



Cletus Wenford Benedict

January 10, 1932 - May 21, 2015

The family of Cletus Wenford "Ben" Benedict joyously celebrates his life. He was born in Bernard, Texas on Jan. 10, 1932 to George and Bertha Benedict. After many years of battling the effects of Parkinson's disease, Ben, 83, of Duncan, Oklahoma went to be with his Lord Thursday, May 21, 2015.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at the Assumption Catholic Church, Duncan. Services are under the direction of Don Grantham Funeral Home. The family will receive friends Sunday, May 24th at the funeral home from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Ben graduated from Southside High School in 1953, where he was a pitcher and first baseman on the high school team. To earn extra money during high school, Ben got a job playing for the Wilson Packers. Because he was too young to play professional baseball, his mother forged his birth certificate, enabling him to play a year earlier. He did quite well with this team, going all the way to the National tournament. After high school, Ben signed with the St. Louis Cardinals and played in the Florida State League. Ben was recruited by Halliburton to play for the Cementers, Halliburton's semi-pro team. He lived in Duncan for over 60 years.

During his time in Duncan Ben joined the Catholic Church where he was actually the first person to be baptized at the New Assumption Catholic Church. Ben was a faithful member of the Catholic Church for the rest of his life.

Early on in his baseball career Ben met and married Kay Ratigan. Ben and Kay enjoyed this time in their lives, playing baseball and starting a family together. Ben considered his family and friends his most cherished treasure. Always generous with his time, he will be remembered for his selfless nature, his joyful optimistic personality and his witty sense of humor.

Survivors include his three kids: Rick Benedict, Vicki Tidwell and Theresa and Joe Mitchell; five grandkids: Josh and Erica Dufour, Andrea and Mark Hasenmyer, Joe Byford, Kyle Fleetwood and Adam Fleetwood; five great grandkids: Tyler and Ava Dufour; Evans, Audra and Hannah Hasenmyer; and numerous nieces and nephews. Ben was preceded in death by his wife, Kay; his parents; his brother and his sisters. The family will have a private burial at a later date.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Alzheimer's Association 3555 NW 58th St. Suite 220
Oklahoma City, OK 73112 or American Parkinson Association Parkinson Plaza, 135
Parkinson Ave. Staten Island, NY 10305.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.granthamfuneralhomes.com

Events

MAY	Service	10:00AM
26	<hr/>	
	Assumption Catholic Church	
	710 Hickory, Duncan, OK, US, 73533	

Comments



“ Benedict family,
Ben was so special to my dad, mom and myself. We were blessed in so many ways with his friendship and dedication visiting dad in the care center every week. They played ball together in earlier days and also worked together. They had many laughs together. He never said goodbye without an "I love you" and you knew he meant it by his actions. I always enjoyed our visits after my dad (Junior Byford) passed. I truly feel God works in such wonderful ways, as a new generation of friendships have developed with Vickie and Rick as classmates, Teresa (taught gymnastics to my daughter Stephanie).
Rick thank you for stopping at Roy's Market (a few years back) to inform me of Ben's well being after a few tumbles.
May God's blessings, love and peace be with each of you.
Carol Byford Hall

Carol Byford Hall - June 02 at 11:44 PM



“ So very sorry to hear of Ben's passing. I know how much you loved him and how much he cared for his family. May God's love surround you and give you comfort.

Mary Ellen Cerney
Duncan, Oklahoma

Mary Ellen Cerney - May 27 at 11:13 AM



“ We are very sorry for your loss of your loved one. Just knew Wenford from his early years in rural Oklahoma. Twilla you have our thoughts and prayers. Jodie & James Kingston

James Kingston - May 24 at 04:41 PM



“ Steve and Lenell Dufour purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Cletus Wenford 'Ben' Benedict.



Steve and Lenell Dufour - May 23 at 04:54 PM



“ A man who knew nothing but kindness. His goodness will be sorely missed.



Steve Dufour - May 23 at 03:46 PM



“ Wenford was a dear friend of my youth, with whom I shared so many experiences and memories. He will be missed.

Don Butler
Austin, Texas

Don Butler - May 21 at 05:26 PM