



## Bruce "Otto" Priebe

October 15, 1929 - April 8, 2020

Bruce "Otto" Priebe, 90, passed away on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at Advocate Condell Medical Center. He was born on October 15, 1929 in Libertyville, Illinois and was a proud lifelong resident. Bruce graduated from Libertyville Township High School in 1947. He was stationed in Japan for two years during the Korean War. He was employed by The Frank G. Hough Company (later International Harvester Corporation and Dresser Industries) for over 40 years before his retirement. Bruce was also a former assistant chief and volunteer firefighter for the Libertyville Fire Department for many years where he developed lifelong friendships with the other firefighters. Bruce and his family spent many enjoyable summers in St. Germain, Wisconsin camping, fishing, and visiting with friends. He was an avid woodworker and volunteered his time assisting with the Adult Education program at Libertyville High School helping others to become more skillful at woodworking. Bruce was an avid storyteller, and truly enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He regularly shared stories from his earliest jobs working for Wayne and Genevieve Gratz on their farm, assisting his father to care for Dr. Galloway's property in Libertyville, and setting pins at the local bowling alley for a penny a pin. Bruce thoroughly enjoyed going to garage and estate sales, adding regularly to his wide variety of collectable items, especially old tools.

Surviving are Bruce's two children, Douglas Priebe and Susan (Bill) Jahncke,

and two grandchildren, Bruce and Katie Jahncke.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Otto and Minnie Priebe, by his wife of 53 years, Marlene, who passed away on November 7, 2007, and brothers George, Jack, Bob, and infant twins Harold and Howard.

A visitation and funeral service for his family will be on Tuesday, April 14 at the Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville with interment at Lakeside Cemetery. A public celebration will be held when the pandemic is over. Memorials can be made to either the Lakeside Cemetery Renovation Fund or the Paramedic Unit of the Libertyville Fire Department. Info: 847-362-3009 or please share a memory at Burnett-Dane Funeral Home

# Cemetery Details

## Lakeside Cemetery

500 W. Lake Street  
Libertyville, IL 60048

# Tribute Wall

RT

“ Bruce was a good friend of our family for many years. He will be missed. Our condolences, Doug and Susan.  
Randy and Wendall Towner, Long Grove

Randy & Wendall Towner - April 13, 2020 at 02:03 PM

AS

“ I worked with Bruce for 30 years at Hough. A great coworker and a better friend. Our condolences and prayers to Doug and Susan. They don't make 'em like Bruce anymore. Rest in peace my friend.  
Al and Janet Scales

Al Scales - April 12, 2020 at 11:02 PM

GJ

“ George, Judy, Julie & Jennifer purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Bruce "Otto" Priebe.



George, Judy, Julie & Jennifer - April 12, 2020 at 08:39 AM

HB

“ A good friend and fellow firefighter. Yippie I O Kie Yea get your self a cowboy. Thanks Bruce for the friendship.

Herb Bracher - April 11, 2020 at 02:41 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Bruce "Otto" Priebe.



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April 11, 2020 at 12:26 PM



“ Best of neighbors, best of people. No one kept better tabs on our neighborhood, which he watched like a hawk. No one was more willing to lend a helping hand. No one was better at taking the edge off a rough day with quick quip or barb. He will be greatly missed by his friends on Windsor Terrace and Lincoln Avenue.

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**Joe and Patty Schreiber** - April 10, 2020 at 08:03 PM



“ Bruce has always been an important part of the Libertyville community. He always supported the Village and cared about everyone here. He will be missed by all of us.

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**TERRY L WEPPLER** - April 10, 2020 at 07:13 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bruce "Otto" Priebe.



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April 10, 2020 at 03:41 PM

SH

“ I’ve known the Priebe family since I was three years old. His son Doug and daughter Susan and I were the best of friends. We often played firemen as one of our favorite games. We’d listen to Bruce’s scanner back when Libertyville’s dept was almost completely volunteer. When a call would come in I remember him running to his truck and turning on his blue light before speeding to the call. We would often listen to the address and if in our neighborhood would try and race the engines to the scene. Bruce was kind. He was funny, with the exception of one day in our youth when I was dared to squirt him in the rear with the hose while he bent over putting the trash away. I will never forget the look on his face. Nonetheless, he welcomed me back after “cooling” down. Bruce was a true Libertyvilleite in every way. Just a few years ago he raced to the high school during massive local flooding to inform the new administration of issues with the flooding and the auditorium. Bruce had worked on the farm where LHS sits today as a child. He was one of few who knew of the unstable land that end of the building sat on. He was always there for the community. He will be greatly missed. Rest In Peace Mr Priebe.



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Scott Hornberger - April 10, 2020 at 03:21 PM

SF

“ Doug and Susan, your dad was a wonderful and good man. As a fellow firefighter at LFD we shared many good times and memories. I will always cherish his smiling grin and everytime I saw him he would always start with "Well tell me . . .". My thoughts for peace and comfort are with you both. He will be missed!

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Steve Figved - April 10, 2020 at 02:57 PM

MA

“ Bruce served with my dad Lou (Bud) Small, Sr. on the fire department. Thus started a life long friendship. When my dad ended up living in a nursing home, Bruce came to see him often. We were so appreciative of that. We live far away from Libertyville, so to have someone visit often was wonderful. He was a true friend to my dad, who passed away in 2007. I know he will be missed by all of you, but thank goodness we have those good memories to keep them alive in our hearts. Blessings to you.....may the Lord be with your family as you go through these next days.  
Mary (Small) Andersen

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**Mary (Small) Andersen** - April 10, 2020 at 01:00 PM

SS

Bruce was a great family friend and worked at Frank G. Hough Company with my father for many years. He kept in touch after we moved away and my parents always appreciated his notes and cards. Last time I saw Bruce was at my Aunt Ruth's funeral in 2013. He walked right up to me and wanted to know how our family was doing. He's a great loss as a friend but a greater loss to Libertyville, a village he so loved. Peace and my sincerest condolences to his family.

Steve Small

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**Steve Small** - April 10, 2020 at 01:49 PM

GF

One of the nicest Libertyville residents I ever had the pleasure of meeting. He was always interested in anything having to do with our community. He will be missed.

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**Gary Franzen** - April 10, 2020 at 02:51 PM

LJ

Bruce and I worked at the Hough Co. for many years. Bruce and my dad Lou G. Small Sr. we're on Libertyville Fire Dept. together and lifelong friends. When my dad was near the end of his life in Libertyville Manor, Bruce came to visit him often. Living so far away at that time we were so appreciative of his visits. My wife Gloria Martin Small and I extend our sincere condolences to his family.

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**Lou G. Small Jr.** - April 10, 2020 at 09:08 PM

MS

*We will certainly miss Bruce. He has been our neighbor for 33 years. We sing a hymn at church. The chorus is "and God so loved the world". That makes me think of Bruce . He loved his family, his wife, his yard, his tomatoes, the outdoors, fishing, his friends, and knew all the children in the 'hood. Goodbye dear friend.*

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**Mary Ann Sparer** - April 11, 2020 at 09:50 AM

DK

*Fond memories of Uncle Bruce at family gatherings on Second St. at Grandpa and Grandma Priebe's. It is wonderful to read all the contributions he made to the Libertyville community. It is clear he will be missed. Deepest condolences from my family to yours.  
Darnell Keesling (Priebe)*

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**Darnell Keesling** - April 11, 2020 at 11:27 AM

BC

*I DID NOT KNOW BRUCE THAT WELL. I HUNG AROUND WITH HIS NEPHEW GEORGE JR. HE WAS ALWAYS NICE TO ME AND ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE UP TEMPO. HE WILL BE MISSED IN THE TOWN WHERE I GREW UP.  
BOB CRAIG*

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**BOB CRAIG** - April 11, 2020 at 12:22 PM

BS

*Hey Bruce, We miss you. Who will supervise the neighborhood construction projects? Remember when they rebuilt Lincoln Ave. about 30 years ago? We have a picture of you and the neighborhood kids around a front end loader. You were as excited as the kids. You told us how Mr. Hough invented the front end loader and later sold his company to International Harvester. Maybe you know someone at the Village--Lincoln needs work from all the Rockland Road construction trucks.*

*You were like a Grandfather to the neighborhood kids. You were the neighborhood historian.*

*And who's going to keep an eye on our place when we're gone? And who will help me with my woodworking projects? When I see the end table, bookcase, step stool, tool carrier and other projects you helped my with I think of your skills and you and Randy teaching the wood shop class at LHS, What fun!*

*I was hoping you could show me how to make that newspaper grabber you designed so you could grab the paper from your porch. Fun to watch as I ate my breakfast.*

*For the record, those leaves in your yard came from your trees, not mine. In fact, I think some of the leaves in my yard came from your trees.*

*Bruce, thanks for being a great neighbor and friend. We'll miss you. Rest in peace. Bill*

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**Bill Sparer** - April 11, 2020 at 08:21 PM

LJ

*Mr Priebe was our neighbor for 43 years. We will miss seeing him outside watching over the neighborhood. My sincere condolences to his family.*

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**Laura Johnson** - April 11, 2020 at 10:20 PM

PB

*Bruce was such a marvelous man and a true friend, through thick & thin! Always appreciated his quick wit. His skills as a woodman were outstanding, and the bluebird box he made for our father's funeral in 2016 was wonderful!*

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*> My parents always treasured Bruce's companionship and all the things they did together: especially the Hough get-togethers and Firemen's dinners. We know they both really appreciated all his visits while they were at Sunrise Senior Living. He was always there and continued to come visit my mom after my dad passed. She always had a twinkle in her eye from his jokes!*

*Pat Bartholomew & Susan Duffin*

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**Patricia Bartholomew** - April 13, 2020 at 01:05 PM

JS

*From Jim schultz and all the staff at franks for the memories i(we) will miss our visits from Bruce .I remember the 1st visit , this older gentleman approaches the counter and says to his son geez look at these prices outrageous I gave him a hard look and then you could tell he's joking . Every time Bruce came in he had something funny or smart—s to say I always looked forward to his and Doug's visits I will miss that. I hope to see you soon Doug so sorry for your loss. I will make a order of mild wings (and make sure there are 8 wings not 7 )in honor of Bruce. I'll even throw in some free napkins. He'd appreciate that he was so funny. Will miss you Bruce enjoy the wings in heaven*

*Jim Schultz Jr*

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**jim schultz** - April 13, 2020 at 07:53 PM