



Brian Eugene Brutcher

May 15, 1958 - July 30, 2025

Santa Ana, CA - Brian Eugene Brutcher, 67, of Santa Ana, CA, formerly of Princeton, IL, passed away peacefully and surrounded by loved ones and memories of a life well lived, on July 30, 2025 in Vitas Hospice House of Orange County in Santa Ana, CA.

He was born May 15, 1958, in Princeton to Robert L. and Mary Christine (Bickett) Brutcher. He attended Princeton schools, graduating from Princeton High School in 1976, where he was active in football, wrestling, track, choir, class officer, and "the smart people" at PHS. After graduating he attended the University of Illinois, earning a bachelor's degree in Medical Engineering. He accepted a job in Irvine, CA, where he engineered medical devices for 30 years. He attended Pepperdine University, earning his master's degree. He met his wife, Bonnie, converting to Catholicism before marrying. They had two sons, Nathan and Aaron.

He is survived by his wife, sons, and a granddaughter, Charli. He is also survived by brothers Frank Brutcher of Princeton, David (Enid) Brutcher of Altamonte Springs, FL; sisters Marianna (Kelly) Barkley of Princeton, Janet (Rob) Huffstadt of Valparaiso, IN; nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, friends, and 2 aunts.

He was preceded in death by paternal and maternal grandparents; his parents Robert and Mary Christine (Bickett) Brutcher; brothers Robert, Richard, Bruce; aunts and uncles.

Brian enjoyed deer hunting, fishing, collecting antiques, and was often heard

saying "Go Bears." He loved working the yard and tinkering on old vehicles. Those who knew Brian will remember him for his big and caring heart, his strong will, his witty humor, and his willingness to help those in a time of need. Brian was always making friends in life and willing to share a life story or sage wisdom to anyone that lent an ear. He enjoyed writing poetry.

Arrangements are made by Saddleback Chapel in Tustin, CA, where cremation rites were accorded. Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments is assisting the family locally.

A Visitation will be held on Thursday, August 28, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments.

Service 12:00 at Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments. Officiated by Deacon John Murphy. Followed by graveside services at Oakland Cemetery in Princeton, IL.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the PHS Sportsman Club.

Online condolences may be directed to www.norbergfh.com

Arrangements by Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments.

Cemetery Details

Oakland Cemetery

Park Avenue
Princeton, IL 61356

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 28. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

AUG 28. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

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

Graveside Service

AUG 28. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Oakland Cemetery
Park Avenue
Princeton, IL 61356

Tribute Wall

MN

“ I appreciated Brian's hard work ethic - especially during crunch time. At a critical juncture in a project I was managing, Brian was the only team member to come in during Thanksgiving break to help move the project forward. I will always remember sharing some down time that day as we ate subs from Giulianos. An oddly specific remembrance, but I always remember the way he stepped up.

Mike Numamoto - September 16, 2025 at 01:31 PM

KF

“ I lost a great friend that I have known all my life since we shared the same birthday date and year. We grew up in the same Princeton neighborhood, went to the same high school and even were room mates at the same college. We always spoke on our shared birthday! Brian will be dearly missed. My prayers go out to Bonnie, Nathan and Aaron and the rest of his family.

Kurt Freeberg - August 25, 2025 at 10:08 PM

PM

“ So sorry to hear about Brian. Childhood friends of our family. He will be sorry missed. Thoughts and prayers to his siblings and his family

Pat Mark - August 15, 2025 at 11:30 AM

JH

We have had a wonderful life together with all our family and friends, even when we were separated by long distance. I truly love you and hope you are resting peacefully in Gods arms.

Janet Huffstodt - August 15, 2025 at 11:42 AM

GP

Tight lines my friend, wind to your back sun in your face.

Glenn Pilger - August 15, 2025 at 08:52 PM

DR

Sending prayers for comfort to the family and hugs to Bonnie, my dear friend and Nathan and Aaron. Brian is at peace now.

Danita Robinson - August 16, 2025 at 06:41 PM

SF

My prayers and my love surround you Bonnie, Nathan and Aaron and to his family and friends as well.... I didn't know Brian that well, but I knew Bonnie very well and I have to say Brian and Bonnie back in the day through some really good Halloween parties, we had a lot of fun and a lot of laughter.... Be at peace Brian and know that your family loves you....

Susan Fiedler - August 16, 2025 at 07:23 PM