



## Berndale "Bernie" James Gillaspie

September 22, 1968 - November 2, 2016

Berndale J. Gillaspie of Grand Ledge passed away unexpectedly November 2, 2016. Bernie was born September 22, 1968 in Charlotte, Michigan to Bernard D. and Ruth E. (Leos) Gillaspie. Bernie loved to go fishing and was a huge Lions fan. He also collected and built model military WW II vehicles. He volunteered and devoted time helping Ledge Craft Lane and the Grand Ledge Historical Society Museum. He was a hard worker and could fix almost anything. Bernie loved and always looked forward to spending time with his daughter and granddaughter.

He is survived by daughter, Sarah Lee Vance; granddaughter, Varinia; father, Bernard D. and mother, Ruth (R. Wendell) Olsen; siblings, Scott (Elfriede) Smith, Leslie (John) Prame, Lee (Brian) Chasse, Lynda (Tom) Eckstrom, Claudia Smith and J.J. (Alan) Farmer along with numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

A celebration of Bernie's life will be held Saturday, November 5, 2016, at 4 pm at the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Memorial contributions may be given to seven month old granddaughter, Varinia. Please make checks payable to Sarah Vance, 406 N. Bridge Street, Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837. Share your memories and condolences online at <http://www.holihanatkin.com>

# Events

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**NOV**   **Visitation**                      03:00PM - 04:00PM

**5**

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Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home  
406 N. Bridge Street, Grand Ledge, MI, US, 48837

**NOV**   **Service**                                      04:00PM

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Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home  
406 N. Bridge Street, Grand Ledge, MI, US, 48837

# Comments

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“ I loved my brother I just wish I would have told him more. Rest in peace Bern. I will hold our memories dear in my heart.



**Lynda** - November 08, 2016 at 06:44 PM

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“ Richard, Mindy, Lucy, Carol and Rhonda from DTMB purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Berndale "Bernie" James Gillaspie.



**mom** - November 07, 2016 at 09:49 AM

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“ Praying for you, JJ, and all your family. I remember your brother always smiling. And as sad as it is, what a smile he must have on his face right now!! He will be watching over his daughter and granddaughter, for SURE!!! Xoxo

**Juli Schray** - November 05, 2016 at 09:17 AM

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“ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16; Believers who have died: Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lords word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not preceded those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Lee - November 05, 2016 at 07:28 AM

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“ John 16:22 - So with you: now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

Lee - November 05, 2016 at 07:02 AM

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“ Christy Smith lit a candle in memory of Berndale "Bernie" James Gillaspie



Christy Smith - November 04, 2016 at 11:39 PM

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“ I'm so very sad to hear this. It has been many many years since I've seen Berndale, but I will always remember him being so sweet and very funny. I'm praying for all of you as you say goodbye.

Tiffany Chase - November 04, 2016 at 06:00 PM

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“ Claudia Smith-Alderink lit a candle in memory of Berndale "Bernie" James Gillaspie



**Claudia Smith-Alderink** - November 04, 2016 at 11:49 AM

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“ Derrick Simmons lit a candle in memory of Berndale "Bernie" James Gillaspie



**Derrick Simmons** - November 04, 2016 at 11:08 AM

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“ My final post of memories of Bernie.  
I used to get picked on quite a bit when I was young, I never understood why, but there were bullies for one reason or another. As big brothers should, Bernie always had my back, sticking up for me. He was a blessing to me, always there to stick up for me at school, on the bus, wherever.... I will never, ever, forget that! He was a great friend and ally to have, because if memory serves me correctly, you didn't want to mess with Bernie. May God Bless you Bernie, I hope that I will see you again someday in Heaven. Rest in Peace until that day when Jesus returns.

**Derrick Simmons** - November 04, 2016 at 11:06 AM



“ Thank you for sharing so many wonderful stories. We hope to see you at the service.  
Sister, Lee

**Lee** - November 04, 2016 at 01:09 PM

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“ Still have dreams about hanging out with him at his grandpa's old Ponderosa campground in Vermontville during the Maple syrup Festival every year. We would have a blast running around the campground all day and all night, and taking the bus up to the carnival to ride rides whenever we wanted.

Derrick Simmons - November 04, 2016 at 10:51 AM

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“ I remember the time that I was trying to be a big shot with my BB gun, and somehow accidentally shot a Canada goose in just the right spot to actually kill it while it was swimming in the pond behind my house. I was mortified, and Bernie had a lot of fun with that, proceeding to scare me to death and convincing me that the DNR was going to come out and arrest me.

Derrick Simmons - November 04, 2016 at 10:43 AM

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“ Sorry about the last repeat post, I wasn't sure if it went through, so I hit the send button again. Another memory of mine with Bernie:  
I'll never forget when we both got our first motorcycles, and would ride around in Merrill's woods all day long until our gas tanks would go empty, or I got stuck in mud up to my seat.

Derrick Simmons - November 04, 2016 at 10:36 AM

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“ Bernie and I used to make it a tradition to go over to the nearby church camp ground to scare all of the six graders during the annual Sunfield sixth grade camp out. For all of you Sunfield elementary grads, you surely remember this trip. Him and I would spend the whole night creeping around in the woods scaring you all while you were on your imaginary snipe hunt with Mr. Heide and all of the other students and teachers. Yes, that was us out in the woods all those years. We had an absolute ball doing it, without telling a soul what we were doing.

Derrick Simmons - November 04, 2016 at 10:24 AM

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“ So many memories of growing up with Bernie during my childhood, so I'll try to just recall some of the most memorable ones, otherwise I could go on and on. Probably the most important one was when Bernie went out of his way to make friends with me, the new kid down the road that didn't have any brothers or sisters. We spent a lot of time goofing around, and having lots of fun. He quickly became the brother that I didn't have. Surprisingly emotional as I write this. More fond memories to follow.

**Derrick Simmons** - November 04, 2016 at 10:08 AM

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“ Ed And Jeanette Markwart lit a candle in memory of Berndale "Bernie" James Gillaspie



**Ed and Jeanette Markwart** - November 03, 2016 at 07:18 PM

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“ Andrew Markwart lit a candle in memory of Berndale "Bernie" James Gillaspie



**Andrew Markwart** - November 03, 2016 at 07:10 PM