



Darrel Bockelman

March 3, 1946 - February 25, 2023

Darrel Elmer Bockelman, 76, of rural Napoleon, Ohio died peacefully at his home surrounded by family on February 25, 2023.

He was born on March 3, 1946, to the late Elmer and Olga (Sonnenberg) Bockelman. Darrel was a 1964 graduate of Ridgeville Corners High School, and was drafted into the US Army in December 1965, served one year in Vietnam, and was honorably discharged in 1967.

Upon his return from service, Darrel joined the family business and established Bockelman Farms raising grain, vegetables, dairy cows, and beef cattle. On November 29, 1969, he married Barbara Ludeman at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Wauseon, Ohio.

Darrel loved all things farming, and in his later years, “road farming” from his pickup truck. Always passionate about helping his community and neighbors, he served as Commander of the Ridgeville Corners American Legion Post 454 for two terms; was a Freedom Twp. Trustee for 20 years and held various leadership roles for the congregation of St. John Lutheran Church. Known for his infectious laugh and smile, the legacy of Darrel’s jokes and antics will live on for many years to come.

He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Barb; son, Brad (Lisa) Bockelman; daughters Michelle Bockelman and Brooke (Derek) Lowery; grandchildren, Alexa and Caleb Bockelman; and sisters, LaDonna Witte and Beverly (Tim) Saneholtz, and a brother Dennis (Rhonda) Bockelman. He was also preceded in death by a sister, Kay Ann Hallock, and a brother-in-law,

Robert Witte.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 2, 2023, at St. John Freedom Twp. Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio. Interment will follow at the church cemetery, where military honors will be accorded by the Ridgeville American Legion.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 2-8 p.m. at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon, and Thursday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to The Filling Home of Mercy, St. John Lutheran Church Home Fund, or Elara Caring Hospice.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.rodenbergergray.com

Lastly, just like Darrel did every time they left his room, his family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the caregivers, particularly the staff at Henry County Hospital and all the employees of Elara Caring Hospice.

Cemetery Details

St. John Lutheran Freedom Township Cemetery

16035 Co Rd U
Napoleon, OH 43545

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John Lutheran Church, Freedom Township
16035 County Road U
Napoleon, OH 43545

Funeral Service

MAR 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John Lutheran Church, Freedom Township
16035 County Road U
Napoleon, OH 43545

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Video*



Rodenberger Funeral Home - October 19, 2023 at 11:09 AM

BB

Thank you, Rodenberger Gray Funeral Gray. Almost 2 years and I love looking at this!!!

Barb Bockelman - February 01, 2025 at 11:13 AM

DK

“ *Barb and family, so sorry to hear of Darrel's passing. I think he and Laverne are now causing a ruckus in heaven right now. Darrel was always a lot of fun. Remembering all our family Christmas dinners and the card games. I think they are probably going on in heaven now. Hear the bell? Darlene (Sonnenberg) and Ken Kane*

Darlene Kane - March 19, 2023 at 04:39 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Darrel Bockelman.*



March 01, 2023 at 09:13 PM

RR

“ *Barb and family. Janice and I extend our deepest sympathies to you and the extended family. I will always carry memories of Darrel from teaching him as a sophomore at Ridgeville. There is a special place for honest, friendly people like him. Our prayers are with you. God bless!*

Peace, Roland Rettig.

Roland Rettig - March 01, 2023 at 02:50 PM

BM

“ *Barb and Family, sorry for your loss. Beth McGowen*

Beth McGowen - March 01, 2023 at 01:40 PM

“ From the frozen tundra of Korea to fields and forests of war-torn Europe to the jungles of Southeast Asia, from the deserts of Kuwait and Iraq to the mountains of Afghanistan, brave patriots have protected our nation’s ideals, rescued millions from tyranny, and helped spread freedom around the globe. America’s veterans answered the call when asked to protect our nation from some of the most brutal oppression the world has ever known. Military service demands a special kind of sacrifice. The places where you are sent to live and serve bring risk every day. From the time you put on that uniform for the first time, the interests of the nation move to the forefront and define your life. Those duties are shared by family members who make many sacrifices of their own, sometimes bearing the burden of losing a loved one. Service brings rewards as well. There is the pride in developing one’s own character, serving a cause far greater than self-interest. Every person who wears America’s uniform is part of a long, unbroken line of achievement and honor. No single military power in history has done greater good, shown greater courage, liberated more people or upheld higher standards of decency and valor than the Armed Forces of the United States of America. That is a legacy to be proud of and those who contributed to it must never be taken for granted. To honor our veterans, we must keep the promises we have made to them. We must care for those who have been injured in the service of our country. We must honor and remember those who have died. And we must remember those whose fate is still undetermined. We fly the Prisoner of War flag on Veterans Day for a reason, to show that this nation will not relent until we have accounted for every one of our missing Americans. Thank you for your service. Thank you for all that you have sacrificed for this great nation. Thank you for being the backbone of America.

BG (Retired) Mark W. Lee, USA



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Darrel Bockelman.



March 01, 2023 at 05:52 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Darrel Bockelman.



March 01, 2023 at 05:48 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Darrel Bockelman.



March 01, 2023 at 12:11 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Darrel Bockelman.



February 28, 2023 at 10:54 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Darrel Bockelman.*



February 28, 2023 at 08:47 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Darrel Bockelman.*



February 28, 2023 at 08:23 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Darrel Bockelman.*



February 28, 2023 at 06:33 PM



“ *When I think of my Uncle Darrell I always think of the times he let me ride along in the tractor or combine at my old house as a kid. He was always full of jokes and a one of a kind laugh. He will be deeply missed.*

Marsha Hallock - February 28, 2023 at 06:32 PM

RF

“ Barb and family, I was so sorry to hear of Darrel's passing..it's Rita (Jennings)Feather..I still remember our days of riding the school bus together and laughing over silly stuff..may God bring you all comfort and peace.

Rita Feather

Rita (Jennings) Feather - February 28, 2023 at 05:32 PM

LK

“ My sympathy to the Bockelman family. I knew the Bockelman family, growing up at St. Luke Lutheran and have kept in touch with LaDonna. God's love, comfort, and peace to all.

Lillian Keller - February 28, 2023 at 02:57 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Darrel Bockelman.



February 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM

LD

“ We remember Darrell from our school days. He was always fun to be around. He was such a nice person! Condolences and prayers for his family.

Jerry and Lita Dehnbostel

Lita Dehnbostel - February 28, 2023 at 11:40 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams* was purchased for the family of *Darrel Bockelman*.



February 28, 2023 at 10:57 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden* was purchased for the family of *Darrel Bockelman*.



February 28, 2023 at 10:34 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Darrel Bockelman*.



February 28, 2023 at 07:47 AM



“ *Mark and Cathy DeMichiei* purchased the *Emerald Garden Basket* for the family of *Darrel Bockelman*.



Mark and Cathy DeMichiei - February 27, 2023 at 09:51 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Darrel Bockelman.*



February 27, 2023 at 04:51 PM



“ *I didn't know Darrel, but I know Brooke. Brooke has been an industry colleague for many years. She is kind, funny, tenacious and has a focus on what is best for all. Those are traits, I am sure she learned from wonderful parents who taught her to be good to all. Whenever my parents wanted to see an event, Brooke would treat my parents as if they were her own. My mother had mobility issues and Brooke made sure that my mom could see the show as well as made sure she didn't have to do too many steps. This is the kind of person Darrel raised. My heart goes out to the Bockelman family as it is obvious he will be missed. Brooke will carry on his legacy through her he will live in the hearts of those who didn't know him. My condolences
Hallie Yavitch*

Hallie Yavitch - February 27, 2023 at 02:01 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Darrel Bockelman.*



February 27, 2023 at 12:57 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Darrel Bockelman.*



February 27, 2023 at 12:51 PM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Darrel Bockelman.*



February 27, 2023 at 12:16 PM



“ *My condolences to Barb and the Bockelman family. I remember Darrel always having a smile for everyone.*

Karen Harms - February 27, 2023 at 11:40 AM



“ *Such a wonderful and kind soul, will be missed by many, rest easy Darrel*

Shane - February 27, 2023 at 11:34 AM



“ *Barb, sorry for your loss. My condolences to you and your family.
Linda Bramer Hardy
(NHS classmate)*

Linda Bramer Hardy - February 27, 2023 at 10:45 AM

JG

“ *Darrel had a generous smile and big laugh and I appreciate so much is welcoming and kind nature. He will be missed greatly by me. Jody*

Jody Gross - February 27, 2023 at 10:32 AM

SD

“ *Will greatly miss him stopping to chat on County road V during my walks. Will always remember his kind, sweet and funny personality. Praying for God's comfort at this difficult time.*

Sharon Damman - February 27, 2023 at 09:11 AM

CH

“ *He was a very funny guy. I met him through my sister and brother in law. Enjoyed being around him. Rest peacefully. Condolences to Barb and family.*

carolyn hiser - February 27, 2023 at 09:01 AM

BS

“ *Barb, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Bob Showman - February 27, 2023 at 08:53 AM

CC

“ *Barb and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you all. 🙏*

Cherry and Lynn

cherry clymer - February 27, 2023 at 08:40 AM

CR

“ Rest my friend.... No more gizzards. You will be missed. Who loves you today ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️

Cathy and Rog - February 27, 2023 at 08:17 AM

PW

“ Darrel the Bockelman's and Walker families spent so many years together celebrating the grandkids we share. Their births, their birthdays, sport events and school events. We will always be grateful for those precious times together..and so much FUN..love you..Barb, Michelle and Brooke..and Brad and Lisa..rest in peace grandpa Bock

Paula and Butch Walker - February 26, 2023 at 08:48 PM

PW

“ Paula Butch Walker lit a candle in memory of Darrel Bockelman



Paula and Butch Walker - February 26, 2023 at 08:34 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Darrel Bockelman.



February 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM