



Lawrence 'Larry' Berzanske Sr.

March 3, 1940 - May 20, 2023

Lawrence Warren "Larry" Berzanske Sr., a longtime Lake County resident, passed away in his sleep on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at the age of 83.

Mr. Berzanske was born March 3, 1940, in Cleveland, Ohio, to the late John T. and Mary Berzanske Sr.

Larry loved fixing things and doing mechanical and electrical work, a passion he enjoyed to the end of his life. He loved listening to music from the 50's especially R&B and DooWop. His many hobbies and interests included racing go-karts, fishing, growing delicious tomatoes, metal detecting, solving sudoku puzzles, and mastering complex jigsaw puzzles.

He was awarded a Patent for a rotary engine device. He was a risk-taker and always undertook new ventures, including developing the Stoneybrook subdivision in Mentor, fixing and flipping houses, and owning a farmer's market. He enjoyed working for Euclid Inc. for over two decades, traveling the world as a Technical Service Trainer. He was a member of the Longshoremen Union ILA #1317 and the Lake County Farmers Conservation Club. He had a great sense of humor and he could always make you laugh with a funny joke.

He will be missed and is survived by his beautiful wife of 55 years, Lenore; his sister, Sharon Zakrajsek; children, Scott (Daphne) Smyers, Lawrence (Kathy)

Berzanske Jr., Lisa (Jack) Myers, Michael (Nikki) Berzanske, and Keith (Virginia) Berzanske; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Preceding Larry in death are his brother: John T. Berzanske Jr., parents: John T. and Mary Berzanske Sr. and brother-in-law: Thomas Zakrajsek.

The family will receive friends and family from 4-7 pm on Tuesday May 30, 2023 at the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

A funeral service will be held at 10 am on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105; online at www.stjude.org/

Entombment will be in All Souls Cemetery, Chardon, OH.

Offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

Cemetery Details

All Souls Cemetery

10366 Chardon Rd.
Chardon, OH 44024
(800) 582-6850

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 30. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center
8466 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-3401
ajs@brunners.com
<https://www.brunners.com/>

Funeral Service

MAY 31. 10:00 AM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center
8466 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-3401
ajs@brunners.com
<https://www.brunners.com/>

Tribute Wall

BF

“ Good Morning

I'm Scott Smyers, Larry's stepson, and Lenore's son. On behalf of the rest of my family, we would like to thank you for being here today to celebrate his life.

Saying goodbye to Larry today is very hard to do, bear with me. If we could ask Larry how he was doing, he would respond with "Fantastic"

This was his trademark response, that or "hanging in".

We can never really walk in someone's shoes, but, since his passing, I have been immersed in going through Larry's effects and collections, and it has given me a perspective that I probably otherwise would not have achieved.

This put many things in focus for me, and I can share with you, from my perspective, the many facets that Larry had through the memories I have of him.

He led an animated life, always moving forward to the next goal. Larry was able to understand and absorb new technology and ideas, much more so than many of his peers.

At Euclid, Inc., where he had a career that spanned many years, he made a proposal, which I found in his files, to purchase computers for the company to increase the efficiency of the creation of documentation for the big green trucks.

The significance, to me, was that at the time he did this, few people even knew what they would use computers for. They were the size of refrigerators and not tremendously user friendly like today, but he was able to see what they could do if used in the right way, to save the company a lot of money, and he was able to articulate it in a proposal was very thorough and well thought out.; Very impressive to me.

Besides his patent for a new type of internal combustion engine, I also found many articles he clipped and saved about alternative

energy, agriculture, carpentry and a myriad of other topics that gave evidence to his constant absorption of new ideas and concepts.

We were both excited to put solar power into a building at his new home in Leroy, which was too remote to run wires to. We had many conversations about how to do it and what components to buy, and this summer we planned to install it. He was very excited to see this alternative energy system installed.

We had similar projects throughout the years, all of which helped me learn the things I needed to know to make a path for myself, and for which I will be eternally grateful.

When I was in the Cub Scouts, in 1968, we had the annual Pinewood derby to prepare for. Larry took an interest in making the car with me and he added strategically placed weights to the wooden block, then left me with the instruction to remove as little of the wooden block as possible. My Grampa Joe helped

Berzanske Family - December 08, 2023 at 09:05 AM

BF

“ me round off the edges into a sort of 1950s Indy car motif, and it turns out I had the fastest car in Euclid, and was the Pinewood derby Champ!

When we moved to Mentor, we landed on a fantastic piece of property that was loaded with fruit trees of all sorts, cherries, peaches, plums, and apples. We took care of the trees and nursed them back to production, and planted many new ones.

He was very interested in gardening and growing fruits and vegetables. His tomato patches were epic, as were all the other vegetables he grew.

I have memories of Larry lifting me up in the bucket of the Farmall Cub to pick cherries. Maybe not the safest way to do it, But we got a lot of cherries off those trees.

We cleared acres of wild roses from the woods, which I remember as sweaty, backbreaking work , but did toughen me and my sister up and we learned how to use machinery of all sorts.

Larry bought a small bulldozer when I was about 10 or 11 years old. What little boy would not want a bulldozer in his garage!

We had to take the tracks off so Larry hung it from the ceiling beams in the garage and we snuck the tracks out from underneath it. I learned a lot working on that bulldozer. Much later in life, I really wanted to buy him an old Euclid truck to play with, but I was never sure if my mother would want it around the house. I regret now not having done that.

Larry got me my first motorcycle, my Hodaka 125. I rode that bike All over the property in Mentor. He would get upset because the ignition would interfere with the television when he was watching football. That bike was the first of many in my life. I actually found it recently and bought it back from the guy it was sold to many years ago. It seems things we think aren't important at one point can take on more importance later.

Larry bought a sawmill, which was essentially a small rail car with 2 sections of track that logs could be placed on and run through a big blade. We brought it home in a snowstorm in the old International Harvester Dump truck that you could see the road through the floor. Coming up the hill on Rt. 306 in the blizzard, the front wheels of the truck kept coming up because there was so much weight hanging off the back of the truck. Quite an eye opening experience for a little boy, and this was probably the beginning of our common love of hauling things on trailers and trucks. This taught me you can haul anything anywhere any time, if you put your mind to it.

Larry took me to Germany when I was in High School. He was on a business trip, and I was left alone during the day to explore Stuttgart. I would ride the subway out to the suburbs and count the stops out and back to make sure I didn't get lost. That was a great immersion into another culture, one that helped me in my career in so many ways.

I once bought a car at a garage sale, I think I was 14. It was a beautiful 1967 Firebird, and I paid \$35 for it. I was excited to tell my mother until she said, what will Larry say?

Berzanske Family - December 08, 2023 at 09:03 AM

BF

“ With great trepidation, I told him I had bought this car, and his only question was did it run. Of course, it did not, which pleased him greatly, and we went to retrieve it, using the skills he had taught me to tow dead vehicles by keeping the tow rope taut with the brakes and stopping the tow vehicle at traffic lights. These turned out to be valuable skills, and I fixed that car and drove it for 13 years; Wish that I still had it.

And of course, he remodeled many houses in his in his life, I have lost count but there were quite a few. Me and my sister learned framing, concrete work, electricity, a lot about sump pumps and drainage. Larry waged an unending war with water and was very good at finding buried pipes.

He could also be very sentimental, I found an old record, and he had written on the label when he heard the song, which was at Euclid Beach during the fireworks.

He Liked and collected art, from artists such as Robert Batemen and Bev Doolittle

And he loved logic puzzles and Sudoku. He liked to challenge his brain. He also never stopped learning, taking classes at Lakeland, and for example, he taught himself to do computer aided drafting and to use computers.

He was such a hard worker, up to the end, he was digging ditches with one arm because his shoulder hurt him so badly.

There was very little he would not attempt to do himself, learning as he went. As I moved into adulthood, I found myself measuring virtually everything I did with the shadow he cast. That's how I came to know that I respected him, and I was amazed by him. And again and again, I discovered that he had tried to teach me and maybe I hadn't listened, but I had watched. And despite my best efforts, I had learned.

So, all these memories, and the things he taught us, are what we have to remember him by, I will always ask, how would Larry do this?

We can thank him for the lessons and the skills he shared, and pass

them on to our families and friends

Thank you for coming today to celebrate Larry's memory and the full life he led.

it was, as he would say, "Fantastic"

Berzanske Family - December 08, 2023 at 09:01 AM

TR

“ *My deepest condolences to the Berzanske family. Larry was my good friend for most of my 31 years at EUCLID, Inc., as our positions always cross-referenced each other. He had amazing technical ability and always had expert advice on all things real estate. Larry always had time for anybody needing any type of assistance, from Engineers, to the Parts and Warranty Department, to the Sales Department. Over the years he saved EUCLID hundreds of thousands of dollars in helping to break down complicated equipment failures. There was nobody like him and I just loved the man. RIP Larry. Tom Rudar*

Thomas J Rudar - May 28, 2023 at 10:32 AM

VB

“ *3 files added to the album Larry Berzanske*



Virginia Berzanske - May 27, 2023 at 11:25 AM

VB

“ 1 file added to the album *Larry Berzanske*



Virginia Berzanske - May 26, 2023 at 03:10 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Lawrence 'Larry' Berzanske Sr..*



May 26, 2023 at 02:22 PM

LF

“ *Love from The Smelik family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Lawrence 'Larry' Berzanske Sr..*



Love from The Smelik family - May 22, 2023 at 09:03 PM