



Fire Chief John Bernans

August 9, 1942 - June 16, 2020

Fire Chief John Bernans, age 77, of Columbus, Ohio passed away peacefully with his family at his side on June 16, 2020. John was born on August 9, 1942. Chief John Bernans was a dedicated and proud Marine that served his country in Vietnam, a dutiful and passionate fireman for 40 years with the Franklin Township and Perry Township fire departments, spent his last 20 years as the Fire Chief of Liberty Township Fire Department, as well as serving as township administrator for many of those years. Chief Bernans attended Holy Family High School and Franklin University. Preceded in death by his parents John Sr. and Valentina (Miklasevics) Bernans, and brother, Rev. Father Arvids Bernans. John is survived by his loving wife of 55 years Mary Katherine (VanSkoy) Bernans, proud father of John Edward (wife Nancy) Bernans, and Laura Kathleen Bernans. John was a proud grandfather to John Ryan, Jessica Lynn, Jacob Alan and Benjamin John Bernans. John is also survived by his brother Evalds "Eddie" (wife Mary) Bernans, and Margaret (husband Ron Burton) Bernans. Calling hours will take place on Monday, June 22 from 1:00pm - 4:00pm and 6:00pm to 9:00pm, because of social distancing recommendations we ask that you pay your respects to Chief Bernans' family in the following manner: Last Names beginning A-H 1-2 or 8-9 pm, I-M 2-3 or 7-8 pm, N-Z 3-4 or 6-7 pm. at RUTHERFORD FUNERAL HOME AT POWELL, 450 W. Olentangy Street, Powell, Ohio 43065. Funeral Mass will be Celebrated at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, (10700 Liberty Rd. South, Powell, Ohio 43065) on Tuesday, June 23 at 10:30am. Chief Bernans will be

laid to rest at Resurrection Cemetery (9571 North High St. Lewis Center, Ohio 43035) in a private ceremony with family and his firefighter brothers. Chief Bernans strongly believed in the advancement of his firefighters' education. Therefore, in lieu of flowers, the family ask that you support his legacy by making a direct donation/contribution in his name to the Liberty Township Fire Department (7761 Liberty Rd. North, Powell Ohio 43065). Monies raised will help support Liberty Township Firefighters' continuing education and help support the Chief John Bernans Future Firefighters Scholarship Fund for those candidates from Liberty Township interested in a career in the fire service which will be given annually to a graduating high school senior.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

9571 North High Street
Lewis Center, OH 43035

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JUN 22. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell
450 West Olentangy Street
Powell, OH 43065
(614) 792-1471
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

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Tribute Wall



“ *Rutherford Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Fire Chief John Bernans* ”



Rutherford Funeral Homes - June 19, 2020 at 05:10 PM



“ *Fire Chief John Bernans* ”

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *"My heart is broken for the family's loss of Chief John Bernans, my friend, & medic partner at the Franklin Twp. Fire Department." Rest in peace, mission completed, job well done, and may God take good care of your family!* ”

"SEMPER FI"

*Arthur J. Susi, Jr.
Retired Captain,
Franklin Twp. Fire Department*

Arthur Susi Jr. - June 21, 2020 at 04:57 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Fire Chief John Bernans.*



June 21, 2020 at 03:22 PM



“ *John and I have been friends for a long long time he was even the best man in my wedding will remember him and his friendship for a long time God bless Mary and the kids stay strong life is hard when you lose a loved one that you guys will persevere through it and God bless you*

Greg Stevens - June 20, 2020 at 10:14 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Fire Chief John Bernans.*



June 20, 2020 at 08:45 AM

RM

“ *ROGER USMC
IT CANNOT BE INHERITED NOR CAN IT EVER BE PURCHASED.
YOU AND NO ONE ALIVE CAN BUY IT FOR ANY PRICE.
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RENT AND CANNOT BE LENT.
YOU ALONE AND OUR OWN HAVE EARNED IT WITH YOUR
SWEAT, BLOOD AND LIVES.
YOU WON IT FOREVER.
THE TITLE
UNITED STATES MARINE
GO WITH GOD MY BROTHER
SEMPER FI*

ROGER MALONE - June 19, 2020 at 11:19 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for
the family of Fire Chief John Bernans.*



June 19, 2020 at 07:17 PM

RC

“ *The loss of any life is hard, when it is the life of someone that is a
mentor and leader, those who he has guided are left wanting more.
Chief, thanks is not enough and you will always be here and visible
through our actions and in our decisions.*

Robert Cabral - June 19, 2020 at 10:34 AM

RC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Robert Cabral - June 19, 2020 at 10:31 AM

VT

“ To the family of John Bernans,
It was with great sorrow that I learned of John's death.
While I had not seen John in quite a number of years, I had followed
his trajectory/advancement within the ranks of the Fire Dept. from
afar.

In the early 80's I was a new RN having first served as an EMT,
Paramedic and LPN before starting the night shift at what was at
that time, Mercy Hospital on South High Street.

John and I worked the night shift together, he as an experienced
Paramedic and me as a freshly printed nurse. Along the way, I
served as an instructor in the Franklin County Firefighters
Association/Grant Hospital Paramedic education program which
John also supported.

Years later, I would choose to go on to medical school and he to
ascend within the fire service.

We worked hard together on the night shift but John always brought
a degree of levity to our tasks and I recall him fondly. We would on
occasion, stop by Plank's Beer Garden for a beer in the morning!

With respect, sorrow but also gratitude for having known him,

*Dr. Victor A. Trianfo, Jr., D.O
Chief Medical Officer
Memorial Health*

Victor Trianfo - June 19, 2020 at 10:20 AM

JP

“ *Great memories with John at Perry Township. Wonderful man and good friend. Prayers to his family.*

Jeff Oliver (LT PTPD) - June 19, 2020 at 10:03 AM

JO

Jeff Oliver - Sgtbroom@gmail.com

Jeff Oliver - June 19, 2020 at 10:05 AM

MY

“ *Laura so sorry to hear about the passing of your father. You're in my thoughts during this difficult time. Myrna*



Myrna Young - June 18, 2020 at 09:07 PM

SM

“ *Sally McCann-Mirise lit a candle in memory of Fire Chief John Bernans*



Sally McCann-Mirise - June 18, 2020 at 06:47 PM