel*

Candle of Nature - August 23, 2016 at 12:00 AM