Mr. Howard John Bender

April 22, 1935 - February 7, 2024

UTICA – Mr. Howard John Bender, age 88, passed away on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, in the comfort and dignity of his home with his loving family by his side.

Born in Utica on April 22, 1935, Howard was the son of the late Frank J. and Catherine A. (Hazel) Bender. He was educated locally and attended T. R. Proctor High School.

On September 22, 1956, he wed the former Dolores R. Spano. The two of them made a beautiful pair. They were inseparable, completely dedicated to one another and to their family.

For many years, Howard held a position with the Utica Board of Water Supply as a field technician up until his retirement in 1989. He also concurrently held other local positions such as a delivery driver for O'Scugnizzo Pizza for many years, a position he truly loved. At one time, he also helped with the family concern in the operation of a local diner and pizzeria located on James St. in the early 70s.

A gentle heart, he was above all dedicated to his loving family. He was a caretaker by nature and was very devoted to not only his wife and children, but to his parents and siblings as well. Howard's wife often would lovingly refer

to him as “impish.” He loved to set the bait for people to get a funny response out of them. Riling people up gave him great satisfaction, though at times he would “run for cover!”

Howard enjoyed his time spent as a member of the Utica Auxiliary Police Department and as a ham radio operator under the handle of “Big Ben.” His police and fire scanners were on at all times! He loved to frequent the local resale shops and enjoyed “wheeling and dealing.” A “Mr. Fix It,” anything that needed his attention would be researched and then a specific plan would be implemented to repair the damaged item. Very resourceful, Howard could turn any discarded item into a jewel. He also enjoyed photography, his wine, and sausage. But most of all, he had a special love for family visitors where he would serve his famous homemade potato chips.

Howard is survived by his beloved wife, Dolores; his canine companion, Duke; his daughters and their loves, Jo Marie Drake and Paul Gleba, and Kathleen “Kathy” and Timothy Brown, Sr.; his grandchildren, Kenneth “Kenny” Drake, Keith “Scooter” Drake, Kody “Kodman” Drake; Timothy, Jr. “TJ” and Andrea Brown, and Dr. Kaitlyn “Kait” Brown and Max Nulk; and his great-grandchildren, Aubree, Rosalie, and Viola Brown. During his life he fondly remembered his siblings who preceded him, Edward Harden, Ella (Harden) Kulmus, Catherine and George Rjesnjanksy, Frank and Antoinette Bender, and Thomas and Ann Bender. He also leaves to cherish his memory many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. He was additionally predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Pietro and Josephine (Serio) Spano.

The family wishes to thank those who Howard called his “special girls,” for their loving care, especially Annette, Carol, Deb, Kathy, Kia, Lisa, Lori, Melissa, Suanne, and Tanya; as well as the staff of Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc.

Visitation will be held on Friday, February 16, 2024 from 12:00–2:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Howard’s funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Friday, February 16, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Entombment will take place in Christ Our Savior Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

Christ Our Savior Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2727

Previous Events

Funeral Service

FEB **16**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

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Tribute Wall

CB

Dennis and I share our deepest condolences to his beloved wife Dolores, his daughters Kathy and Jo Marie and entire family. There are so many memories to share, and all of them cherished ones. To my Buddy Howard, thank you for making a difference in my life. Hope I did the same for you. Peace out, until we meet again Mr. B.

Carol Bartosiewicz - February 16, 2024 at 08:22 AM

LF

My sincere condolences to you all. May Mr Bender rest in peace and may God bless your family.

Lynette Franco - February 14, 2024 at 10:30 AM

Thank you Lynette.💙

Dolores Spano Bender - October 13, 2024 at 06:47 PM

75 files added to the album LifeTributes

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - February 14, 2024 at 09:07 AM

AV

My sincerest condolence to the Bender family during this most difficult time. God bless Mr. Bender and may he rest in peace.
Ann Marie Vallese

Ann Marie Vallese - February 13, 2024 at 09:20 AM

SF

Sandi, Larry and family purchased the Divine Pea ce Bouquet for the family of Mr. Howard John Bender.

Sandi, Larry and family - February 13, 2024 at 09:11 AM

To Dolores & Daughters,
Just a few words of sympathy to Aunt Dolores. He became my Uncle when my mother married his brother Everett Harden. He was a wonderful and cheerful guy every time we were together. May he rest in peace with all his family.
Love Nephew Anthony Domanico
Tucson,AZ

Tony Domanico - February 12, 2024 at 10:24 PM

KB

Tony thank you. Dad shared many fond memories of you & your family. Can you contact me? kb0509@gmail.com thanks Kathy

K Brown - February 14, 2024 at 11:18 AM

SM

When I met Howard 4 years ago he used to roll his eyes at me and say that I was crazy! I loved how he would help me do chores about the home. I'd fly by him and be back in a jiffy and he'd shake his head. We spent many hours on the front porch just talking the ages through. He was so cool and by all counts a Good Ole Boy. He was my friend. He will be missed.

Sueann Madison - February 12, 2024 at 06:59 PM

TF

Tami and family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mr. Howard John Bender.

Tami and family - February 12, 2024 at 04:24 PM

PK

Paul, Jo Marie, Kenny, Keith and Kody purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Mr. Howard John Bender.

Paul, Jo Marie, Kenny, Keith and Kody - February 12, 2024 at 03:08 PM