



Ben Russo

January 1, 1925 - June 18, 2012

In loving memory of Ben J. Russo, aka "Benito", 87, who peacefully passed from this life surrounded by family on June 18, 2012. Ben was born on January 1, 1925 in Kenosha, WI to the late Gennaro and Angelina (Arturi) Russo. He graduated from Kenosha High School in 1943 and later attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison where he met Doris Mae Schmitz. Ben and Doris were married in September of 1950 and enjoyed a loving and happy life together until she passed in August of 1995. Since his wife's passing, Ben spent his remaining years as the loving companion of Barbara Larson of West Bend. During his career, Ben worked as a teacher and high school principal in Iron Mountain, MI; Barrington, IL and various school districts in Wisconsin. Then he and his family moved to West Bend in 1968 where he was an active and dedicated member of the West Bend School District as well as the community. Ben lived a full and vivid life and spent his retirement years enjoying time with family and friends both in West Bend and in his home in Gold Canyon, Arizona. During the day he could often be found hiking or horseback riding in the Superstition Mountains or tending to his garden and flowers at home. Nights would be spent at a local karaoke establishment entertaining patrons with his marvelous voice. Ben was an adoring grandfather, and a loving and attentive father, husband, brother and friend. He will be remembered as a kind, gentle and fun-loving spirit who touched the lives of many. Ben is survived by his daughter, Rachelle (William) Melms, Woodruff WI, son Benjamin Randal Russo, Highlands Ranch, CO, 5

grandchildren-Ricky, Brett, Natalie, Tom and Chris, brothers Ronald Russo, New Berlin, WI and Tony (Renee) Russell, Las Vegas, Nevada, sister-in-law Lucille Romano, Reedsburg, WI and many nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his loving companion, Barbara Larson, West Bend, WI. A memorial service is planned for June 28th at 4 PM at the 5th Avenue United Methodist Church in West Bend, Wisconsin. Friends may visit with the family prior to the service beginning at 2:30 and a time of fellowship will follow the service.

In lieu of flowers memorials to a charity of choice.

Tribute Wall

LC

“ We will miss Ben terribly in our lives. He never forgot he was (and still is) a huge part of our family`s lives! We will always miss him & Doe a great deal. Love to Rachelle & Randy!

Lucille Romano & Tony Cuccia - March 22, 2013 at 11:52 AM

BF

“ With heartfelt sympathy and fond memories....
He was a good neighbor and friend.

Bob and Judy Schermacher and family - March 22, 2013 at 11:52 AM

JE

“ Ben was always a joy to be around. He was fun to talk to and reminisce with. He will be missed.

Jim & Joan Esselmann - March 22, 2013 at 11:52 AM

GP

“ At Festa, a few years back Ben got on the stage to sing following Nancy Sinatra. Nancy was not too pleased when Ben received a standing ovation, singing much better than the seasoned entertainer. It was great! We sure will miss him.
Gary and Barbara Perkins

Gary and Barbara Perkins - March 22, 2013 at 11:52 AM

CM

“ *Rachelle, Randy and Barb, So vry sorry to read of Ben's death. Ben's memory will always be a memory of a joyous, happy and positive person with a capacity for great love and with a song in his heart - and a song to share with all. The Millers - John, KC, Joe and Carol*

Carol Miller - March 22, 2013 at 11:52 AM

EJ

“ *Rachelle, I was shocked and saddened to hear of Ben's passing. I truely enjoyed caring for Ben when he was at Milestone, (my former place of employment.). I do hope that your entire family is doing well through this trying and difficult time. You will contine to be in my thoughts and prayers. Erienne Jastrow*

Erienne Jastrow - March 22, 2013 at 11:52 AM