



## Norman C. Behnke

October 13, 1939 - December 12, 2019

Norman C. Behnke, 80, of Fond du Lac, passed away peacefully at St. Agnes Hospital on Thursday, December 12, 2019.

Norm was born in Fond du Lac on October 13, 1939, the son of Carl and Hazel (Toll) Behnke. On May 27, 1961, Norm married his high school sweetheart, Judie Gratton. Together they had two children, Carla A. and Curt G.

In 1956, Norm joined the Navy Reserves. After graduation from L.P Goodrich High School in 1958, he went on active duty aboard the USS Valley Forge in Norfolk, Virginia. After discharge, he worked for Omar Bakery. In 1962, Norm went to work at Brenner Tank, in Fond du Lac, where he worked for 46 years. He was a project and maintenance manager, overseeing the company's facility expansion. In this role, he traveled extensively overseas. After retirement from Brenner Tank, Norm worked as a self-employed consultant in the transport tank industry, and also as a sales rep for Herlache Tooling for 9 years.

Norm was passionate about service to the Fond du Lac community. He was an active member of Church of Peace UCC for 76 years, where he served in many leadership roles. He is a current member of Pilgrim United Church of Christ. He also served on the boards of directors of Fond du Lac Music Parents and Friends of Taylor Park. He was an officer and former president of Lakeside Evening Kiwanis, participating for many years in The World's Largest Fish Fry at Walleye Weekend. He was awarded the Kiwanis George

Hixson Fellowship.

One of Norm's greatest joys was becoming a member of the B.P.O. Elks in 1989. He served twice as Exalted Ruler of Lodge #57 in Fond du Lac, in 1997 and 2002. At Lodge #57, he received Elk of the Year and Officer of the Year awards. He was Elks Scholarship Chairman for Fond du Lac County for 27 years. He is currently a member and trustee of Oshkosh Lodge #292. He served as a District Vice President, and went on to become President of the Wisconsin Elks Association in 2003-04. He and Judie attended Elks Grand Lodge conventions across the U.S., and he was a Grand Lodge Activities Committeeman for four years.

Norm loved woodworking, carpentry, and working in his yard. He was a Wisconsin Badgers fan, and was a shareholder of the Green Bay Packers. He enjoyed helping others and shared his time, talents, and stories with many, many people over the years.

Norm is survived by his beloved wife, Judie; his son, Curt, of Chicago; his brother, Donald (Lee) of Fond du Lac; several nieces and nephews; and his dear little great-nieces Erin, Elsa and Eve.

Preceding him in death were his parents; his daughter, Carla Ann (2018); several nieces, nephews, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

The family extends a special thank you to Pastor Ted Drewsen, Chaplain Dana Caldwell, Dr. Gehrke, Nurses Amy and Amy, Kendra, Lynda, Don, Kristin, Nicole and Morgan.

VISITATION: Friends may call on Sunday, December 15, 2019, from 3:00 PM until 8:00 PM, there will be a brief Elks Lodge of Sorrow Service at 7:00 PM. All will take place at Kurki-Mach Funeral Chapel & Crematory, 31 East Division Street, Fond du Lac.

FUNERAL: Funeral services will be held on Monday, December 16, 2019, at 11:00 AM, at Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 535 Stow Street, Fond du Lac, preceded by visitation from 9:00 AM until the time of service.

Memorials may be directed to: Oshkosh Elks Lodge #292 Improvement Fund or Pilgrim United Church of Christ.

Kurki-Mach Funeral Chapel & Crematory is serving the family, [www.kurkimachfuneralchapel.com](http://www.kurkimachfuneralchapel.com). 920-921-4420

# Cemetery Details

## Estabrooks Cemetery

Esterbrook Road  
Fond du Lac, WI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **15**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory  
31 E. Division Street  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935  
(920) 921-4420  
[info@kurkifuneralchapel.com](mailto:info@kurkifuneralchapel.com)  
<https://kurkifuneralchapel.com>

## Visitation

DEC **16**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Pilgrim United Church of Christ  
535 Stow Street  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

## Service

---

DEC 16. 11:00 AM (CT)

Pilgrim United Church of Christ  
535 Stow Street  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

# Tribute Wall

TH

“ *Heavenly Father, who with a parents love wipes away our tears and makes all manner of things well, look with tenderness and affection on the members of the Behnke family who are suffering pain and loss.*

*Heal their grief, strengthen their faith, help them to understand that all separations, however traumatic, are only temporary and that together with You we will all be young again and all laugh again.*

*I ask this through Jesus your son, our risen Lord.*

*Amen*

---

**The Rev. Michael & Debra Hackbarth** - December 16, 2019 at 09:13 AM



“ *Judy, Our deepest sympathy at the loss of Norm. You and your family are in our prayers.*

*David & Kathy Geib*

---

**Kathy Geib** - December 15, 2019 at 06:06 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Norman C. Behnke.*



---

December 14, 2019 at 05:09 PM

PK

“ *Judie, Curt & Family,*  
*Norm has been in my life since I was a teenager. I remember when he was home on leave from the Navy, he would come over to visit grandma & us; mainly hoping to see Judie. He was so handy and could help you with almost anything. Judie, when we would be on the phone and he'd ask you who you were talking to, you'd tell him Patti. Then he would say Patti who? I'd yell into the phone Patti, your "favorite" niece! I had fun joking like that with him. Even though I couldn't see him, I knew that would put a smile on his face. I'm going to miss the drives he'd take us on when I'd come home for a visit and taking me down to Chicago to see Curt. He was always my airport transport person and would take me back to Milw. to meet up with Carla until my flight left. Judie & Curt, I have so many thoughts & memories it's hard to list here. Just thank you, Norm for everything you did for me, us, and our family. Now you've left another big hole in the heart of our family. I'll echo what Curt said, now he is back with Carla and can enjoy some of her delicious potato salad! LOL Take care, our sympathy, good thoughts & prayers are with all of you. See you in Jan.!*  
*P.S. Yes, I am blubbering while writing this! LOL (family joke)*

*Love & Hugs,  
Patti & Richard*

---

**Patti (LaPine) Kulaga** - December 14, 2019 at 02:25 PM

SB

“ *Our deepest sympathies to you and your family, Judie. Norm will be missed by so many people. He had a warm and generous heart.*  
*Bob and Susie (Behnke) Brockman.*

---

**Sue Broclman** - December 14, 2019 at 01:49 PM

MM

“ *Mark & Patty Minter lit a candle in memory of Norman C. Behnke*



Mark & Patty Minter - December 14, 2019 at 12:41 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Norman C. Behnke.*



December 14, 2019 at 11:41 AM



“ *I will always remember 2:00 Norm coming into my family's restaurant for his cup of coffee with the boys and Norm never forgetting to say bye and hi to me from the doorway. I will remember giving you (Norm) your change back in dimes to add to the collection that you were saving up in a jar and your endless of stories you'd share with me about life. Judy my deepest and warmest condolences.*

Noemi Diaz - December 13, 2019 at 11:49 PM

TR

“ *The Oasis Family Restaurant purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Norman C. Behnke.*



The Oasis Family Restaurant - December 13, 2019 at 11:41 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Norman C. Behnke.*



---

December 13, 2019 at 05:00 PM



“ *Dear Judie & Curt, there are no words that can express our sorrow of the passing of your loved one. We have many memories, at least 70 years. Laughter, stories, tears, blessed friendship. Rest in Peace, Norm, and God Bless Judie and Curt during this difficult time, comfort them and Hold them in the Palm of Your Hand.*

---

**Mary Ann & George** - December 13, 2019 at 04:02 PM



*Judie and family*

*My deepest sympathy in the passing of Norm. He was always a giant with a big heart. He will be sadly missed. Tons of hugs during this difficult time.*

*Diane Reiter*

---

**Diane Reiter** - December 13, 2019 at 08:42 PM



“ *I will hold in my memory all the times we played hooky and went golfing with Don! Love to all the family and to his special lady Judie.*  
*Jackie Rymer*

---

**Jackie** - December 13, 2019 at 11:56 AM

GS

“ *I was shocked to hear of Norm's passing. He will always be one of the best of men I will ever have had the privilege of knowing. He was a true Elk and such a big help whenever he was needed. I will miss him dearly and send all my love to Judy, Don and Leah. Peace and love during this difficult time.*

---

**Gina Staskal** - December 12, 2019 at 07:30 PM