



Brian J. Benoit

March 28, 1957 - February 19, 2022

Brian J. Benoit, age 64, of Gibson City, passed away Saturday, February 19, 2022 at his home.

He was born March 28, 1957 in Kankakee, the son of Edwin & Maxine Martin Benoit and grew up in the village of St. George. Brian married Anna Marie DeLahr on December 23, 1978 in Watseka.

Brian always prioritized family first. Surviving are his wife, Anna Benoit of Gibson City; two sons, John B. Benoit of Watseka and Gregory J. & Lisa Benoit of Bloomington; one daughter, Claire M. Benoit of Springfield; six grandchildren, Cloey and Melanie Kantzioris, Lukean and Rebecca Benoit, Lily and Charlotte Benoit; eight sisters, Carolyn & Patrick Monahan of Concord, CA, Mary & Larry McTaggart of Gilman, Suzanne & Vernon Savoie of Vienna, VA, Dolores Benoit of Hoffman Estates, Christine & Dan Hayes of Clayton, MO, Linda & William Hardy of Springfield, Donna & Shandy Hussman of Franklin, TN, and Diane & Daniel Hoyt of Cartersville, GA; three brothers, Martin & Julie Benoit of Springfield, Vincent & Chris Benoit of Kankakee, and Joel & Peggy Benoit of Springfield; mother-in-law Carolyn DeLahr of Watseka; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

Brian served his community as a state trooper. For many years, he was a Master Sergeant and crash reconstructionist by day, a farmer with his father

by night. The combination of these two passions inspired him to start the F.A.R.M. program through the Illinois State Police to improve safety for drivers regarding slow moving vehicles. He was active in multiple charities, with a focus on lifting up impoverished communities. His favorite charities aided children, especially the Shriner's Hospital.

Brian is preceded in death by his parents; grandparents; and one niece, Bridget Benoit.

Cremation rites have been accorded as he wished. Memorial visitation will be held from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. A memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Friday, February 25, 2022 at St. George Catholic Church. Rev. Dan Belanger will celebrate the Mass. Inurnment will follow at St. George Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Shriner's Hospital or to charities of the donor's choice.

Cemetery Details

St. George Cemetery

5272 E. 5000 N. Rd.
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 929-6363

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

FEB **24**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Memorial Mass

FEB **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. George Catholic Church
5272 E. 5000 N. Rd.
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 939-1851
<http://www.stgeorgeil.com>

Tribute Wall

BA

“ I was the agricultural safety and health program leader at the University of Illinois and worked with Brian for many years. Brian contacted me and told me he investigated for the state police roadway crashes involving farm equipment. He said he felt there was a need to do something to enhance the visibility of farm equipment when being operated on roadways. I told him I saw the same need. We met to discuss ideas about what we could do regarding this issue. We came up with two ideas one was to gather together a group of individuals who had interest in this issue and who represented different aspects of the Illinois agricultural industry. We also came up with the idea of putting together a set of high visibility retro reflective strips to place on the back, sides and front of farm equipment along with a new SMV emblem that met the newest American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers standards. During the first meeting of the group it was decided to form the Fewer Farm Accidents with Reflective Material group (FARM). With Brian's leadership the group worked with a National supplier of SMV emblems in developing the FARM kit. The kit provided one set of reflective material to mark one piece of equipment. The committee developed a state wide campaign to promote the kit. The kit and promotional campaign was adopted by over 30 states. Thousands of the kits have been purchased. Another significant accomplishment of the FARM group was gaining the support of the Illinois Farm Bureau to pass legislation that required all pieces of farm equipment when operated on Illinois roads must have SMV emblems that were visible for at least 1,000 feet to the rear of equipment. The legislation was passed unanimously by the state legislature. Brian's work and leadership no doubt prevented hundreds of crashes involving farm equipment that would of resulted in thousands of injuries and deaths. Brian had a great sense of humor and a joy to work with.

Bob Aherin - February 25, 2022 at 01:28 AM

JS

“ There will be one less camper by the fire next June, but one more star in the sky!

To all members of the Benoit family and friends, may you hold happy memories of Brian in your hearts forever. So sorry for a life taken too soon.

Jane & Bill Schmitt - February 24, 2022 at 12:03 PM

JJ

“ Jerry Jennings lit a candle in memory of Brian J. Benoit



Jerry Jennings - February 23, 2022 at 04:28 PM



“ 100 files added to the album LifeTributes



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - February 23, 2022 at 12:31 PM

MW

“ *My deepest sympathy to the entire Benoit family. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. To my brother-in-law Vince and my sister Chris and the entire family my heart goes out to all of you.*

Michelle Worby - February 23, 2022 at 09:06 AM

SB

“ *To Brian's children, grandchildren, all his family and especially Anna I am so sorry for your loss. Anna Brian Loved you very much he told me so many times when you two were dating. Brian was my best friend in high school. We shared all our dreams and aspirations and a few beers together. I can't tell you how much he impacted my life. I still have such fond memories of him to this day. As hard as we tried to keep in contact and like so many things, we became separated by miles, time and life. He was a great friend then and I'm sure he was a greater Husband, Father and Grandfather. We wish you peace and all our prayers.*

Steve & Sally Boudreau

Steve Boudreau - February 22, 2022 at 06:08 PM

JG

*Well stated Steve.
Regards to you and Sally.
Joe*

Joseph Giacchino - February 27, 2022 at 05:51 PM

KN

“ I worked with Brian in my capacity as a deputy sheriff. He would always address me as Lieutenant and I would respond , Master Sergeant and then we would laugh. It was our private joke because we never took it all too seriously. Brian was a credit to the Illinois State police. He bent over backwards to help out his fellow officers . If you wore a badge he didn't care if it was state, county , city or small town Marshall. He was of service to all. Brian was genuine and unpretentious, what you saw was what you got. We shared service calls , countless cups of coffee and hours of conversation. He was a great Trooper, public servant and cherished friend. I'll miss him. Condolences to Anna and the kids and extended family.

Kelley Norton - February 22, 2022 at 04:26 PM

JD

“ Brian mentored me from the vert first time I stepped through the doors of District 21. My most memorable times were spending time with him a a traffic crash reconstruction officer. The countless hours we spent together in the field will be treasured forever. There is no way I could have possibly acquired the tools for my success without him. Even after retirement, Brian was a great friend and the ideas kept coming.. My prayers go out to family. He will be missed greatly.

John Dittmer - February 22, 2022 at 09:54 AM

DB

“ I am so very sorry to learn of Brian's passing. As a fellow State Trooper I am blessed to have known and worked with him throughout our careers. His quick wit brought many laughs when they were needed most. RIP my brother.

Donnie Buckley - February 22, 2022 at 06:38 AM

MB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Max Benoit - February 21, 2022 at 11:33 PM

MB

Thank you for many years of good memories, great stories, and constant laughs, Uncle Brian! May we all carry on the example that you've shown us. Much love from the Northwest.

Max Benoit - February 21, 2022 at 11:42 PM

MB

Many years ago, Brian helped start a family tradition that lives on to this day. I'm very grateful to have the opportunity to be part of it. Peace be to you, Brian and to everyone in the extended family as we remember the light and cheer that you added to everything.

Max Benoit - February 21, 2022 at 11:51 PM

DS

“ *I am very fortunate to have known and work with Brian and his father in law Marvin.
They may be gone but they will never be forgotten.*

Dan Sawyer

dan sawyer - February 21, 2022 at 10:49 PM

EG

“ Brian and I met as classmates at the Illinois State Police academy in December 1985. We got along really well and had lots of laughs as we were both assigned to the Chicago area. Brian was a respectable man who treated everyone well. RIP Brian.
Eddie G.

Edward Gonzalez - February 21, 2022 at 05:27 PM

DM

“ Mr Benoit was a strong role model to me. I met him in my college days in which time I was not my most mature. He was able to look past that part and treat me with nothing but respect and as an adult. It was very easy to see where his son (my friend) inherited his same positive traits. I hope to be the same positive role model to my own kids and their friends like Mr Benoit.

Doug Mullady - February 21, 2022 at 03:56 PM

GD

“ A wonderful man from an amazing family. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family !
May you Rest In Peace Brian 🙏

Glenn Daugherty

Glenn Daugherty - February 21, 2022 at 03:33 PM

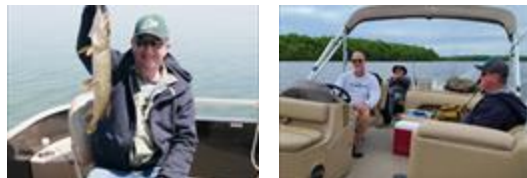
ML

“ Heartfelt sympathy, caring thoughts, prayers. Mr. Benoit was a true inspiration. Special angel. Wishing the family and friends: a song in your hearts; sunshine after the clouds; a rainbow after the rain.
Cherished memories. Peace. Mary von Liski

Mary von Liski - February 21, 2022 at 03:20 PM

BR

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Brent - February 21, 2022 at 02:52 PM

BR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Brent - February 21, 2022 at 02:50 PM

JG

“ Joseph Giacchino lit a candle in memory of Brian J. Benoit



Joseph Giacchino - February 21, 2022 at 02:19 PM

BB

“ Deepest sympathies to the family.

Brenda Brault

Brenda Brault - February 21, 2022 at 01:33 PM

CM

“ *Deepest sympathy to the Benoit family. May he rest in peace.*

Cathie (Sederstrand) Miedema



cathie miedema - February 21, 2022 at 01:20 PM

SR

“ *I have so many wonderful memories with Brian with our years at the State Police. Sorry to hear of his passing. He was a great trooper/MSgt.*

Sue Ratliff-Thomas - February 21, 2022 at 01:06 PM