



Bradford Marvel Bandt

February 2, 1948 - June 20, 2021

Bradford Marvel Bandt was born on February 2, 1948 in Detroit, MI, the first child of Marvel and Dolores Bandt. The family of three resided in Detroit for the first couple years of Brad's life until farm life called his father Marvel back to Nebraska. The three of them picked up and moved to Wolbach, NE, a small town near St. Paul, NE. Farm life was hard but idyllic where Brad was able to roam the farmlands with his dog Bosco, who would meet him each day as he returned from school. Soon he was joined by younger sister Sheryl and 15 months later, another sister Bettiann, and then brother Loren three years later. The family of six was complete. Farm life proved too difficult to sustain, and mother Dolores was missing her family in Detroit, as well as the modern conveniences of indoor plumbing and central heat, so in 1956 they returned to the Motor City where they lived for the rest of the growing years of their children. Brad was an energetic son, always out playing sports with his friends and getting into the usual mischief that boys of his age found, but he was honest and hardworking. That led to him getting a job at age 13 to help out with Christmas and family expenses when his dad needed a double hernia operation and was unable to work, the family's only breadwinner. Brad and several buddies found jobs selling donuts door-to-door and he gave his earnings to his parents to help with bills and Christmas presents for his siblings. On the fateful day of December 6, 1961, he went out after school selling donuts. One of his older friends had a used jalopy that he used to transport the boys, five of them, to various neighborhoods to sell their goods. On this particular day, a cold, dark afternoon when they were on their way home, the car broke down. Brad, a stocky, strong boy pushed the car along with two others while two boys directed traffic around the car. Horrifically a driver on the same road, Eight Mile in Detroit, was driving impaired and slammed into the car the boys were pushing, which left Brad a double amputee, losing both legs. Despite predictions from his doctors who declared he would never walk again; he overcame the challenge of having only one knee and through a lot of hard work and determination he was able to walk unassisted by crutches or canes. This changed the direction of Brad's life. Instead of being able to pursue sports as a career-every young boy's dream, Brad became a dedicated student, graduating from high school with honors and earning a full scholarship to Wayne State University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and the honor of being a Phi Beta Cappa

student. After graduating Brad moved to California where through his marriage, he adopted his wife's son Brandon and they had another son, Aaron. Brad was a devoted father to both boys and being a dad was the highlight of his life. He loved being a dad! When Brandon and Aaron were raised and no longer under his roof, Brad moved back to Michigan to be near his aging parents and siblings, as well as many friends. Brad had many hobbies including woodworking and writing. And he could, he liked to "brag" write a limerick about anything! I'm sure many of you were privileged to read these mostly funny writings. But he also wrote a loosely autobiographical rhyming prose that was so very well-written, as well as writings probing the deeper things of life, love and religion. The only thing he loved perhaps more than being a dad, was becoming a grandpa to Aaron's son James, age 3-1/2 and daughter Lily, almost 1-1/2. They were the joy of his life and he loved to share pictures, videos and the conversations with James from his weekly Facetime calls. In addition to being a devoted father and grandpa, Brad was a loyal and giving brother and friend to many, always sharing the foods he loved to cook, particularly pasta, with friends and neighbors. Despite the many physical challenges Brad had, he also overcame cancer twice as well as many surgeries, he did not feel sorry for himself but was always interested in the lives of his friends and siblings. Brad became a Christian, professing his faith and trust in his Savior Jesus Christ and because of this, it can be said that all who share this same faith will again see Brad. Brad was preceded in death by his father Marvel Raymond Bandt and mother Dolores Maria Bandt, and is survived by sons Brandon, Aaron (Julie), grandson James, granddaughter Lily, sisters Sheryl (Eddie) Harmon, and Bettiann (Dale) Page, brother Loren (Nadine) Bandt, and many nieces and nephews. He was a great friend and brother, father and grandfather and will be missed by us all! Gathering Thursday, June 24th from 1 PM until the 3 PM Memorial Service at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Road (between Ford Road and Cherry Hill) Westland. Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, 20450 Civic Center Drive, Southfield, MI 48076. To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

Events

JUN **Memorial Gathering** 01:00PM - 03:00PM

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Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Westland
980 N. Newburgh Road, Westland, MI, US, 48185

JUN **Memorial Service** 03:00PM - 04:00PM

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Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Westland
980 N. Newburgh Road, Westland, MI, US, 48185

Comments



“ Brad was more than a brother-in-law to me - we were brothers. I first meet Brad in 1969 when I went to his parents' home on Grandview to meet the family of a very cute girl I meet at a house party. Going to that party was the best decision I ever made. I married the sweet and beautiful Bettiann Bandt and became a member of the Bandt family. It did take me a while to get accustomed to their way of life, but with Brad in the family, it was always entertaining!

Brad was very engaging and welcoming. He took time to get to know me even though were 4 years apart in age. Our friendship grew during a few long road trips in his Karmann Ghia, and the time we all lived in California. Brad's moving back to Michigan some sixteen years ago allowed us to rekindle the brotherhood of two guys with less hair both in our fifties. I will always remember the good times, and have a heavy heart for the difficult ones. For what Brad endured in life and how he never let his tragic misfortune dampen his spirits, Brad was my hero and I am sure a hero to everyone who knew Bradford Bandt.

I will miss you bro.

Dale A. Page

Dale Page - June 29 at 08:20 PM



“ He was two years ahead of me in high school in Detroit, but when my younger brother, Dale, married Brad's younger sister, Bettiann, he became part of the family. Even when my twin brother, Glenn, and I were in the service during the Vietnam War, Brad would show up at our military bases for visits. We all lived in Southern California in the early 70's and had a ball. Brad was always involved in something very interesting, "moving and improving" he'd say. He was intelligent, kind and considerate, well-read and as easy going as anyone I'd ever met. The memories are too many to count...but will never be forgotten. See you on the other side, amigo.

Gary A. Page - June 28 at 03:13 PM



“ Brad has been an Inspiration to many, wit, woodworking, intelligence, thoughtful and humorous and very talented. An all around good guy. We will miss our buddy, while being forever grateful for our friendships. Remembering years back, while watching a movie one night, to my surprise... I saw Brad! While he was living in California he took on a few roles. An amazing, well versed man. ‘The Soupman Brad’ as my granddaughter called him, will forever be remembered for his Cloud Soup, White Chili, Minestrone, Chili Verde and Veggie Soup. Ladies, remember the laughs we had making the Cloud Soup together, under Brads supervision of course! If we put our heads together, hopefully we can come up with his recipe. . . Will especially miss his chuckles , smiles and uplifted voice talking about his Beautiful, Grand - Children as well as sharing how proud he was of his neices and nephews.

Thank you for being an inspiration Brad. You always said; “There is... always someone else worse off”. While expressing how fortunate he was to have a good group of friends in his life.

“Peace be with you” Yvonne

Yvonne - June 24 at 10:25 AM



“ My husband and I moved into the condo next door to Brad last fall - and count ourselves lucky that we did. Brad was a welcoming and generous neighbor who offered everything from woodworking advice as I refinished a kitchen table to some of his famous pasta and meatballs (delicious!). We loved to chat with him and he always had a smile or joke to brighten our days.

We didn't know Brad very long but are blessed that our paths have crossed. He will be missed.

Meghan Spork - June 23 at 09:56 PM



“ Brad and I were friends from Burgess, Taft jr High and Henry Ford High school We went our own ways for years and reunited a few years ago I was lucky to relive some fond memories I am sure We will meet again I was blessed to say you are my friend going to miss you until then Mike Harter

Mike Harter - June 23 at 01:10 AM



“ After a friendship of more than 60 years, it’s difficult to jot down just one special memory. Hell, I’ve got a lifetime of ‘em with this guy. But here’s one of the funny ones. I was home on leave and of course we went out drinking. We go into this bar and the bartender asks us for ID. Brad just looks at him and says, “ID! ID! Do you think anybody could lose this much hair in less than 21 years!” I fell of the barstool laughing.

John Douglass - June 22 at 03:15 AM



“ You could write a book with the memories Thanks for sharing

Mike Harter - June 23 at 01:24 AM



“ Adoring Heart was purchased for the family of Bradford Marvel Bandt.



June 22 at 01:53 AM



“ When I was very young I thought he hung the moon. He was such a big presence at Burgess Elementary, I remember his singing voice and his generous and friendly spirit are memorable.

I spoke with him in 2007 and told him how much I thought of him even though, as I thought, he had no recollection of me. He was still as thoughtful and kind as I remembered and I’m glad I had the opportunity to reminisce.

Peggy Wallace - June 21 at 07:02 PM



“ When I was a child, I had the biggest crush on Brad. I was a neighbor. He always impressed me with his kindness and courage. - Merry Johnson

Merry Johnson - June 21 at 05:45 PM



“ Sharon lit a candle in memory of Bradford Marvel Bandt



Sharon - June 21 at 05:34 PM



“ Brad was a great friend from High School..... How I (and the other girls) loved going to visit Brad at his home and enjoying his delicious cooking ..He always made us laugh ... Brad was a handsome man with the most beautiful dimples!!! Until we meet again my friend....
Sharon

Sharon - June 21 at 05:47 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Bradford Marvel Bandt.



June 21 at 04:54 PM