



Robert Michael Brunke

June 6, 1969 - July 3, 2018

Robert “Rob” Michael Brunke Age 49, passed away at home, surrounded by his family, on July 3, 2018 following a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Robert was born June 6, 1969 in Berlin, WI, the son of Richard and Barbara (Ferris) Brunke. He attended Berlin Catholic School and was a 1987 graduate of Berlin High School. On June 18, 1994 he was united in marriage with Robin (Boening) at Grace Lutheran Church in Berlin, WI.

Robert battled Alport Syndrome, which lead to his need for a kidney transplant. He received his first gift of life from his father, Richard, in 1987. Over the next thirteen years Rob was able to work full time, get married, start a family and become a Firefighter with the Berlin Fire Department. He worked his way to water officer and could go to any fire in the area, where his call sign was “Daffy.” He continued on the Fire Department for over 20 years until his health prevented him from continuing.

In 2000 his kidney started failing and by the end of the year he needed to go on dialysis. He received his second gift of life in 2001 when a friend, Clark McCormick, donated his kidney. Rob went on to work, remaining on the Fire Department and having a second son. A brain infection in 2004 damaged the kidney and by the end of 2005 Rob was back on dialysis and the transplant waiting list.

In 2016 Rob received his third gift of life when a kidney from St. Louis became available. This allowed him to be healthy enough to work as the crossing

guard at Clay Lamberton School the past two school years.

Robert was an active member of Grace Lutheran Church in Berlin, a member and then advisor to the Berlin Police & Fire Explorer Post, a Berlin Jaycee, a Life Member of Bugle Mouth Bass, a volunteer with the Berlin Area Food Pantry, and “official” bell ringer and cheerleader for the Helping Hands 5K each year. If there was some way Rob could help another, he did.

Robert’s greatest achievement and joy were his boys, Alex and Ethan. He was a role model of hard work despite adversity; positivity, kindness and above all, love and care for your fellow man. He was incredibly proud of both boys’ accomplishments, and will always be their hero.

Robert is survived by his wife of 24 years, Robin, his sons E3/HN Alexander (fiancee Alondra Pizano), US Navy- Japan, and Ethan, at home. He is further survived by his parents, Richard and Barbara, Berlin; two sisters- Elizabeth (Ron) Dillman and Susan (Bruce) Tetzke, both of Berlin, his father-in-law Gary (Jaci) Boening, Berlin, and mother-in-law Marge Boening, Oshkosh, sister-in-law Kelly (Chad) Boening-Phillips, Berlin, and brother-in-law Derek (Becky Rae) Boening of Oshkosh. Uncle Robbie will be deeply missed by his nieces and nephews: Torry, Aaron, Aerin, Brittany, Stephanie, Delaney, Payton, Sully, Spencer, Allison and Aubree.

The family would like to thank Agnesian Hospice for their care (especially Amy and Pam), Pastor Scott for his prayers and love, Kelly for her round the clock care of Rob while on hospice, and all the people who visited Rob in the hospital or at home, those who brought food for the family and all the beautiful cards and letters that we received during his illness. Rob knew that he was loved deeply.

Rob taught everyone he met that unconditional love, kindness and positivity could be shared with every person you meet. His love for others has been reflected back to his family during this difficult time and they are extremely grateful for this. They ask that everyone honors Rob by paying his kindness forward and registering to be an Organ Donor.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

Berlin, WI 54923

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **30**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wiecki-Skipchak Funeral Home
116 S Adams Ave
Berlin, WI 54923
(920) 361-2050

Visitation

JUL **31**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Grace English Lutheran Church
384 Oak Street
Berlin, WI 54923
gracelutheranberlin@gmail.com
<http://www.graceberlin.org>

Funeral Service

JUL 31. 11:00 AM (CT)

Grace English Lutheran Church
384 Oak Street
Berlin, WI 54923
gracelutheranberlin@gmail.com
<http://www.graceberlin.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Wiecki-Skipchak Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert Michael Brunke*



Wiecki-Skipchak Funeral Home - July 23, 2018 at 09:34 PM

DP

what a beautiful tribute to an amazing man!

Debra Parrish - July 23, 2018 at 11:23 PM



Loved it rob was a awesome man

Charlie Przybyl - July 25, 2018 at 08:50 PM

SB

Rob was such a wonderful man. Anytime the kids had something going on, he was right there to help, tell a joke or just give one of his big warm smiles. He touched so many lives in school, community, and church. He will be missed every day. Our love and prayers to Robin, Ethan, Alex and the whole family.

Sally Borland - July 31, 2018 at 08:26 AM

SB

“ *Sally Borland lit a candle in memory of Robert Michael Brunke*



Sally Borland - July 31, 2018 at 08:24 AM

MS

“ July 2, 2016 Boat Parade after the fireworks, Rob holding the flag on the Mayor's boat. Rob was a very giving person and will be missed.



Mayor Dick Schramer - July 30, 2018 at 10:25 AM

SH

“ I am sorry I will not be able to attend Rob's funeral, we will be out of state on that day. Rob was a wonderful, caring person. He knew that I collected M&Ms and without telling me, dropped off a string of M&M lights with me one day when Alex was still in middle school. His presence will be missed. My thoughts and prayers to your family during this difficult time. Peace be with you.



Sharon Hansen - July 24, 2018 at 11:51 PM

TR

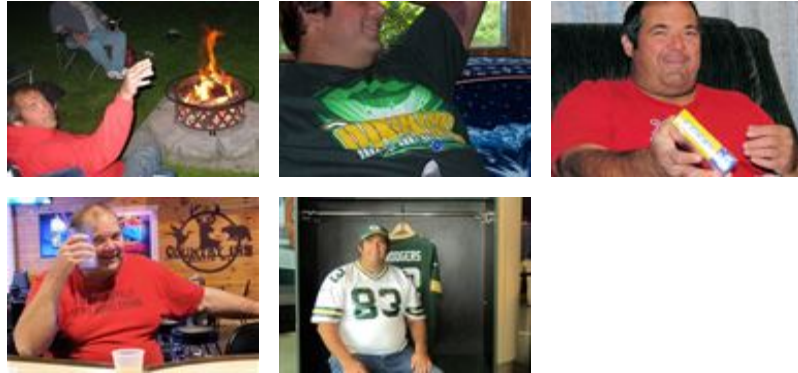
“ 1 file added to the album Life Tributes



TIM RODGERS - July 24, 2018 at 10:08 PM



“ 273 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Wiecki-Skipchak Funeral Home - July 23, 2018 at 08:21 PM



“ *Tom ,Sue Bechard lit a candle in memory of Robert Michael Brunke*



Tom ,Sue Bechard - July 19, 2018 at 07:56 PM



“ *Robin, Alex and Ethan....Rob was one of my favorite faces to see on those days he need some assistance....always smiling and eternally grateful. Robin-hugs to you!*

Pam Garvin - July 08, 2018 at 08:22 PM

ML

“ I met Rob through my cousin and friends back in high school when he was an Explorer. He, my cousin and Tim and I went to their Junior Prom. It was a great time. Rob was the most generous and kind man I know. He will forever be remembered and missed by all who knew him. My sympathies to his entire family.

Michelle Leinweber - July 06, 2018 at 05:29 PM

LH

I met Rob and Robin when I joined the EMS. Also the great super bowl parties. What a great and easy going person always there to help and try to make you laugh . God needed another jokester with new jokes. Rob will be missed by many. God bless you and keep your family safe in these trying times. Thank you for your service to your community on Berlin Fire Department and Berlin EMS. You will truly be missed my friend Rest in peace you truly be missed.

Larry and Diane Hall - July 07, 2018 at 06:03 PM

LP

“ This is one man that is definitely going to be missed. I probably would not have met Rob if it wasn't for my brother being friends with him. Rodney is going to miss your hugs every time u two would meet. LOL ❤️. Until we meet again Daffy. ***Hugs***

LeNae Pitzrick - July 06, 2018 at 04:58 PM



“ To the Brunke families,
May you find peace in the support and prayers during this heartbreaking time. Rob was a fine man and touched many with his wisdom, and jokes. He will be missed by all. Sending my heartfelt sympathies to all and the memories will be there forever. Love you all.



Cheryl Rodgers - July 06, 2018 at 03:03 PM



“ *My family will miss his smile at school. We enjoyed talking to him almost everyday at school. He was such a happy guy who loved his job and the kids. He will be greatly missed!*

Crystal Metoxen - July 06, 2018 at 01:56 PM

MH

“ *To the Brunke Families you all have our Deepest Sympathy of the loss of Rob. He was a great guy. He always had a smile and a hug for us. He is now with his Lord and Savior and at Peace. Remember the good times and he well be with you always in your hearts. God Bless You All At This Tlme Of Grief.*



Milton and JoAnn Haskins - July 05, 2018 at 11:08 PM

SR

“ *Sharon Rasmussen lit a candle in memory of Robert Michael Brunke*



Sharon Rasmussen - July 05, 2018 at 07:57 AM

PL

“ *To Brunke Family
Rob was a great man. It was my pleasure/honor to know him. He will be greatly missed. Especially his robust hello and smile. You all are & have been in my prayers. He is at peace know with God.
Pam Lind*

Pam Lind - July 04, 2018 at 12:26 AM