



Bartlett Lee Kassabaum

July 26, 1947 - January 12, 2021

Princeton - Bartlett Lee Kassabaum, 73, of Princeton, passed away Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at OSF St. Francis Medical Center, Peoria, IL.

Mass of Catholic Burial will begin at 1 pm Saturday, January 16 at St. Louis Catholic Church in Princeton with Father Timothy Hepner officiating. Burial to follow at the Elm Lawn Cemetery in Princeton. Military Rites accorded.

Visitation for Bartlett will be held on Friday, January 15, 2021 at Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The visitation line will be honored, restrictions apply, facemask required.

Bart was born on July 26, 1947 in Spring valley, Illinois, the second of 9 children of Marilyn (Kunkel) and Charles H. Kassabaum. Bart was reared in Granville and graduated Hopkins High School in 1965. He served in the Army as a Spec. 5 Communication member from 1968 through 1971. Bart worked as an artist for Josten's for 5 years illustrating medallions, rings, and charms. In 1982 he married Connie McMahon and has stated many times how his best work was his son, Mark, born 1985.

Throughout his life he was a member of various organizations like the Jaycees, Elks, Moose, the Illinois Valley Wildlife Committee, Princeton Arts Committee which was responsible for "Art in the Park" held for years in June

for various years. Bart was an active member of the Bureau County Daycare Board, 1987-1997, and was involved with the construction of the present Zearing Childhood Center. He was a member of the Princeton's Rediscovering Richard Widmark Group. Being very instrumental in having the Richard Widmark star and plaque installed in the Princeton Walk of Fame in front of the Apollo Theater. On a less serious note, Bart was an audience participant of the infamous concert, "Woodstock." Among his many passions were the outdoors, landscaping projects, music, and his ardent love of family.

Bartlett Lee Kassabaum worked as a full-time professional artist for almost 45 years after leaving Josten's. He was a self-taught artist and enjoyed working in many mediums including watercolor, gouache, acrylic, graphite, color pencil, and mixed media. He had 99 of his original works in print. Bart's works were mainly of landscapes, wildlife, and local scenes, but he also loved different projects as a change of pace. One such project was painting his first Duckstamp picture on the bottom of a patron's pool.

A dedicated and accomplished artist, Bart Kassabaum's work has been recognized for many achievements and awards. He had three direct purchase awards and two commissions by the state of Illinois, had his art presented to three governors, won four Illinois Duck Stamp competitions for the hunting stamp in 1980, 1983, 1985, and 1987. He also had placed sixth in the National Duck Stamp competition. Bart's patriotic art, "No Free in Freedom," featuring two World War veterans, Charles H. Kassabaum, his father, and pilot John C. Dove, were featured in his design for the country music CD by Derik Scumacher out of Nashville in 2005. The art of Bartlett Kassabaum has raised over \$150,000 for different charitable causes during his career.

Bart wrote, illustrated and published his first book, *Becoming Richard Widmark*, and his second book in 2020 just before his death, *Becoming Bureau County*.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Princeton Public Library, the Bureau County Genealogical Society and St. Louis Catholic Church of Princeton, IL.

Bart is survived by his wife of thirty-eight years, Connie, his son, Mark and his wife, Bridget; brothers and sisters, Craig Kassabaum of Peoria, Patti (David) Shimmin of Normal, Sherry (Ralph) Hastings of Bryan, Texas, Kurt Kassabaum, Carole (Ernest) Terando, Blane (Melissa) Kassabaum, all of Granville, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Bart was preceded in death by his parents and two younger brothers, Mark of Granville, and Gary of Apple Valley, California.

Online condolences and memorials may be left at www.norbergfh.com

Arrangements are being made by Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. and Monuments, Princeton, Illinois.

Cemetery Details

Elm Lawn Cemetery

N Knox St.
Princeton, IL 61356

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 15. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Norberg Memorial Home, Inc.
701 E. Thompson Street
Princeton, IL 61356

Mass

JAN 16. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Louis Catholic Church - Princeton
616 S Gosse Blvd
Princeton, IL 61356

Graveside Service

JAN 16. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Elm Lawn Cemetery
N Knox St.
Princeton, IL 61356

Tribute Wall

PS

“ I am Phil Schlindwein. I worked with Bart at Josten's when he first started there. He was one of the many talented artists and it was a joy to see their work. I remember the work that he was involved with on the early NFL rings that we made. It was a great pleasure to have known him. My thoughts and prayers to all of the family.

Philip E Schlindwein - February 28, 2021 at 07:22 AM

GL

“ Gayle, Wendy, Devin, Ty, Brynne, Brooke, Logan purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bartlett Lee Kassabaum.



Gayle, Wendy, Devin, Ty, Brynne, Brooke, Logan - January 15, 2021 at 06:32 PM

PC

“ Dear Connie, Mark and Bridget,

We are so saddened by your loss. Please accept our deepest sympathies. Bart has been a good friend for so many years, meeting for the first time when we left our newborn sons at the same caretaker. We have enjoyed so much of his artwork in our home every day. It never gets old looking at it and marveling at the talent and passion behind it. Bart's legacy will live in indefinitely with his art and writing. We were so lucky to have known him.

Our thoughts and prayers go with you,
David and Pamela Castner

Pamela Castner - January 15, 2021 at 04:21 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bartlett Lee Kassabaum.*



January 15, 2021 at 09:05 AM



“ *My sympathy to Bart's wife and son and his family. I was in high school with Bart, he was a very nice guy. Such a talented artist. My husband surprised me years ago with Bart's print of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, which I cherish.*

Rnae Marchiori Chamberlain

Rnae Marchiori Chamberlain - January 14, 2021 at 08:39 PM



“ *I'm so sorry for your loss Connie & Mark. Thoughts and prayers for you both during this difficult time.*

Vickie Martenson - January 14, 2021 at 04:56 PM



“ *I'm so sorry for your loss, Mrs. Kassabaum. I remember when you were married.*

Rayanna (Lollis) Etscheid - January 14, 2021 at 11:39 AM

JD

“ *Bart and I grew up together, lived in the same neighborhood. Went all through school together and have stayed the best of friends. I hate the thoughts of his not being just over there in Princeton. Thankfully I have many of his prints hanging on my walls and I will think of him with every one I look at. Rest In Peace my friend.*
Joyce Ossola Dove

Joyce Dove - January 13, 2021 at 08:43 PM

CJ

Bart was a friend to my brother Roger and I for many years. Last time I got to visit him was at my house when we bought a couple of his books we also have several of his prints he was a great artist and an even better person. He will be missed. Our deepest sympathy to all of his family, Charlie and Sharon Jones

Charlie & Sharon Jones - January 13, 2021 at 10:34 PM

MM

“ *A great friend for so many years we have shared many nights out back in the day playing pool, days golfing, watching auto racing at Elkart Lake with our now departed friend Rodger and then into our married lives going to each others places and asking Bart and Connie to be our daughter Jessica's God Parents. Will miss you Bart.....Mike Miller, Sharon Beatty, Jessica Miller*

Michael Miller - January 13, 2021 at 08:01 PM

MJ

“ *Mike Miller, Sharon Beatty, and Jessica purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Bartlett Lee Kassabaum.*



Mike Miller, Sharon Beatty, and Jessica - January 13, 2021 at 07:00 PM