



In Loving Memory
CELEBRATING A LIFE

Heaven is under our feet
as well as over our heads.

-Henry David Thoreau



Remembering
THE LIFE OF
Bernard J. Francque
March 6, 1942 - December 19, 2019



A Funeral Mass To Celebrate His Life
Monday, December 23, 2019 10:30 a.m.

St. Malachy Catholic Church
Geneseo, IL

Celebrant

Reverend Michael Pakula
Deacon Robert O'Rourke

Musical Selections By

Betsy Wyffels - Organist

Mary Frimml - Choir Director & Organist
St. Malachy Resurrection Choir

Casket Bearers

Joel Francque, Jason Francque
James Francque, Justin Francque
Nathan Francque, Jack Francque
Elias Francque, Leo Francque
Rakim Brode

Place of Eternal Rest

Spring Creek Cemetery
Atkinson Township

The family would like to invite friends and loved ones to
a luncheon, in memory of Bernard, following the service
at St. Malachy Catholic Church

Bernard Francque, a beloved husband, father, and brother and
a longtime Geneseo community leader, died on Thursday,
December 19, 2019, in Hammond Henry Hospital in Geneseo. He
was 77.

Bernard was born in Hammond Henry Hospital in Geneseo,
Illinois on March 6, 1942, to Albert Francque and Margaret
(Wyffels) Francque, farmers in the Geneseo area. His paternal
and maternal grandparents immigrated to America from
Belgium.

Bernard worked on his family's farm growing up, attending
the one-room Spring Creek schoolhouse - down the road
from the farm - through fifth grade when the school closed.
He excelled as a member of the Geneseo High School football
team. During his senior year, in 1959, the team went
undefeated and he was named to the Illinois all-state team. In
October 2019 Bernard was inducted into the Geneseo High
School Hall of Fame due to his football achievements and
community contributions. In 1960 he graduated from Geneseo
High School and went on to attend Black Hawk College.
Bernard served in the US Army Reserves in the 1960s.

On August 8, 1964, Bernard married Carole Clifford at St.
Malachy Catholic Church, and then moved into the house (on
the farm that he bought when he was 22 years old) outside of
Geneseo that remains the family home to this day. Mr. and
Mrs. Francque had seven children. Bernard was a lifelong
farmer and active member of St. Malachy Catholic Church,
including serving as a trustee and in other roles. He also
served on the school boards for the Geneseo school district
and St. Malachy Catholic School. In addition, Bernard served as
a board member for 18 years for Abilities Plus, which serves
individuals with disabilities at all ages, and was an active
volunteer for decades for Misericordia Heart of Mercy, a
home for disabled children and adults and where his son,
Justin, lives. He was also an original investor and served as a
board member for the Patriot Ethanol Plant in Annawan,
Illinois. Bernard was also an investor in Geneseo Feed and
Grain and particularly enjoyed the challenge of revitalizing the
old Purina Feed Mill.

Bernard had many interests. In addition to his strong belief and
commitment in supporting the Geneseo community and
beyond, Bernard also loved to have fun, listening to music -
rock, country, and the blues, working on old tractors and cars,
spending time with his family, longtime friends, and dogs
(especially Sid and Abbey), helping and mentoring people,
searching for arrowheads on his farm and discussing
geopolitical and economic issues. He was a fierce advocate for
his disabled son, Justin, and loved spending time with him on the
farm and on the road back and forth between Geneseo and
Misericordia in Chicago, where Justin lives. In addition, Bernard
served as a consultant for the US Department of Agriculture's
program in which the US advises countries that were part of
the former Soviet Union on modern farming techniques,
spending time in the country of Moldova.

Bernard cared deeply about working hard and trying to do the
right thing - not for any recognition that may come from it -
and emphasizing this to his children. Among many other
memories, his children recall their dad underscoring the
importance of family and working out problems, which they did
through the weekly family council meeting. During the raucous
weekly meeting each person shared the good and bad of the
previous week, the chores for the upcoming week were
assigned and family issues were aired and resolved.

As Bernard's illness progressed over the last few months, he
received extraordinary care and support from his family and
friends on a daily basis.

Bernard is survived by his wife, Carole, daughters, Jennifer
Morelli, Chicago, Jessie (Mike Brode) Francque, Cincinnati, Ohio,
Jackie (John) Peters, Geneseo, sons, Joel (Heather) Francque,
Geneseo, Jason Francque, Chicago, James (Cynthia) Francque,
Park Ridge, Illinois, Justin Francque, Chicago, ten grandchildren,
Nathan Francque, Lindsey Francque, Jack Francque, Leo
Francque, Maria Francque, Elias Francque, Josie Peters, Lucy
Peters, Tajah Brode and Rakim Brode, and sisters, Marilyn
Hultman, Diane Francque and Kathy Francque, all from Geneseo.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Margaret,
and his brother, Michael Francque.