



Bruce C. Stanke

December 10, 1946 - July 23, 2025

Bruce C. Stanke, 78, of Fond du Lac, died on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at Serenity Villa Assisted Living in Campbellsport.

He was born on December 10, 1946, in Fond du Lac, the son of Charles E. and Joyce Schacht Stanke. He was a graduate of L.P. Goodrich High School, Class of 1965. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force, and was stationed in Germany from 1966 – 1969. On July 1, 1988, he married Marlene G. Goldapske, in Fond du Lac.

Bruce worked as a fireman for the Fond du Lac Fire Department from 1970 – 1991, when he retired. He was a member of Eagles Aerie #270 in Fond du Lac. Bruce enjoyed hunting, trap shooting (even making his own shells), fishing, loved boating, watching NASCAR and the Green Bay Packers. He loved watching hunting shows and was proud of his 500lb black bear he shot. Bruce loved socializing, spending time with his family, watching the grandkids sporting events, and he looked forward to old fashion cocktail hours with Marlene.

He is survived by his wife Marlene of Fond du Lac, his children: Eric (Andrea) Stanke of Green Bay, Kim (Tim) Ven Haus of Fond du Lac, Shawn (Julie) Schodrow of Campbellsport and Kevin (Marcia) Schodrow of Fond du Lac; his grandchildren: Austin, Vivian, Gavin, Spencer, Mollie, Walker, Colton, Samantha, Kyle, and Makenzie; two great-grandchildren: Tyme and Navy; his sister Jill Stanke Barbeau of Fond du Lac, and his niece Lisa (Rick) Cody. He is preceded in death by his parents, maternal and paternal grandparents,

nephew Nicholas Bonnell, brothers and sisters-in-law, and his special dog Taffy.

VISITATION: The family will greet friends and relatives from 2:00 – 4:00 PM on Monday, July 28, 2025, at Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory, 31 East Division Street, Fond du Lac.

SERVICE: Funeral Services will be held at 4:00 PM on Monday, July 28, 2025, at Kurki Funeral Chapel, with Chaplain Evan Stark officiating. Trier-Puddy American Legion Post #75 will conduct military services.

Special thanks to Serenity Care/Preceptor Hospice, for their excellent care of Bruce.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Preceptor Hospice is appreciated.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 28. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory
31 E. Division Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Funeral Service

JUL 28. 4:00 PM (CT)

Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory
31 E. Division Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Tribute Wall

BE

“ The picture in the upper left hand corner of Bruce says it all!!

Bruce and I met in 1957 at Briester's Grocery Store at the corner of Ruggles and Hickory Street in Fond du Lac. I was 11 and Bruce was 10. I remember sitting on the steps eating our candy and drinking pop or whatever and telling each other about ourselves. Our discussions, of course, turned to cars which was my passion at that time. Dad was in the car repair business and sold used cars. Not to be out done, Bruce told me his dad had a new 1957 Studebaker Golden Hawk, quite the car in it's day. A little later, we biked to his house and his dad had new 1957 Studebaker all right but it was purple and white Champion, the cheapest one made!! So, I began to know Bruce and the fun began. BTW, he was one good looking kid with a fuzz cut and he knew it!

Bruce was a far different personality than I was but we were the best of friends in-spite of the differences. Certain things or events did split us up on some occasions, Bruce was just a bit more daring than I was. He got it from his mom who was quite fun who died far too young. She was the one who encouraged me to date my wife Barbara. Her words were, "Bill you need to hussle up Barb Gustin. True story.

During college Barb and I met, dated, engaged and then married. So the drift began but the best friends part did remain. We moved to Minneapolis and then off to South Dakota for 11 years. Then back to Wisconsin but still far apart from Crivitz and Fond du lac. We had dinner on some occasions with he and Marlene which were wonderful get togethers.

I also recall Bruce telling me in so many words that he was proud of Eric and his family along with his hunting expeditions to Illinois getting the big bucks. He said Eric had great job with AT&T I think it was.

All through the years, Bruce never failed to call me on my birthday.

We also talked by phone one or two times a year to catch up. I remember talking to him one day shortly after his heart condition which was total surprise. Bruce and I and Barb last met Bruce last April at Campbellsport. I noticed a difference but we talked close to an hour, as I recall, and reminisced over many good times in dad's garage. "Bill do remember when you did this or that or fixed this or that etc etc.

All in all, we were so so different and yet he was one of the most faithful school friends that stayed in touched all those years. I will never forget Bruce, he was a genuine friend indeed!

Bill Ellefson

Bill Ellefson - July 28, 2025 at 11:08 PM

LD

“ *Love , Hearher and Dave purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Bruce C. Stanke.*



Love , Hearher and Dave - July 27, 2025 at 09:40 PM

KA

“ *I enjoy my hospice people. He was so fun to talk with, he was a real jokester. He always had something new to talk about. He is @ peace. I'll miss our talks Bruce.*



Karen - July 27, 2025 at 01:13 PM

AB

“ My deepest sympathy to Marlene and family. I always enjoyed being with you two. He was a great guy with a great personality. Rest in Peace Bruce.

Andrea Blalock - July 27, 2025 at 08:27 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bruce C. Stanke.



July 26, 2025 at 12:43 PM

FF

“ From the Emme, Sladky, and Webb family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bruce C. Stanke.



From the Emme, Sladky, and Webb family - July 25, 2025 at 10:23 AM

TW

“ I could think of a hundred stories, trapshooting, summer vacations, turkey hunting, bear bating, deer hunting, trips up north or just having a beer. My favorite though is when we got drawn as partners for walleye weekend, we didn't do well till Bruce hooked a fish along shore by the wayside, he yelled for the net and I told him it was probably a carp, well it was a huge walleye and he still claimed I tried to knock it off with the net but we managed to get it in the boat. Can't remember the exact weight but it ended up being the largest fish which won Bruce a boat motor and trailer. I think we might have dranked a few too many beers as I remember Bruce and I road in the boat down main st to his house on 10 th st. But it was great, I'll miss you and your laugh, so many great memories. Rest in peace mongoose

Thomas Wendt - July 24, 2025 at 08:45 PM

MP

“ Lots of fun times with you two!!!
Marge and Gary Pelkey

Marge Pelkey - July 24, 2025 at 08:31 PM

EW

“ So sorry for your loss...We sure have wonderful memories when we all lived at Crooked Lake. Fuzzy, you & I have lost two wonderful men!!

Ellie Wilson - July 24, 2025 at 07:09 PM

HL

“ Our Thoughts and Prayers go out to Bruce's Wife and family. Bruce's parents (Chuck & Sis) were close friends of my Parents (Ray & Kate Fields. We always had a great time with them up north and the Packers Party. Bruce was a prankster always. I remember up north Bruce had a small race boat and he finally gave me a ride, and scared the HELL out of me by almost flipping the dang boat. we are gonna miss that smile of his. Rest in peace. Suzy (Fields) Lemke. Harvey says we will see you again. Love you, Harvey & Suzy Lemke

Harvey & Suzy Lemke - July 24, 2025 at 06:33 PM

JT

“ I grew up in Fond du Lac and spent a lot of time with Bruce and other friends hunting, enjoying our youth and just being friends. Bruce was a great friend and always remembered me and our good times as friends even though I would not see him very often as the years passed. He was a true blue person always a hard worker and he loved nature his family and his friends.

Joel Theisen - July 24, 2025 at 06:09 PM