



## Mr. Bernard "Ben" Plante

November 3, 1949 - March 15, 2018

UTICA - Mr. Bernard M. "Ben" Plante, went to be with his Lord on Thursday, March 15, 2018 when he passed away at The Pines at Utica, at the age of 68. At the time of his crossing over, he was in the hearts of those he loved the most.

Born in Utica on November 3, 1949, he was the son of the late Royal F. and Winifred (Mitchell) Plante. Bernard was raised and educated locally, a graduate of Utica Free Academy/Class of 1967. In 1979 he married Raina Lopez with whom he shared 39 years. They were blessed with a unique closeness of heart and soul, and Raina holds dear their many common interests and happy times together.

For a period of time, Ben lived with his wife in Florida. He loved the outdoors and made his living as a landscaper and greenskeeper. They then relocated back to Utica where he attended MVCC majoring in Human Services. A majority of his working career was at Granny's Kitchen. He enjoyed working at the bakery and was fond of the friendships he formed with his fellow co-workers. Ben was blessed with a sense of humor that charmed many hearts, and people gravitated to his laughter and his engaging personality. Music was his greatest form of entertainment. He remained loyal to the 60's and he still had many of his vintage vinyl records including, among others, The Doors, The Rolling Stones, and The Beatles who sang one of his favorite songs, "Nowhere Man". Football was his favorite sport and he looked forward to watching a hard-fought game. In his youth he was an avid writer and amateur

movie producer. He enjoyed a good meal, taking time to relax, and enjoyed a beautiful sunset with his wife. He had a tender side for animals, domestic or wild, and from God's hand to his heart, he had room to hold them all. Ben was brave and able to bear the burdens of his life, and even when illness presented itself he remained charming, calm, witty and courageous. The Lord brought him back to a place of peace which comforted his wife and family. They are reassured that he is now with the Lord who will have mercy on his soul.

Ben is survived by his wife, Raina; his siblings and their loves, Mary C. Plante and Jerry Godkin, Anne M. Plante, Denise M. Plante, twins, Gerald F. Plante and Stan Christi, Girard A. Plante, and Therese B. Plante and her husband Carl Forlano. He also leaves his nieces and nephews; Robert Thrasher, Sheryl Thrasher and Laurence Sardina; Andre Fichi, Joseph Plante and Vincent Hoover; and Daniel Plante, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his mother-in-law, Edna (Calvano) Lopez, father-in-law, Lawrence Lopez, and sister-in-law, Mary Curwitz.

Ben was well-loved by the residents of the fourth floor of The Pines of Utica who came to see him in his final days, offering love and shedding tears, and the personnel were so kind and caring. The family is also grateful to the staff of Hospice & Palliative Care for the dignity and care they provided him; the Servants of the Divine Mercy, dedicated Christians who assisted Ben with the Prayer of the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ; and Father John Buehler for administering the Sacrament of The Anointing of the Sick.

The family commemorated Ben's life during the last few days of his life. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Bernard's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Tuesday morning at 9:30 at Historic Old St. John's Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Fr. John Buehler. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of the service.

# Tribute Wall

TB

“ *Denice and family*

*I am so sorry to read about your brothers passing. We have been in Florida for 2 months so I Am just seeing this. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

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**teresa blank** - March 29, 2018 at 11:09 AM

LM

“ *TC, Girard, Gerald and all of the Plante family, I am very sorry to hear of your brother's passing. I did not know Bernard but from what you have written about him, he sounds like a wonderful person with a huge heart. May he rest in peace. My thoughts and prayers to your family.*

*Linda Martin*

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**Linda Martin** - March 25, 2018 at 10:22 PM

RE

“ *TC, Gerald and Girard, I am sorry to hear about you loss of Bernie. I don't remember much of him because of our age difference but I grew up with all of you and know he must have been just as good a person. God bless you all in this difficult time.*

*Ray Ermacor*

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**ray Ermacor** - March 25, 2018 at 12:15 PM

GP

*Thank you, Ray. Bernie was one of the 'big kids' in our Old Neighborhood. He was well-known by elder neighbors whose newspapers he delivered, along with parents of his friends whom also had siblings our age. A Hippie who went with pals to California in 1968 after high school. So, our generation would not have seen him much. Peace.*

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**Girard A. Plante** - March 26, 2018 at 10:35 AM

TP

“*Ben always said, “Don’t worry, Teeso.” So thankful for all the closure and blessings by spending so much time by his side. We held hands and wept for his pain, his last stop in life in a place we all dread. He loved all of us so much. He still had his own unique sense of humor. I always felt protected by him. We are a wonderful family, raised right, each finding our way. May God grant us the peace and strength to finish our own walk through life with dignity, friendship and laughter. I will miss you forever Ben-o. Please come and see me. So sorry for your suffering. Rest now. Sit back and relax. Don’t worry. I’m okay.. We tried to fight for better care. The health system is sorely lacking So many good people took care of you. So many who didn’t listen or cooperate I love you Ben Don’t worry See you in a bit Thankful for all the I love yous. Forever your sister TC*

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**Therese Plante** - March 25, 2018 at 09:27 AM

PK

*What a beautiful tribute to your brother, Therese. I wish you God's comfort and peace in the days ahead.  
Pat Klar*

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**Patricia Klar** - March 25, 2018 at 09:53 AM

SM

*That was so beautiful.....*

**santina murine** - March 25, 2018 at 10:26 AM

FI

*To the Plante family so sorry for your loss, May Bernie Rest In Peace, Amen 🙏*

**Frank Inserra** - March 25, 2018 at 12:28 PM

KF

“ *I loved Bernard. I want to send my condolences to everyone in the planet family. He is up there with God and his mom and dad.*

**Kelly Freeman** - March 24, 2018 at 10:01 PM



“ *Ahhh Bernie, that picture...some of my fondest memories from high school are centered around Anne and Bernie. So glad we saw each other a few years ago at the Campus Inn. The whole Haritos family, especially my mother who loved Anne and Bernie, send their love and prayers.*

**Nina Haritos** - March 22, 2018 at 05:46 PM

GP

*Nina -- Seeing Bernie in this 'format' still is surreal. That particular photo is a family favorite. It was cropped to fit the obituary. Standing next to Bernie is Butch Mancuso -- Bernie is resting his left arm on Butchy's right shoulder. They're standing on Genesee Street next to Wolfie's Restaurant at the Busy Corner. The year is 1969 and Downtown Utica was hopping! Thank you much for your beautiful remembrances of a simpler time with fine folks from your youth. Hugs to Stephanie and your parents. Peace/Love*

**Girard Plante** - March 23, 2018 at 10:43 AM

CM

“ We especially remember Bernie as a great friend to our brother Butch. Your family has seven kids and ours has six, so we all related well. It is our love for your family and ours to remember the fun times we shared. It is with much love and comfort that we send our thoughts and prayers to all of you. It is comforting to know that Bernie will see Frank in heaven.



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**Cookie & Judi Mancuso** - March 22, 2018 at 03:40 PM

GP

Cookie & Judi -- That photo of Bernie was cropped to fit the obituary. The actual photo shows Bernie standing next to your brother Butch, left arm on his right shoulder, on Genesee Street Downtown Utica, near Wolfie's Restaurant in 1969. We still do not know who shot the photo. It is a favorite photo of our family! Your kind, loving words are comforting and appreciated during this time of heavy hearts. God bless you both and your family.

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**Girard Plante** - March 23, 2018 at 10:37 AM

KY

“ Remembering Bernie today. To the Plante family, so very sorry for your loss. We were in Jr. High together at St. Francis. I remember the parties we use to have when Bernie introduced us to his East Utica friends who became part of our crowd. A few of us tracked him down and were able to visit him last summer. We had such a nice time reminiscing after 50+ years and, of course, Bernie kept us laughing. The picture on this page is how I will remember him. RIP, Bernie.

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**Kathie (Ashcroft) Yee** - March 20, 2018 at 10:56 AM

GP

*Your kindness, Kathie, is appreciated. And visiting Bernie with tree other longtime friends proved to be a 'highlight' during his struggle. Friends such as you and the others never truly 'move away' from one's heart and mind. Thank you for your meaningful words during our loss. Peace.*

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**Girard A. Plante** - March 20, 2018 at 02:01 PM

GC

“ *To Mary, Ann, Denise, Girard, Gerald and TC,*

*So sorry to hear of Bernies passing. We have wonderful memories of the old neighborhood. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*The Cardillo Family,*

*Joe, Vic, Shelly, Gina and Marisa*

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**Gina Cardillo** - March 19, 2018 at 09:24 PM

GP

*Thank you much, dear friends and longtime neighbors. Peace.*

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**Girard A. Plante** - March 20, 2018 at 01:57 PM

AD

“ *To all the Plante Family, So sorry to hear of your brothers passing you are in are thoughts and prayers*

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**Anthony & Elizabeth DeCarolis** - March 19, 2018 at 06:51 PM

GP

*Your thoughtfulness, Tony D and Liz, is appreciated. Peace.*

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**Girard A. Plante** - March 20, 2018 at 01:56 PM

CR

“ I am very sorry for your loss. I have very fond memories of Bernie and the rest of our crew from our high school days.

Candace Rezey-Gazzal - March 19, 2018 at 12:58 PM

GP

Thank you, Candy! I vividly recall numerous fond and fun memories Bernie shared about that "crew." Peace.

Girard A. Plante - March 20, 2018 at 01:55 PM

RR

“ Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Plante family.

Robert & Johanna Rosato - March 18, 2018 at 03:53 PM

CC

“ "Bernie", as he was known at St. Francis De Sales School, where we first met, became a close friend of mine. His heart, humor and creativity was exceptional. My condolences to his wonderful family. Rest in peace, my old friend.

Chris Conley - March 18, 2018 at 03:11 PM

GP

Chris! Bernie spoke about the "great fun" he had with you many occasions for many years. It is amazing you should write a remembrance because you became larger-than-life to his younger siblings. Thank you for commenting on Bernie's friendship with you; he would be appreciative. He did indeed cherish his friendship with you. Was your dad a teacher at Clinton High School? Peace.

Girard A. Plante - March 18, 2018 at 08:12 PM

GP

“*"The fight is O'er, the Battle won."* During your youth through late 20s, always your brilliant mind set you to jot words inside those closet full of Composition Books, note pads, binders packed with blue-lined white paper. The plays you wrote in high school came from a sort of Twilight Zone show! The laughter they brought still remains! Your irreverant tendencies towards 'established order' gave truth to the causes that defined your generation. Yet your gentle, generous, kind, affable, loving redeeming qualities shone brightest. Cynic with reasoning. The spontaneous quips and quirky jokes drew varied personalities to you. And their laughter gave them help through their own unique plight. Seeing your NAME together with that youthful exuberance inside that photo as you stood arm on shoulder of Butchy Mancuso 48 years ago is surreal to me; however, the photo brings me into the joviality of that 'moment' frozen in a simpler time. This is how I shall forever remember you, sweet elder brother Bernard Martin. Rest eternally shining on your dear hearts. Our Faith teaches us that the hour will arrive whereby we shall be together again. Ceaseless gratitude for your brotherly love. Peace.

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**Girard A. Plante** - March 18, 2018 at 12:39 PM

CB

“*Mary and family I am sorry for your loss, may Ben rest in peace and may the memories you have of him bring you comfort. Ben was very kind and helpful when he spent a few thanksgivings at our house, I enjoyed his company very much. love you Mary, I am thinking of you. Colleen Baris and family*

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**Colleen Baris** - March 17, 2018 at 04:06 PM

MA

“ *Mary lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bernard  
"Ben" Plante*



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**Mary** - March 17, 2018 at 03:59 PM

MA

“ *Bernard, my first little brother, I miss you & love you and always will.  
Watch over us & keep us safe. You are with Mom and Dad now.  
You can rest & be at peace with them. You & Rita Mary are together  
again, too, so don't cause too much trouble up there---ha!  
I love you little brother, Mary*

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**Mary** - March 17, 2018 at 03:57 PM