



## Wayne Besaw

August 21, 1939 - January 1, 2024

On January 1, 2024 Wayne F. Besaw, age 84 passed away at Theda Care Hospital Berlin with family by his side. His death was due to congestive heart disease. Wayne was born in Berlin, WI on August 21, 1939 to Charles and Eleanor (Freimark) Besaw. He attended St. Stanislaus Catholic School, Berlin High School (Class of 1958) and the University of WI-Stevens Point. On October 21, 1961, he married his high school sweetheart Joan Mlodzik at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Berlin. Together they had three sons and went on to celebrate 62 years of marriage.

Following Wayne's graduation from UW-Point in 1962, the couple moved to Berlin. Wayne became employed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources working in Fisheries at the Oshkosh location. A position became available a year later in Wildlife Management and he relocated to the Berlin regional DNR office. One of his primary job functions was negotiating and acquiring land for the projects of Grand River Wildlife Area and the White River Marsh Wildlife Area. He also obtained game warden credentials and worked law enforcement during special hunting seasons. He very much enjoyed his career with the DNR and working with the many people he met along the way. Wayne retired from the DNR in 1997 after 34 years of service and began another phase of his life known as "retirement". Those years were filled with spending fun times with his family, traveling with his wife and friends throughout Wisconsin and numerous trips to Branson, MO, reading , playing cards and taking many fishing trips to Green Lake and Lake Poygan along

with several trips to the Canadian waters. Volunteering at the local food pantry, delivering mobile meals, participating in DNR projects such as water sampling on Lake Poygan and helping with various functions at All Saints Catholic church were other activities he enjoyed and did for many years. Wayne will be remembered by all who knew him as a caring, honest and law abiding person.

Wayne is survived by his loving wife, Joan; sons, Michael (Dawn) Besaw, Neshkoro, WI, Craig (Lori) Besaw, Plover, WI and John Besaw, Columbus, WI., grandchildren, Joshua (Kate) Besaw, Nashville, TN, Kendra (Tom) Crowell, Beaver Dam, WI, Ryan Besaw, Los Angeles, CA, Brett Besaw, Philadelphia, PA, Brianna Besaw, Plover, WI, Dayton Besaw, Columbus, WI, Ashlyn Besaw, Sun Prairie, WI, Olivia (Liam) Boswell, Sun Prairie, WI; and great-grandchildren, Finnely, Weston and Leo. Also surviving is his sister-in-law Ina Mlodzik, Berlin, WI, nephews, nieces and many friends.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Lawrence Besaw; sister-in-law, Barbara Besaw; brother-in-law, Robert Mlodzik; and sister-in-law, Sally Jo Mlodzik.

In honoring Wayne's wishes, cremation has taken place and private funeral services will be held with inurnment at St. Stanislaus Cemetery.

In place of flowers a memorial has been established in Wayne's memory.

# Cemetery Details

## **St. Stanislaus Catholic Cemetery**

N. Wisconsin St  
Berlin, WI 54923

# Tribute Wall

SC

“ Dear Joan, May the healing hand of God touch your days and give you comfort and strength to accept what I too know is a deep loss. My prayers surround you and your family during this sad time. Sincerely, Shelly Chikowski

Shelly Chikowski - January 21, 2024 at 06:43 PM

ML

“ Joanie so sorry for your loss....I know Wayne will be watching over you RIP Wayne

Mary Jo Lesnick - January 18, 2024 at 08:16 PM

LR

“ I am so sorry to hear of cousin Wayne's passing. I remember him as always being a kind, caring man with a smile that lit up his face.

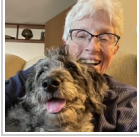
Lynn Besaw Randall - January 04, 2024 at 06:12 PM

AI

“ Advanced Coatings Inc. purchased the Beautiful i n Blue for the family of Wayne Besaw.



Advanced Coatings Inc. - January 04, 2024 at 09:40 AM



“ I had the privilege of working with Wayne for 25 years during our time with the DNR. I will miss our Monday morning phone calls in retirement where we always reminisced about "the good old days." RIP Wayne.

Tom Hansen

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**Linda Hansen** - January 03, 2024 at 02:04 PM

JS

*Dear Joan, I always enjoyed working with you and Wayne at the Berlin Area Food Pantry. Enjoyed his smile and sense of humor and his dedication to the cause. So sorry for your loss. Sincerely, Jo Ann Schoblaski*

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**Jo Ann Schoblaski** - February 06, 2024 at 04:38 PM