



Benjamin Stauffer Kraybill

September 1, 1923 - March 27, 2023

With gratitude to Ben for helping write this remembrance.

Benjamin S. Kraybill, 99 years, of Londonderry Village, Palmyra, PA, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, March 27, 2023. He was formerly from Mount Joy and Maytown.

Born near Rheems, PA, he was the son of the late Benjamin Lehman and Bertha Stauffer Kraybill. He was the husband of Miriam S. Hiestand, the love of his life. He and Miriam would have celebrated their 78th wedding anniversary, December 22, 2023.

He is survived by his wife and three children, Dr. Donald Eugene (Elizabeth Loux) of Harleysville, PA, Joy Kraybill Hickethier (Wayne Hickethier), Hershey, PA, and Kenneth Hiestand (Beth Miller), Seattle, WA. He had seven grandchildren, Matthew (Ingrid), Micah (Marion), Ashley (Ben), David (Sarah), Darin, Sarah (Andrew), Jacob, and seven great-grandchildren. He is predeceased by sister Rachel K. Brubaker, brother Arthur, infant brother Daniel, and daughter-in-law Elizabeth.

Ben attended public schools in Mount Joy, completing his last three years of high school at Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, VA, and graduated in June, 1942.

He worked for Miriam's brother, Paul, on his poultry farm. Then a feed and farm supply business, Hiestand, Inc., was started in 1950 and he and Miriam joined her brothers, Paul and Christian J. Hiestand. After about 18 years, Ben went to work at the Armstrong Marietta Carpet plant for 15 years. He then worked at Longenecker & Weaver Hatchery for 12 years. He was a driver at Manheim Auto Auction about six years. He also worked for Weaver Memorials for 30+ years.

Ben was friendly and outgoing. He loved life, especially his family, and the good years of the family growing up with farm and country living. There was hard work, but times for games and fun too. There were frequent trips to IN to visit Miriam's sister, Martha, and her family; family trips with a tent camper; trips to Ocean City, NJ; to Florida by auto-train; and to Vermont to see the Von Trapp Family Singers (featured in *The Sound of Music*). We also flew to visit our sons and families in Fresno, CA and Seattle, WA. A highlight was a Bob Neff Tour to Switzerland with friends Paul and Edith Rohrer to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversaries in 1995.

Ben grew up in the Mount Joy Mennonite Church where he taught Vacation Bible School. In his early adult years, after being married, he was quite active in the Marietta Mennonite Mission as a Sunday School teacher and superintendent, occasional bus driver, singing in male quartets, and serving on the church council. He was a lifelong member of Community Bible Church (CBC), Marietta. He and his wife attended the Evangelical Free Church of Hershey and GracePoint in Londonderry Township after their move to Londonderry Village.

He was a member of the Lancaster Youth for Christ Board and part of Gideon's International. Ben's parting message: "We hope to see you all in heaven."

Service of Remembrance at Londonderry Village chapel, Palmyra, PA on Sunday, April 2nd (viewing at 1:30pm, service at 2:30pm) led by Jeff Burkholder and Bob Sproul. Private burial on April 3rd at Kraybill's Mennonite cemetery. To watch the service live stream <https://www.youtube.com/live/q24cKj1WP-0?feature=share>

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 2. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Londonderry Village DiMatteo Worship Center
1200 Grubb Road
Palmyra , PA 17078

Celebration of Life Service

APR 2. 2:30 PM (ET)

Londonderry Village DiMatteo Worship Center
1200 Grubb Road
Palmyra , PA 17078

Tribute Wall

BH

“ *Bill and I learned to know the Kraybills when we rented Kraybill's Kottage in Mt. Gretna. What a joy it was to get to know them and to enjoy their cottage for a couple weeks each summer for about 10 years until the Hoyts bought it. Our grandchildren enjoyed spending time with us there, too.*

We extend our sincere sympathy to all of you and in particular to Miriam who always amazed us with her energy in getting the cottage ready each spring for their summer guests. We visited Ben and Miriam at their lovely cottage in Londonderry Village and had lunch together in a nearby restaurant where the Kraybills were well known.

We lived in Akron, PA during those years. Five years ago we moved to Brethren Village in Lititz. Thank you for live streaming the service. It was good to meet your family and friends through technology.

We continue to enjoy programs at the Tabernacle in Mt. Gretna each week during the summer and always drive up First Street past what will always be Kraybill's Kottage for us.

Bill and La Verne Hyman

Bill and La Verne Hyman - April 03, 2023 at 10:59 PM

BJ

“ *Dr. Don,
I sent you an email regarding the passing of your dear father, but not sure if you received it. I did watch the live stream of the service. Please know we are keeping you close in our hearts. You were blessed to have him for so many years. I continue to love your parents, even though I have not seen them for a long time. Blessings to all of you. Brenda Jacobson*

brenda jacobson - April 03, 2023 at 07:56 AM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Benjamin Stauffer Kraybill.*



April 02, 2023 at 11:53 AM

RB

“ *Im so sorry to hear of the passing of one of the most amazing men I ever came to know. I will forever be grateful for his daughter Joy giving me the opportunity to care for Ben & Mim. I loved our conversations we had each time I went to care for them. What a Beautiful person he was. He will be grately missed by many and Never Forgotten. My prayers are with his wife Mim, his family & friends.*



Robin Bubnis - April 01, 2023 at 07:47 AM