



Howard Lee Bruce

October 20, 1940 - February 20, 2022

Howard Lee Bruce, 81, of Bloomington, Indiana, peacefully passed away early Sunday morning on February 20, 2022 after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. Howard, given the childhood nickname "Sonny," was a loving father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend.

Howard was born in Bloomington, Indiana on October 20, 1940, to Oren and Macy Bruce. Howard is survived by his wife, Stella Bruce, his three children Doug Bruce (Shelly), Matt Bruce (Kelly), Leigh Walls (Jason); eight grandchildren, Hannah Wheat (Cory), Haley Stephens (Kyle), Mason Bruce, Evan Bruce, Lily Bruce, Grady Bruce, Claire Walls, and Daniel Walls (Amanda); and two great-grandchildren, Jayla Bruce and Rylie Stephens; and his siblings, Sharon Mullis Settles (Bill), and Robert Baker (Bonnie). Howard is preceded in death by his late wife Starr (Sare) Bruce and his parents Oren and Macy Bruce.

Howard graduated from Bloomington High School in 1958 and entered the United States Marine Corps after graduation. Proudly serving his country as a United States Marine, Howard cherished the memories made in the Corp and his time spent in California and Hawaii. After his active duty with the U.S.M.C. in 1961, Howard then continued to serve in reserve status for several more years. He then returned to Bloomington to marry the first of his two loves and the mother of his three children, Starr Ann, to whom he was married until her passing in 1985.

Howard built his career in the insurance business working for Farm Bureau

Insurance, Prudential, and eventually retiring from Sentry Insurance in 2004. In addition, in 1982, Howard and Starr purchased the downtown card and candy store, The Betty Jean Shop, which Howard ran until 1992. Working downtown in both the insurance business and the card store, Howard, one who never knew a stranger, made friends with many of his customers and sincerely enjoyed being a part of Bloomington's downtown community; he was a key member of the Downtown Bloomington Commission.

In 1993, Howard married the second love of his life, Stella Bruce, and together they enjoyed watching their family grow and taking weekend drives and entering car shows in their favorite MG.

Howard loved spending time outdoors and was very active until the late stages of his illness. He was an avid fisherman and hunter, and a founding member of the Hoosier Bassmaster's. He loved spending time in his canoe and taking numerous fishing and camping trips. Howard also had an affinity for cars, especially anything British, having owned several MGB's, Triumph, and MGA sports cars, often, all at the same time. Over the years, Howard also took up modeling and acting. Howard had fun modeling for local businesses, and to this day, his family will lovingly refer to him as "Dr. Tavel."

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the Parkinson's Foundation or the local Friends of Lake Monroe nonprofit.

Although he will be missed, Howard lived a full life, and friends and family are invited to visit at Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37, Wednesday February 23, 2022, from 4:00PM to 7:00PM. Funeral services will be held Thursday February 24, 2022 also at Allen Funeral Home and Crematory at 11:00AM. Pastor Michael Douglas will preside and Howard's burial will follow at the Clear Creek Cemetery, completing with The Monroe County Veterans Honor Guard providing Military Honors.

Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com

Cemetery Details

Clear Creek Cemetery

W Church Lane
Bloomington, IN 47403

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **23**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Funeral Service

FEB **24**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Tribute Wall

SC

“ When I was about 12 years old Howard Bruce worked in a small grocery store on Woodlawn. The store was across the street from my Grandfather's house and sometimes he would give me a nickel to spend at the store. That's where I met Howard Bruce. From that moment on I saw Howard as the ultimate gentleman. He was extraordinary in every way but most notably for his honesty. We sort of stayed in touch and after Starr died I was visiting Bloomington and my mother and I had dinner with Howard. We talked about old times and enjoyed a very pleasant evening. Howard Bruce was truly a great guy!

Susie Pinkston Colee

Susie Colee - February 25, 2022 at 12:34 PM

CG

“ Howard was the first person I met when I started working in Bloomington. Every morning on my walk to the office, I'd cross paths with this unknown stranger, who always had a warm smile and a "Good Morning" greeting. It was weeks before I learned his name was Howard Bruce. Several more weeks passed before I visited the Betty Jean Shop, and there he was again. Later, my parents became acquainted with Howard. It's a small world and I'm so glad Howard was there to brighten it. I will always have fond memories of Howard and his continuous search for good fishing spots. He was a very nice person, I always looked forward to chatting with him. My sincere condolences to Howard's family. Howard will missed by many.

Cheryl Gafken - February 24, 2022 at 08:32 AM

AL

“ Your family is in our prayers. Love, Alicia and Jordan



Alicia - February 24, 2022 at 06:09 AM

LB

“ Condolences from the Griswolds. We loved our MG adventures with Howard and Stella. Howard will be truly missed

LouAnn Broderick-Griswold - February 23, 2022 at 09:29 PM

JR

“ Stella, Sharon and Bob thinking of you in your loss. Joan Ray

Joan Ray - February 23, 2022 at 12:40 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Howard Lee Bruce.



February 22, 2022 at 07:07 PM

EH

“ Always enjoyed seeing Howard and Stella at MG meets....Howard will be missed...

Safety Fast....Melvin & Eileen Hunsucker

Eileen Hunsucker - February 22, 2022 at 04:49 PM

JF

“ Stella, I am so very sorry to hear about Howard’s passing. He was such a nice man and I always enjoyed running into the 2 of you on my morning walks. Prayers for you and your family.

Janet Floyd

janet floyd - February 22, 2022 at 01:40 PM

MT

“ Howard was truly one of the nicest guys you could ever know. I will always remember his great sense of humor, and his great smile. He will be missed.

Mark and Jane Thoma

Mark Thoma - February 22, 2022 at 06:57 AM

RG

“ Howard was a real prince.
I have only fond memories of him, every time
I would run into him he was always upbeat.

A very special person for sure.

Plus, you could trust him to be frank and honest with you....

Roy Graham - February 22, 2022 at 05:58 AM

LJ

“ Love Robert, Kim, Mandy & Jami purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Howard Lee Bruce.



Love Robert, Kim, Mandy & Jami - February 21, 2022 at 07:57 PM

CM

“ My sincere condolences. I am a 1st cousin to Howard and have many many memories of he and his wife, Starr coming to the summer reunions at Ben & Skeeter's house and at the many Christmas parties that were held at the Monroe Co. Fairgrounds, given the number of relatives that attended. He would always go around meeting and greeting everyone.

He was very gracious and always had a smile! What a wonderful human being! Rest in peace, Howard, you can go fishing with my dad now....he would enjoy that!

Cheryl (Bruce) Messenger

Cheryl (Bruce) Messenger - February 21, 2022 at 07:38 PM

PT

I was so sorry to read about Howard's passing. Loved how he took charge of our class of 1958 and made things happen in such a wonderful and fun way. His great smile, his friendly ways, and his clever sense of humor will be missed so much! What a wonderful description of his life and experiences. Thank you for sharing all that. He is one terrific guy. Appreciated knowing him and going to school and class reunions with him. Hugs and prayers to you, Stella, and all the family. May your wonderful memories bring you peace and comfort. So sorry I cannot come by for the viewing or funeral service. Will be thinking of all of you. Pam (Scheibner) Todd

pamela Todd - February 23, 2022 at 02:52 PM

DM

“ I have known Stella since we were in grade school and definitely know she found the love of her life in Howard. He was such a kind and good man and had a great sense of humor. Stella and family please accept our deepest sympathies and cherish your sweet memories. 💕💕💕

Donna Meyer - February 21, 2022 at 07:15 PM

MC

“ Howard was and will be remembered as the heart of BHS Class of 1958. He was a terrific guy. He will be missed! Thanks for the memories.

Mary Crohn - February 21, 2022 at 05:25 PM

MW

“ I worked for Howard during his tenure as owner of the Betty Jean shop. He was wonderful to work for and I always enjoyed talking hunting, and fishing with him. My thoughts are with his family and friends.

Melissa Wagoner - February 21, 2022 at 01:00 PM

TM

“ I always loved Howard's MG car trips to the Southern part of Indiana, he knew it like the back of his hand. I learned a lot about our state from him. Thank you Howard. RIP.

Tucker Madawick - February 21, 2022 at 12:48 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Howard Lee Bruce.



February 21, 2022 at 10:02 AM