



Bernard Marvín Kosowski

July 31, 1940 - February 1, 2024

Colonel (U.S. Army, Ret.) Bernard M. Kosowski

Bernard Marvín Kosowski, age 83, husband of the late Gail (Lukaszewicz) Kosowski of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, passed away on Thursday, February 1, 2024 in his residence. Born on July 31, 1940, in Chicago, he was a son of the late Cecelia (Peca) and Francis Kosowski.

Bernie was a proud graduate of St. Rita of Cascia High School in Chicago. He went on to receive his B.S in Chemistry from Purdue University where he was a member of the wrestling team, Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity and ROTC. Immediately following graduation, Bernie was commissioned into the U.S. Army, chemical brigade, in 1963. Upon discharge, he continued his honorable service in the US Army Reserve while pursuing his MBA from the University of Chicago. It was also during this time that he began working for Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) and married his wife, Gail.

Bernie and Gail moved their young family from Chicago to King of Prussia in 1970. While working for ARCO in Philadelphia, he managed a new specialty chemical business unit that developed and commercialized a polymer binder now used worldwide in solid rocket propellants. He was named Global Business Director, Specialty Chemicals, and established world-wide market

plans for chemical lines. In this role, his love for international travel began. After a successful 20 year career at ARCO Bernie left to start his own company. MACH I, Inc. was formed in 1985 with nothing more than a desk and Bernie's undying entrepreneurial spirit. Over the next nearly 40 years, he enjoyed every moment of creating his own business. He started a second company, Reactive Metals International Inc. in 2010.

During his 30 year service in the US Army Reserve, Bernie served as a chemical and ordnance officer. He commanded units at detachment, company, battalion, exercise team, group and brigade level. He was a graduate of the US Army War College and later sat on their Board of Directors. He was a leader and mentor to many young men and women under his command. Bernie achieved the rank of Colonel (selected for Brigadier General) and was awarded the Legion of Merit medal for his exemplary service.

Bernie and Gail moved to their home on Valley Forge Mountain in 1999. This home was a source of pride and joy for Bernie. When he was not at work, Bernie enjoyed cooking for family and friends. He hosted many international visitors in his home and enjoyed sharing his love of Valley Forge with them. He could be found spending time in his gardens with his beloved shih-tzu, Bart, and conure, Rita, by his side. Bernie was happiest when he was surrounded by his many good friends, colleagues and neighbors.

Bernie was the loving father of Brian Kosowski (Michele) and Lori Andrews (Jeff); proud grandfather of Tara Kosowski, Evan Kosowski, Gloria Andrews and Zack Andrews; and dear brother of Audrey Kosowski, Marvin Kosowski (Betsy), Pearl Riggs (Bill) and the late Gloria Kosowski. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his funeral service on Friday,

February 9, 2024 at 11:00 am at the Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Main Street at Fifth Avenue, Phoenixville. Officiating will be Fr. John Gibbons. Interment will follow in the Washington Memorial Chapel Churchyard, Valley Forge. Friends will be received from 10:00 - 11:00 am at the funeral home.

A long time contributor himself, memorial contributions may be made to The American Cancer Society, www.Donate.Cancer.org or by mail at American Cancer Society
P.O. Box 6704 Hagerstown, MD 21741 in memory of Gail Kosowski.

Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell - Ennis - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc. Condolences may be offered online at www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Washington Memorial Chapel Churchyard

2000 Valley Forge Park Road
King Of Prussia, PA 19406

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc.
610 Main Street
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Funeral Service

FEB 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc.
610 Main Street
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Tribute Wall



“ Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Bernard Marvin Kosowski



Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home - February 08, 2024 at 02:16 PM

TD

“ A tremendous loss as a good friend and as an industry icon.

Thomas Deppert - June 17, 2024 at 02:16 PM

SO

“ I am so sorry to hear the passing away of Berny. He was a very good friend.

The photos were in 1997, Minnesota.



Shingo Oda - February 10, 2024 at 08:51 PM

JD

“ We first met Bernie when he was walking his beloved Bart around the neighborhood, and over the years we became close friends. We often shared a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and we always enjoyed our time together with conversation about travel, current events, the Army, food and family recipes. We would make kielbasa runs to NE Philly for each other. All of our children and grandchildren came to know Bernie and he was always interested to know what they were up to, and they enjoyed stopping in to visit Bernie, Bart and Rita. He was a great neighbor, a true friend and a patriot. He will be sorely missed.

Deirdre and Jeff Dutka and family.

Jeffrey G Dutka - February 09, 2024 at 09:49 AM

JJ

“ Dear Brian, Lori and family, we were so sorry to hear of the passing of your dear father. Loved seeing the posted video, it brought back so many memories of your childhood and also lovely pictures of your Mother. They were the best next door neighbors we ever had back in King of Prussia. I remember how kind and helpful they always were to our family, your Mom's baked goods and watching our kids and I remember your Dad taking our kids out for ice cream on summer nights, he enjoyed children and really loved his family' which was very evident. We are thinking of you in our prayers as you grieve this sad loss. Joanne and Harry Johnson

Joanne Johnson - February 08, 2024 at 05:24 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.



February 08, 2024 at 11:44 AM



“ Helicon Chemical Company planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.

Helicon Chemical Company - February 08, 2024 at 11:44 AM



“ The first time we've met you wore a kitsch american tie with a big eagle on it. Arthur and Alexander are wearing a french tie for you with their Bernie Bears. Goodbye my friend.



Charlotte ALLIOD - February 08, 2024 at 09:41 AM

KH

“ We met Bernie at 2000 ICT meeting for the first time. From that time, he always showed us his best hospitality, friendship and knowledge in the fuel binder of composite propellant and its additives. The best memory for us is to visit his 70 years old birthday party at his old house. That was a really big and enjoyable party with his family, friends and neighbors. And our two visits to his house at Valley Forge Mountain are also unforgettable. We appreciated the wonderful atmosphere and Bernie’s professional cooking skill, and enjoyed the pleasant conversation with him and Bart.

We will miss him throughout the rest of our lives.

Akiko & Keiichi Hori

Keiichi Hori - February 08, 2024 at 08:00 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.



February 08, 2024 at 02:48 AM

TH

“ Takeo Hayashi planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.

Takeo Hayashi - February 08, 2024 at 02:48 AM

IS

“ Irene S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.

Irene S. - February 07, 2024 at 09:24 PM

PH

“ Phil and Holly planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.

Phil and Holly - February 07, 2024 at 12:24 PM

PH

“ Phil and Holly purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.



Phil and Holly - February 07, 2024 at 12:24 PM

PM

“ Phillip M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.

Phillip M. - February 07, 2024 at 12:11 PM

DF

“ Dr.Mahadevan and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.

Dr.Mahadevan and Family - February 07, 2024 at 08:09 AM

DF

“ *Dr.Mahadevan and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.*



Dr.Mahadevan and Family - February 07, 2024 at 08:09 AM

FH

“ *From Akiko &Keiichi HORI planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.*

From Akiko &Keiichi HORI - February 06, 2024 at 08:38 PM

FH

“ *From Akiko &Keiichi HORI purchased the Divine Light for the family of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.*



From Akiko &Keiichi HORI - February 06, 2024 at 08:38 PM

JH

“ *Friendship and business partnership with Bernie began somewhere around 1970 when he recommended me for a vacant position with Arco affiliate Oxirane. We had met at the Midwest Chemical Salesmans Association in Chicago. Bernie later transferred to Arco Chemical and moved to Philadelphia. After my few years with Oxirane in Cleveland, I was transferred to Princeton, and we were again geographically united.*

After our years in corporate, we each moved over to entrepreneurial endeavors, and worked successfully as business partners. My success was substantially due to our continuing friendship and our reliable business partnership that lasted for many years.

In a very competitive industry, I can't say enough about Bernie's openness, honesty and professionalism. Even after years of my retirement, we would meet for lunch, and share ideas both business and personal. It was fun to see Bernie, and to see Brian and Lori working at his side.

Within the sadness of learning about Bernie's passing, there is always a positive feeling about how he saw the world in an optimistic perspective.

My condolences to Brian, Lori, and all of the Kosowski family. Be comforted that you live with excellent and fond memories such as I do.

John Hoegl

John Hoegl - February 06, 2024 at 03:46 PM

SP

“ I met Bernie at a conference in Monaco in 2019. Then, we started a long-distance friendship.

I am deeply saddened to hear about his passing. My heart goes out to you and your family during this incredibly difficult time.

Bernie was truly one of a kind. He had a remarkable way of making everyone feel special, especially the kids, with his thoughtful gestures like remembering their birthdays and sending them "teddy bears army". Those bears hold precious memories.

I'll never forget the time we spent together, from our movie outing to the unforgettable visit to Valley Forge. Watching "A Man Called Otto" with Bernie was an experience that touched us deeply, and I can still recall how moved we were by the film's message about the power of human connection. It was quintessentially Bernie to find meaning in those moments of shared emotion.

We will miss you.

Stephanie Aguero Pizzolo



STEPHANIE AGUERO PIZZOLO - February 06, 2024 at 12:55 PM

GR

“ George Rigterink purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.



George Rigterink - February 06, 2024 at 11:46 AM

RG

“ Rachel G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.

Rachel G. - February 06, 2024 at 10:50 AM

BN

“ My most sincere condolences.
Bernie was a good friend, we always met at various conferences, especially at the International Symposium on Chemical Propulsion and sometimes in JPC. He visited the Technion in Israel many times and we always met. We exchanged letters and he was very helpful and getting various products.
Mostly he was an interesting person, good-hearted and I deeply feel his loss.
Blessed be his memory!
Benny Natan

Benny Natan - February 06, 2024 at 09:23 AM

BN

“ *Benny Natan lit a candle in memory of Bernard Marvin Kosowski*



Benny Natan - February 06, 2024 at 09:19 AM

MT

“ *Marithereese T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.*

Marithereese T. - February 06, 2024 at 08:48 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.*



February 06, 2024 at 08:48 AM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.*



February 06, 2024 at 08:24 AM

KH

“ 16 files added to the album HORI



KEIICHI HORI - February 06, 2024 at 06:06 AM

AV

“ Condolences. He was our real friend and he lives in our memore. He was rare petson
Alexander and Irina Vorozhtsov
Elena Danilova

Alexander Vorozhtsov - February 06, 2024 at 04:46 AM

KO

“ Katsuhiro and Kazuko Ono purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.



Katsuhiro and Kazuko Ono - February 05, 2024 at 10:22 PM

SO

“ Shu and Miki Omiya planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.

Shu and Miki Omiya - February 05, 2024 at 10:04 PM

SO

“ *Shu and Miki Omiya purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.*



Shu and Miki Omiya - February 05, 2024 at 10:04 PM

AF

“ *Alliod & pizzolo families purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Bernard Marvin Kosowski.*



Alliod & pizzolo families - February 05, 2024 at 02:46 PM

GC

“ *Bernie, Was a client and more importantly a friend. I admired Bernie because of his toughness and competitive spirit. He never gave up on building his company and after years of hard work plus the addition of Brian , other family members and a team of employees MACH 1 reached a level of success that they all deserved. His legacy will continue through his family and business. I will miss you Bernie.*

George Callanan - February 05, 2024 at 10:44 AM

EM

“ I met Bernie in 1998 at a technical Seminar held in Philadelphia. From then we forged a friendship based on mutual respect, trust and a shared vision on propagating special High' Energy Materials. Bernies loss is a great loss not only to his family but also to the family of scientists and business leaders in the field of propulsion chemistry. His energy and optimism was contagious and i admired it both. I am sorry he has passed but take comfort in reliving our numerous meetings. My family who knew him, Brian express their heartfelt condolences. From
Dr.Erode Mahadevan.hyderabad, India'

Erode Mahadevan - February 05, 2024 at 09:54 AM

RT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Raphael Terreux - February 05, 2024 at 07:28 AM

RT

“ We were deeply saddened to hear of Bernie's departure. I knew Bernie professionally over ten years ago, and we saw each other regularly around the world during those years. I was able to forge a friendship with him and, through his story and his successes, see at first hand a concrete example of the "American dream" and appreciate the extreme quality of the man.

I have fond memories of our stay in Monaco in 2019, which he greatly appreciated. I was able to meet him again in January 2023 for a few days at his home. These will remain excellent moments when we were able to discuss science at a high level beyond the speed of sound, now he's among the stars and from up there, I'm sure he'll exceed the speed of light.

We miss you already.

Raphaël & Isabelle Terreux



Raphael Terreux - February 05, 2024 at 06:30 AM

Jl

“ Carmen's comments are spot on. Andrea and I and our family were neighbors of Bernie and Gail and their family in King of Prussia. We knew Bernie when he took the bus to center city Philadelphia to go to work at ARCO and then when he started his "new" adventure at MACH I. I also shared military experience with Bernie at the 78th MTC at FT Dix for several years. On our carpool rides to Ft Dix, Bernie would "wargame" his plans to make MACH I successful. Through hard work and perseverance, Bernie developed a successful company (s). He was proud of Brian and Lori, and later their spouses and children. He was sorry that Gail was no longer here to enjoy their grandchildren. We miss Gail and now miss Bernie. As I told one government agency, Bernie was a "Patriot". (And he could do a great polka) Rest in Peace Colonel Jim & Andrea McGill LTC (Ret) USA

Jim - February 04, 2024 at 07:07 PM

VC

“ I cannot believe that Bernie is gone. With his strong personality and work ethic, he was such a presence in life. Al worked with him at ARCO and then MACH I, and I worked for him at MACH I, too, for 10 years. But beyond that he was a good friend, willing to give the shirt off his back if need be. We enjoyed his many parties, especially the delicious smoked salmon, and the special port he always brought out as the parties were winding down. We were happy to host a 60th birthday party for him at our shore house. I admired him for many reasons, not the least of which was his great love for his family. I am praying for all of you as you begin your grief journey. Much love, Ginni

Virginia Condo - February 04, 2024 at 06:42 PM

CG

“ A bright light has been taken from us, but I believe it now shines in another Kingdom. I knew Bernie for more than 50 years, and in those years I do not think I met a kinder more compassionate person. He was devoted to his family, the United States Army, and the company he built. He had so much of which to be proud, and those of us who were so privileged to know him will miss him dearly. The void left by his passing will not soon be filled. My sincerest thoughts are with Bernie's family.

Carmen Di Giovanni

Carmen Di Giovanni - February 04, 2024 at 05:34 PM

BR

“ Bernie was an incredibly faithful friend and valued his eagle wall-hanging one of his most prized possessions. Rest in peace, dear Bernie.

Bets Ramsey - February 04, 2024 at 04:39 PM