



Mr. Bernhard "Bernie" Franz Ackermann

October 4, 1928 - January 30, 2023

Mr. Bernie Ackermann "Bernie the Barber" of High River, Alberta passed away peacefully at the High River Hospital on January 30, 2023 at the age of 94 years. Bernie is survived by his sons David (Glynis) and Stefan (Lisa), and daughter Susan (Wayne); grandchildren Kaity (Tyson), Gillian, Marcus, and Bryce; great grandchildren Olive and Poppy; sister Elisabeth (Josef) and brother Alois; along with many nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews in Germany; and lifelong friend Belf Quon. Bernie was predeceased by his beloved wife, Josefa (Sefa), and brothers Josef and Gerhard.

Bernie was born in Rothaus, Neisse, Germany on October 4, 1928. He learned his trade as a barber at 14 years. He worked in the German coal mines for a couple of years, then packed his bags and headed to Canada to work as a lumberjack in Ontario. He went back to barbering in Saskatchewan and Ontario, and then joined the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry (P.P.C.L.I.) airborne battalion in Edmonton and Calgary. In 1961, Bernie went back to Germany, met and married Sefa, while serving as a driver for the British Army. Bernie and Sefa moved back to Canada in 1963, where Bernie returned to barbering in Calgary, before settling in High River, running Bernie's Barbershop and Billiard Hall from 1963 to 1981. After retiring from barbering, Bernie was a security guard at the High River Hospital.

Bernie was active in the community – he served a term on High River Town

Council starting in 1977, was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Active 20-30 Club, Glee Club, Friendship Centre, and St. Francis de Sales choir group for many years. He was a daily fixture at the High River Hospital's Long Term Care unit to be with Sefa in her final years.

Bernie loved driving around town to see what was going on and to see, speak, smile, and wave to everyone he knew. A kind man with a big smile and friendly words, he will be greatly missed by everyone at the Medicine Tree Manor, and by everyone who knew and loved him.

Bernie's family would like to thank all the wonderful and caring staff at the Medicine Tree Manor and High River Hospital.

Memorial donations can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society- <https://cancer.ca> or High River & District Health Care Foundation - www.highriverhealthfoundation.ca, 560 9th Avenue SW, High River AB T1V 1B3.

A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church on Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 11:00 AM. Reception to follow.

Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass) 403.652.4242.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

FEB 11. 11:00 AM (MT)

St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church

206 - 9th Ave. W.

High River, AB T1V 1B5 (CA)

(403) 652-2203

francisdesales@shaw.ca

<http://www.francisdesaleshighriver.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Ludger Jocham lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bernhard "Bernie" Franz Ackermann* ”



Ludger Jocham - March 22, 2023 at 11:27 AM



“ *Eunice Schmuland lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bernhard "Bernie" Franz Ackermann* ”



Eunice Schmuland - February 20, 2023 at 09:26 AM



“ *Wilma Williamson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bernhard "Bernie" Franz Ackermann* ”



Wilma Williamson - February 14, 2023 at 12:20 AM

LK

“ So sad to hear of the passing of Bernie. He was such a bright light whenever you spoke to him. Always smiling and happy. I first met Bernie as a Night Security Guard at the High River Hospital after he retired from barbering. Once in a while we would see his eyes close so one of the Nurses hid his glasses as they slid off his face during his little cat nap. I think tying of his shoe laces came up too. Poor guy, putting up with all us Hospital Gals. Plus he was always on guard to be sure we were not sneaking our boyfriends in to the old Nurses Residence. My Len had his own parking spot there actually lol. We loved Bernie. I am so glad he was able to live such a long, full and happy life. My deepest sympathies, Lee-Ann King



LEE-ANN KING - February 11, 2023 at 03:41 PM

MW

“ I worked with Bernie at the hospital when he was our night security guard. We had some great talks...such a wonderful man

MaryLou Winter - February 11, 2023 at 01:56 PM

“ My dearest Opa,

To have known him was to love him. He welcomed my mom, sister and I into his family with open arms the moment we met. My Opa was so goofy and playful with us when we were little. As my sister mentioned the “hall-a-put-ya” karate kick and that will always be remembered with a smile. He also was probably the only person I know that had a bigger sweet tooth than me. Opa and I used to try to sneak seconds and even thirds of Oma’s homemade desserts when we visited them in High River.

When I was a teenager, I spent the summer with he and Oma when my family went to Europe. My summer days consisted of living on Opa’s lazy boy watching my pre-teen shows on the big TV. Poor Opa was forced to watch his beloved Jeopardy on the much much smaller screen in another room. Although I am sure that was very annoying, he never complained to me about it.

As I grew older what I appreciated about my Opa was how important he was in his community. It didn’t matter where we went, everyone knew Bernie. I remember as a child I would walk their German Shepard, Renzi, around the block and if someone ever struck up a conversation with me (as they often do in friendly High River), their face would light up as they told me that they also knew Bernie. What a special man to have so many people think so fondly of you and he was the most special man. When my Oma’s dementia worsened, my Opa visited her everyday in the nursing home, he would sit and help her with her meals everyday. It must have been so hard for him to see his wife of 57 years in that new state. However, that never deterred him from taking care of his wife. I can only hope that I will be lucky enough to have someone like Opa caring for me throughout my life.

I love you Opa, I will never forget our memories together. I look forward to watching our home movies and sharing them with Kaity’s daughters and telling them about their Great Opa. Olive is already

obsessed with marzipan potatoes balls, so much so that they have to be hidden in secret spot in the back of the pantry, I know you would be so proud. I love and miss you Opa.

*Love,
Gilly*

Gilly - February 11, 2023 at 11:34 AM

CN

“ *Sincere sympathy to Bernie’s family, many great memories of Bernie at the pool hall. He was always cheerful, a wonderful man.*

Cyril & Bev Norrie



Cyril and Bev Norrie - February 11, 2023 at 10:52 AM

BH

“ *So many memories of such a kind man, with a great smile and a welcoming spirit. We are so sorry for your loss. Bill & Cheryl Holmes*

Bill Holmes - February 11, 2023 at 09:45 AM

AF

“ *Allan Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bernhard "Bernie" Franz Ackermann*



Allan family - February 09, 2023 at 11:40 PM

KC

“*Bernie, or Opa as he was known to me and my sister, was a joyful man. One of my favourite memories is the time my sister at age 5 taught him her version of karate and the two of them chased each other around the dining room saying "hall-a-put-ya" and trying to karate kick the other. Opa was a good sport, and his sweet tooth was greatly appreciated by his granddaughters. We loved spending Christmas with him and my Oma and hearing about his days as a barber in High River. I only wish my own two girls could have had a chance to get to know their Great Opa. We love you, Opa. We will always treasure the memories of our time together.*

Kaity Cooper - February 08, 2023 at 12:58 PM

GM

“*It warms my heart to read so many lovely messages about my dear father-in-law, Bernie. He was Dave's much loved and respected Papa, a wonderful model of a caring husband, and the best Opa ever to our daughters, Kaity and Gillian. I wish he and Sefa could have lived another 30 years to enjoy their great granddaughters, Olive and Poppy. We love you, Bernie. We will treasure our memories of you forever.*

Glynis Marks - February 07, 2023 at 10:46 PM

CM

“*What an absolute gem of a person you were Bernie, always such concern and care for others with that warm smile that greeted one and all. You made the world a nicer place for so many*

Chrissy Mosby - February 06, 2023 at 12:21 PM

MA

“ *Marcia Ayrey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bernhard "Bernie" Franz Ackermann*



Marcia Ayrey - February 05, 2023 at 02:02 PM

KF

“ *Hi David. So sorry for the loss of your mom and dad. My condolences to you and your family as well as your brother and sister. They will be missed.*

Kevin Fisher - February 05, 2023 at 01:46 PM

AZ

“ *Condolences Susan and family. Your dad was a keystone in the community and will be missed. Peace be with you all at this time.*



Ann Holmes Zirk - February 03, 2023 at 07:17 PM

WL

“ *My condolences to the family. Sorry to hear of Bernies passing.*
Wayne Lyman



Wayne Lyman - February 03, 2023 at 04:13 PM

MB

“ *Stefan, Lisa, entire Ackermann family*
So sorry for you loss. Sending all of our love
and prayers to help you through this difficult
time

Karen Brewster & family

Mary Karen Brewster - February 03, 2023 at 11:32 AM



AR

“ *I sang in the church choir with Sefa and Bernie.*
My fondest memory was Bernie singing Silent
Night in German at midnight Mass. it was
lovely. RIP. Condolences to the family.



Ann Ryan - February 03, 2023 at 09:28 AM

BP

“ *Bernie was kind and very friendly man with a*
wonderful smile and always had time for chat.
Was one of the best Security Guard the High
River Hospital ever had.He would walk many
a staff member out to their at night. High
River has lost a great man. Will sure miss seeing him.



Barb(Flaterud) Pickering - February 03, 2023 at 09:15 AM

EM

“ *You always felt good after a visit with Bernie. He was kind,*
generous with his time and a real asset to High River- one of the
good guys what an interesting and challenging life he lived

Elaine Mason - February 02, 2023 at 12:51 PM

TG

“ *Toni Groeneveld lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bernhard "Bernie" Franz Ackermann*



Toni Groeneveld - February 02, 2023 at 12:48 PM

DT

“ *So sorry to hear of Bernie's passing, I worked for Bernie on Friday and Saturday nights running the pool hall, back in the late 1960's he was such a great guy to me. Condolences to the family.*

Douglas Tannas - February 01, 2023 at 07:16 PM

GC

“ *Our condolences to Bernie's family.
What a great fellow.....such a big warm smile, big heart and great laugh.
We will fondly remember Bernie for all he was to our family.
God Bless and take care,*

Gerry and Barb Coakwell - February 01, 2023 at 05:52 PM

AW

“ *Condolences and sympathies to the family!*



Ann Weston - February 01, 2023 at 04:00 PM

IR

“ *I have such fond memories of Bernie*



Irene McCrindle Richards - February 01, 2023 at 03:41 PM

LC

“ *Lynda Cowling lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bernhard "Bernie" Franz Ackermann*



lynda Cowling - February 01, 2023 at 02:30 PM

KC

“ *Karyn Conradson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bernhard "Bernie" Franz Ackermann*



Karyn Conradson - February 01, 2023 at 02:18 PM

MW

“ *Murray And Kendra Wegener lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bernhard "Bernie" Franz Ackermann*



Murray and Kendra Wegener - February 01, 2023 at 11:33 AM

LF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lyle Reeves Funerals - February 01, 2023 at 11:06 AM

CF

“ Callahan Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bernhard "Bernie" Franz Ackermann

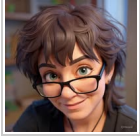


Callahan family - February 01, 2023 at 10:58 AM

CJ

“ rest well Bernie. you lived your life well.

Connie Lorraine Jewell - February 01, 2023 at 10:53 AM



“ Oh Bernie. We will all miss you ❤️.
 It was always a pleasure to have to come back and visit your old Shoppe.
 It has been an honour and a privilege to continue on in your shoes for all these years.
 Customers still speak of you with great fondness and still ask about you all the time.
 Rest well my friend ❤️. Until we meet again.
 ❤️Dee 🇺🇸



Dee Leigh - February 01, 2023 at 10:51 AM

GB

Our condolences to Bernie's family on the passing of a beautiful soul with the biggest smile! A true gentleman for sure!!!

Rip Bernie! Gabe and Fran Baksza

Gabe & Fran Baksza - February 01, 2023 at 09:51 PM

FW

“ Fran & Rusty Wong lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bernhard "Bernie" Franz Ackermann



Fran & Rusty Wong - February 01, 2023 at 10:45 AM

SW

“ My condolences to David, Stefan, Susan & their families. Your Dad was a much loved High River fixture. He always had a hello and a wave.



Sherry Whitford - February 01, 2023 at 10:06 AM

SS

“ Sheila Storoschuk lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bernhard "Bernie" Franz Ackermann



Sheila Storoschuk - February 01, 2023 at 08:00 AM

MD

“ Your Dad was such a kind man, he was so proud of his family. Sending Condolences to your Family. Rest well Bernie

Michele Durand - February 01, 2023 at 01:16 AM

GL

“ Gail Lewis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bernhard "Bernie" Franz Ackermann



Gail Lewis - January 31, 2023 at 11:58 PM

KF

“ Karen Foley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bernhard "Bernie" Franz Ackermann



Karen Foley - January 31, 2023 at 10:28 PM

DM

“ We are so sorry to hear of Bernie’s passing. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time. Don and Lana

Don Malmberg - January 31, 2023 at 08:53 PM

RR

“ Please accept our sincere sympathy on your loss. I have great memories of your mom and dad and also visiting the Pool Hall at the top of those long stairs. Also taking my little brother up those long stairs for a haircut and having a great visit. Once when Bernie was in AZ they visited my parents and he was toting his clippers and gave dad a haircut while he was there. Very Special guy. The Best Barber EVER!

Hugs to all,

Ross and Roberta (Mason) Hazen

Ross and Roberta - January 31, 2023 at 06:58 PM

AT

So sad to hear. Bernie and I worked nights for many years at the High River Hospital. We became great friends with the nocturnal of the hospital, very much a family. Ron talks lots about the days of getting his hair cut and playing pool at the Pool Hall.
Ron and Alice Todd.

Alice Todd - February 02, 2023 at 12:29 AM

CC

“ *My deepest sympathy to the Ackermann family. Your dad was a gem, always happy with a big smile and a friendly greeting. I have fond memories from visiting the pool hall with my dad to visiting as neighbors on 6 St SW. May your fond memories bring a smile to you face, warm your heart and help in the days ahead. Thinking of you all,*
Cathy



Cathy Couey - January 31, 2023 at 05:00 PM